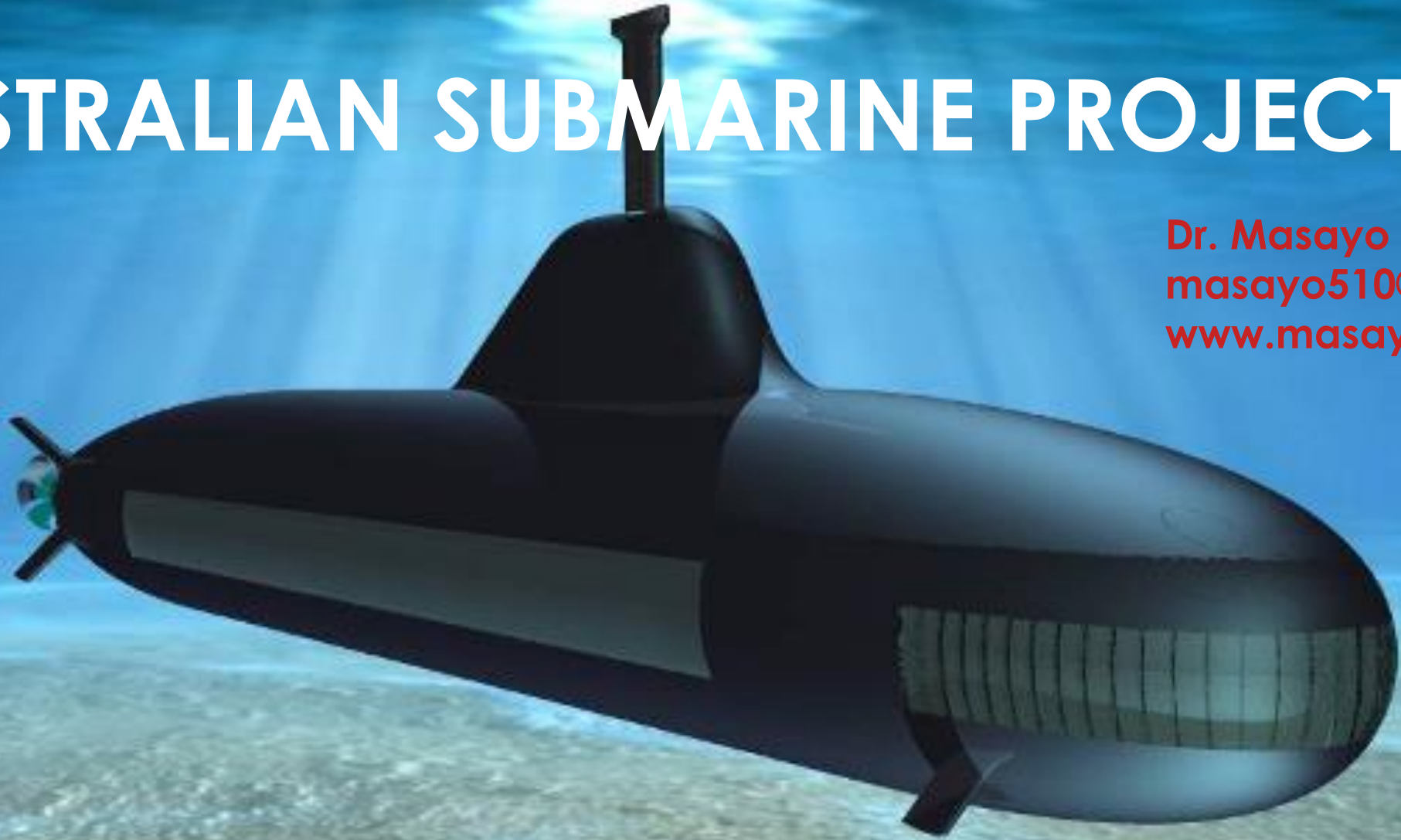


AUSTRALIAN SUBMARINE PROJECT

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Is there a hidden agenda amongst
Australia, Japan and the US?



WHY DOES AUSTRALIA NEED A MORE POTENT AND HEAVIER MARITIME FORCE?

The 2009 Australian Government's Defense White Paper Defending Australia in the Asia Pacific Century: FORCE 2030 (Executive summary P13)

The principal task for the ADF is,

- to deter and defeat armed attack on Australia
- to contribute to stability and security in the South Pacific
- to contribute to military contingencies in the Asia-Pacific region (specifically to hedge against the rise of a belligerent China)
- to contribute to military contingencies in the rest of the world

As a result of these priorities, the ADF of 2030 will need more potent force in certain areas, particularly **undersea warfare and anti-submarine warfare (ASW), surface maritime warfare**

South China Sea dispute 1

(Paracels and Spratlys)

Six countries (China, Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, Taiwan, Brunei) lay overlapping claims to the South China Sea. China claims by far the largest portion of territory

The area is rich in hydrocarbons and natural gas

The sea area is a **major shipping route** through which trillions of dollars of global trade flow

China threatens restricted flight zone over entire South China Sea with the right to shoot down unauthorized planes (a South China Sea Air Defense Identification Zone or ADIZ)

China has completed some reclamation and building work on South China Sea reefs - **reclaimed land would be used for defense** → China might impose air and sea restrictions in the Spratlys once it completes construction work that includes at least one military airstrip.

