Indo-Pacific Partnership through Economic Cooperation

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4th ASEAN Economic Integration Forum, 2019
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Bangkok
Indo-Pacific gaining high prominence

- Ocean a prime anchor and big push for Indo-Pacific:
  - Blue Economy initiatives
  - Security And Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR)
  - PM Modi’s speech at *Shangri La Dialogue* in 2018: Free, Open, Prosperous and Inclusive Indo-Pacific
  - HLPD Indo-Pacific on 20 March 2019 at Jakarta
  - Korea’s new southern policy
  - ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific (AOIP), June 2019
  - Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative, announced by Indian PM at EAS Summit 2019
  - Japan’s FOIP

*In process*
ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP), June 2019, fills the gap in concept

- Emphasis on both the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean regions
- ASEAN centrality and collective leadership
- The importance of the maritime domain and perspective in the evolving regional architecture
- Principles of strengthening ASEAN Centrality, openness, transparency, inclusivity, a rules-based framework, good governance, respect for sovereignty, non-intervention, complementarity with existing cooperation frameworks, equality, mutual respect, mutual trust, mutual benefit and respect for international law, such as UN Charter, the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, and 3 other relevant UN treaties and conventions, the ASEAN Charter and various ASEAN treaties and agreements and the EAS Principles for Mutually Beneficial Relations (2011).
- An Indo-Pacific region of dialogue and cooperation instead of rivalry
Indo-Pacific, the proposed members

First Phase
East Asia Summit (EAS)
18 countries

Second Phase
East Asia Summit (EAS) + East Africa
43 countries
Indo-Pacific economic construct: Likely pillars

1. Maritime cooperation
   – Maritime domain awareness, maritime safety, maritime security, SAR, HADR, etc.

2. Trade and investment
   – Trade policy
   – Business facilitation (e.g. Asia-Africa Business Projects)

3. Connectivity
   – Physical and digital
   – Trade facilitation
   – Energy

4. Socio-cultural
   – Marine resources and climate change
   – Protection of aging society, Education, Tourism, etc.

5. Science and technology

6. SDGs
India on Indo-Pacific

1. Blue Economy initiative
2. Maritime projects like SAGAR and SAGARMALA
3. Dedicated research centres on Indo-Pacific Studies at several universities & think-tanks e.g. JNU, VIF, ORF, IF, DPG
4. Dialogues, seminars, high level visits ....
   – NMF’s annual Indo-Pacific Dialogue
5. NMF’s Indo-Pacific Report 2019
6. India has set up Indo-Pacific Division in Ministry of External Affairs
7. India has joined sub-regional groups like CLMVT/ACMECS, IMT-GT as development partners
8. India has already announced Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI)
9. MEA to organise *Indian Ocean Dialogue* in Delhi in 12-13 December 2019
10. Focus of Delhi Dialogite 2019 is on Indo-Pacific