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Editorial: *Maritime Affairs* Winter 2015 Edition

Special Issue: Partnering Across Oceans

The National Maritime Foundation (NMF) is one of the leading maritime think tanks and provides a platform for individuals and institutions to build a discourse on maritime matters. The maritime domain is gaining increasing attention due to developments in the South China Sea, increasing incidents of maritime disasters involving illegal migrants to Europe and the transition in global maritime power dynamics.

Closer to home, the Indian Navy is hosting its second international fleet review (IFR) after a gap of 15 years, in February 2016. The theme of the IFR is “United Through Oceans”. The honourable President of India will review the international fleet, comprising over 75 frontline ships and submarines off Visakhapatnam on February 6, 2016. Apart from Indian naval and coast guard ships, frontline warships from 46 nations across the globe will participate in the review. As a part of the IFR, an international maritime conference will be conducted under the aegis of the NMF on February 7–8, 2016 at Vishakhapatnam, on the theme of “Partnering Together for a Secure Maritime Future”, where speakers will discuss issues of maritime cooperation.

This Special Issue of *Maritime Affairs*, titled “Partnering Across Oceans”, is aligned with the theme of the IFR and puts together different perspectives from Indian and international authors. The first paper, by Markowitz, presents a short history of naval fleet reviews and showcases those conducted by Great Britain and the US in detail. The author highlights that naval reviews in the past were occasions where navies displayed their fleets, originally as part of mobilisation for war, and later for

commemoration of events. He forecasts that, far from becoming an obsolete ritual, IFR are likely to remain vibrant and popular gatherings for the seafaring forces of the global maritime community.

The next four papers provide *country perspectives* of partnering across oceans. Sumsky and Kanaev argue that there is a transition in global affairs, and examine Russia's place in a polycentric naval setup in the 21st century. They place Russia in the category of global sea powers and emphasise that the efforts to modernise and rebuild the Russian Navy are not aimed at changing the status quo, but are directed towards ensuring a more stable world.

Nagao presents a Japanese perspective of multilateral naval cooperation, highlights four major problems facing the Indo-Pacific region – arms race, power game, non-state threats and concerns about the future – and discusses the cooperative mechanisms to deal with these problems. He concludes that the “Old Alliance” system is not enough and examines the potential of a multinational “New Alliance” system to maintain security in the region. The author proposes that a collective security framework is better suited to tackle the present-day problems, and the IFR is an opportunity to work on devising such an initiative.

Padmaja examines India's maritime diplomacy under Prime Minister Modi, and the strategic opportunity which it presents. She argues that India conducts its maritime diplomacy at three levels: high-level bilateral visits where strategic issues are an important component, regional collaborative means, and by revitalising the cultural and civilisational links which enhance its chances for success. She concludes that the forthcoming IFR will provide India a “strategic opportunity” to contribute to a maritime narrative, and this may help to address the increasing mistrust amongst countries in the evolving global maritime order.

Mishra examines the coherence, correspondence and divergence in the approaches of India's “Act East” and the US' “Strategic Rebalance” through the “interest contiguity” paradigm. He examines the politico-diplomatic, economic and military-security dimensions by using a combination realist and rational choice theoretical framework. He concludes that while there is a virtual coincidence of “interests” between India and the US, their approaches and institutional frameworks are different in certain cases, and future engagements will continue to contain a mix of cooperation and competition, while offering avenues for strengthening of coordinated endeavours.

Regional cooperation is the underlying theme for the next three papers. Herrmann presents the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) perspective on

partnerships across the sea and discusses the impending challenges and opportunities. The paper traces the development of regionalism and examines the transformation of regional security strategies. He also discusses the traditional as well as non-traditional security challenges and the related maritime implications for the ASEAN community. Herrmann concludes that ASEAN countries are poised to adopt comprehensive security approaches, and there is a window of opportunity for countries outside the ASEAN to develop maritime cooperation.

Chunhao Lou examines the increasing maritime security challenges in Asia, and argues that the geopolitical power game may continue in the near future. While presenting the Chinese perspective on ongoing maritime tensions which are fuelled by strategic competition, he presents a strong case for cooperation to build a secure maritime Asia. The author concludes that the strategic significance of maritime Asia for regional and global peace and prosperity will grow in the foreseeable future, and China as a major player in this region will continue to promote its peaceful development strategy to foster a “harmonious ocean” through an increasingly cooperative maritime policy.

Athawale highlights the common maritime concerns of littoral nations in the Indian Ocean rim and discusses various mechanisms for enhancing maritime capability through greater engagement and collaboration. He highlights some of the prominent maritime cooperation initiatives in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) and examines cooperative trends at regional, subregional and bilateral levels.

In the last section on *maritime partnerships*, Paleri in his paper underscores the strategic role of coast guards and argues that they can accentuate their value in the geostrategic context by establishing maritime partnerships. While expanding on the functional nature and the types of partnerships, he suggests that coast guards can extend their operations jointly without any functional change over the global commons for non-adversarial maritime engagements. Paleri concludes that developing such maritime partnerships can lead to combined and enhanced responsibility towards the global commons at sea.

Khanna in his paper focuses on the importance of foreign military training. While recognising the significance of professional outcomes of such programmes, the article highlights the importance of building relationships and argues that this requirement is all the more relevant today, where the nature of warfare has changed and collective solutions are more often than not the preferred response mechanism.

Narula explores the synergies and examines the prospects for India–US naval cooperation in energy and environment. A comparative assessment of energy use and the energy and environment roadmaps of the US navy and the Indian navy are presented to highlight similar challenges and actions being undertaken to address the common concerns. He also proposes specific elements and the scope of naval cooperation in the relevant domains before concluding that such a program will be mutually beneficial for both navies.

The last two articles deal with the role of technology in building maritime partnerships. Kulshrestha discusses the role of ocean science and technology in this endeavour. The paper extends the concept of maritime domain awareness (MDA) to oceanic domain awareness (ODA), and proposes to enhance the collection of information about the oceanic domain by using sensors to enhance maritime security. The author suggests that setting up oceanic information consciousness zones (OICZ) is well beyond the resource capacity of any one nation, and therefore calls for cooperation between countries of the IOR.

Lele, in his paper, highlights the significance of space technologies for the maritime domain in general and navies in particular. He also examines the progress made by India in building maritime surveillance capabilities using space-based assets.

In the book review section, Chatterjee reviews Basil Germond's book, *The Maritime Dimension of European Security: Seapower and The European Union*, which analyses different aspects of and challenges to the maritime security of Europe. Ghosal Singh reviews the *Annual Report on the Development of International Relations in the Indian Ocean Region (2014)*, a Chinese perspective on international relations as viewed from the lens of economics.

The second half of this year was academically enriching and NMF was engaged in two bilateral conferences. The NMF delegation visited the Centre for Naval Analyses (CNA) in Washington, DC, in September and hosted a delegation from the Academy of World Watch (AWW), Hainan (China), in November at New Delhi. The NMF organised a seminar on "Maritime Dynamics in the Eastern Indian Ocean Region and the Western Pacific Ocean" in collaboration with the Eastern Naval Command at Vishakhapatnam in July which was attended by naval personnel, civilians and academicians. NMF, with the support of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India, also organised the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) "Meeting of Experts on Maritime Safety and Security" in October, which was a track-1.5 diplomacy event and was attended by delegates from over 14 countries of the IORA.

The NMF now keenly looks to the IFR and extends a warm welcome to ships and personnel from all countries. It is our hope that this Special Issue will add value to the maritime discourse and will contribute to strengthening partnerships across oceans.

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