China has reportedly moved weapons to the reclaimed islands

South China Sea dispute 2

US, Australia and Japan are concerned about **freedom of movement** through the seas and air

US Defense Secretary demanded an immediate end to all reclamation works by claimants

The Australian (1 June 2015)

Australia joins the United States and numerous Asian nations in delivering strong warnings to China about the **dangers of “miscalculation”** and conflict as the Chinese try to take control of the region’s island chains.

PM Abe said “What the world eagerly awaits is for our seas and our skies to be places governed by rules, laws and established dispute resolution procedures...The least desirable state of affairs is having to fear that **coercion and threats will take the place of rules and laws.**

Ten ASEAN are to adopt a “**code of conduct**” in the South China Sea as soon as possible.

UNCLOS:
United Nations
Convention on
the Law of the
Sea



The East China Sea

Diaoyu/Senkakus

- ❁ From the end of World War II, the US occupied Okinawa including the Senkaku Islands. They were returned to Japan as part of the reversion of Okinawa in 1972. Since then, **the Senkaku islands are Japan's territory** (Japan originally claimed in January 1895)
- ❁ The dispute appears to date from the 1968 announcement by two Japanese scientists that there may be **large reservoirs of oil** under the continental shelf below the islands.
- ❁ The 1960 US-Japan Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security applies to territories (including the Senkaku Islands) under the administration of Japan.

Senkaku islands fall under US treaty commitment to defend Japan

Military confrontation in the East and South China Seas

The East and South China Seas are the scene of escalating territorial disputes between China and its neighbors, including Japan, Vietnam, and the Philippines. China's growing assertiveness have shaped the tensions and fueled concerns over armed conflict. If confrontation were to involve Japan in the East China Sea (or the Philippines in the South China Sea), the US would consider military action under defense treaties.

The US is also looking for help from Japan, Australia and other allies as the US confronts Chinese challenges to its naval dominance in the Pacific. ↓

Need for advanced submarines??

What should Australia do as the ally of the US?

WHAT IS AUSTRALIAN SUBMARINE PROJECT ?

(excerpt from 2009 DWP pp70-71)

The existing fleet of six Collins Class submarines would be replaced by a more superior class of 12 submarines

Primary operational environment would be able to undertake prolonged covert patrols over the full distance of our strategic approaches and in operational areas

The future submarines will require low signatures across all spectrums including at higher speeds and submarines are to be assembled in South Australia

Australia needs to engage with a number of overseas partners during the design and development phase, intends to continue the **very close level of Australia-US collaboration** in undersea warfare capability (based on Australia-US alliance)

AUSTRALIAN SUBMARINE PROJECT: OVERSEAS PARTNERS

PM Abbott promised during the election campaign to **build a new fleet of 12 conventional submarines in Australia to help protect thousands of local shipbuilding jobs** (They are threatened by overseas competition and a strong Australian dollar). He then backed for a version of Japan's Soryu submarine. In November 2014, Japan and Australia (at the summit meeting) agreed to jointly develop military equipment including submarines. However PM Abbott was **under pressure in saving submarine-related workers in South Australia** to keep the election promise. He decided to implement a **competitive evaluation process**.

Currently, **France, Germany, Japan** are running for Australian submarine deal.

FRANCE AND GERMANY



Germany has the German combat system ISUS90, which is said to carry US weapons. Germany has exported 100 submarines since WWII.

France is offering a conventional version of their Barracuda nuclear submarine, however it is not yet operational. France has exported 20 submarines since WWII.

JAPAN 1

Japan has the *Sōryū*-class submarines (16SS) :

- the most advanced, quietist non-nuclear class submarines
- meets Australian requirements for its stealth abilities, long-range and high speed capabilities

The security council of Japan has approved a bid to build Australian submarines

Japan emphasized to cooperate with Australia in developing special steel and other materials for its new submarines, while Japan will be in charge of assembling them. **Mitsubishi and Kawasaki would agree to do much for the Soryu build in Australia.** This would **create 500 new high-skilled jobs + 4000 other jobs** there.

If Japan wins the submarine deal, it would be a big boost for Japan's defense industry and potentially pave the way for the sale of advanced Japanese weapons/submarines to the Philippines and Vietnam.

JAPAN 2



In April 2014, Japan already **replaced the Three Principles on Arms Exports** with **the Three Principles of Transfer of Defense Equipment and Technology**.

The purpose would be to **export submarines and its technology to Australia in time for the decision to be made by the Australian government**. This could also open the door for Japanese companies like Mitsubishi Heavy Industries and Kawasaki Heavy Industries to market their military hardware overseas.

Japan can increase defense ties with Australia

JAPAN 3

Security bills

- to be in line with New Japan-US Defense Guidelines
- to ensure that the US remains committed to protecting Japan should Japan and China enter into a conflict
- to counteract North Korea's nuclear-armed missiles

In May 2015, the Japanese Cabinet approved a legislative package on national security and then extended the current Diet session by 95 days to secure the enactment of the security bills. PM Abe has determined to **pass the two security bills that would revise 10 security laws and ease various constraints on SDF operations.** Even if the bills are rejected by the Upper House, a two-thirds majority re-vote by the lower house would override.

JAPAN 4

1. International Peace Support Bill (Kokusai Heiwa Shien Hoan)

2. Peace and Security Legislation Development Bill (Heiwa Anzen Hosei Seibi Hoan)

- Removal of geographical restrictions on where the SDF can operate (a major shift from exclusively defense-oriented security policy), e.g. minesweeping operation in the Strait of Hormuz (80 % of crude oil shipments to Japan pass through this narrow channel)
- Provision of logistical support for US forces beyond Japan's neighbor
- Loosening tight limits on weapons use during peacekeeping operations
- Exercise of the right to "collective self-defense" to defend its ally (to be in line with new Japan-US guidelines). However, this requires reinterpretation of pacifist Article 9) → War legislation

THE UNITED STATES

- President Obama has **focused on the importance of Asia Pacific to the future of the US in terms of economy and security objectives** possibly with the idea to counteract and contain China.
- ANZUS Treaty was established in 1951. The collective security agreement binds Australia and the US to co-operate on military matters in the Pacific Ocean region.
- Recently US commanders have visited Adelaide and have publicly supported a tie-up of a Japan-Australia submarine deal. This would bind the US, Japan and Australian more tightly together especially in the face of China's rapid military modernization and growing assertiveness in the East and South China Seas.

New Japan-US Defense Guidelines (April 2015)

New Japan-US Defense Guidelines

- to enhance US-Japan alliance
- greater US-Japan coordination in the South China Sea
- Bilateral actions in response to an armed attack against Japan
- for global cooperation militarily, ranging from defense against ballistic missiles, cyber and space attacks as well as maritime security
- to **allow the exercise of the right to "collective self-defense."**
(e.g. Japan could shoot down missiles heading toward the US)
- **closely connected to Japan's security bills**
- possibility of joint patrolling of Asian sea lanes
- for a threat from North Korea

Japan wants to ensure that the US is committed to Japan, while the US welcomes Japan's assistance in Asia and in the Middle East.

Japan-Australia Joint Declaration of Security Cooperation (signed in March 2007)

Areas of Cooperation

- counter-terrorism
- disarmament and counter-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction
- peace operations
- **maritime and aviation security**

This bilateral security ties are **essential in time of conflict with China as well as to protect a network of gas pipelines in the region. With submarine capabilities, it may be possible to adequately respond to the threat from Chinese submarines.**

For instance, **Japan's main submarine patrol area would be the East China Sea** from the southern home island of Kyushu and Okinawa, south to Taiwan and Philippines (Luzon Island). **Australia can take charge of the Indian Ocean and South China Sea** because Australia is conveniently located for monitoring the South China Sea. With enhanced submarine capabilities, Australia will be able to keep a close eye on these seas.

Australia and Japan (recent moves)

Japan and Australia defense ministers pledged to boost defense cooperation (June 2015 in Tokyo)

Main topics: Tensions in the South China Sea, Australia's submarine project to replace Collins-class submarines.

Common concern (Australia, Japan, US): They are deeply disturbed by the land reclamation activity by China in the South China, mainly the Spratly Islands (vital shipping lane, rich fishing grounds)

Japan: Japan is to cooperate for the submarine project through the "competitive evaluation process." The Security Council of Japan approved disclosing some technical data on the Japanese submarine technology to Australia (for a feasibility study on possible joint development and production, e.g. specifications and performances)

Australia: Australia is interested in Japan's Soryu class submarine. Defense minister visited Mitsubishi and Kawasaki Heavy Industries shipyards to inspect the manufacturing site of the Soryu class submarine.

IS THERE A HIDDEN AGENDA AMONGST AUSTRALIA, JAPAN AND THE US?

Japan can now export submarines to Australia, as it has eased arms export regulations. Japan is running for Australian submarine deal. Japan is to disclose some technical data on the Japanese submarine technology to Australia. Security bills are to be enacted into law in time for Australia's submarine decision → Japan and Australia maritime defense cooperation and New Japan-US Defense Guidelines (incl. maritime security) are in place

Australia has a keen interest in Japan's Soryu submarines. Australia can contribute to military contingencies in the Asia-Pacific region to fulfill its 2009 Defense Paper by 2030.

Abbott and Abe push to cement the security ties including submarine deal that they have fostered before they leave office.....

US is in favor of Australia's submarine agreement with Japan, considering the interoperability of the US defense system on the Japanese submarine, and stealth, a long-range and high speed capabilities.

CONCLUSION

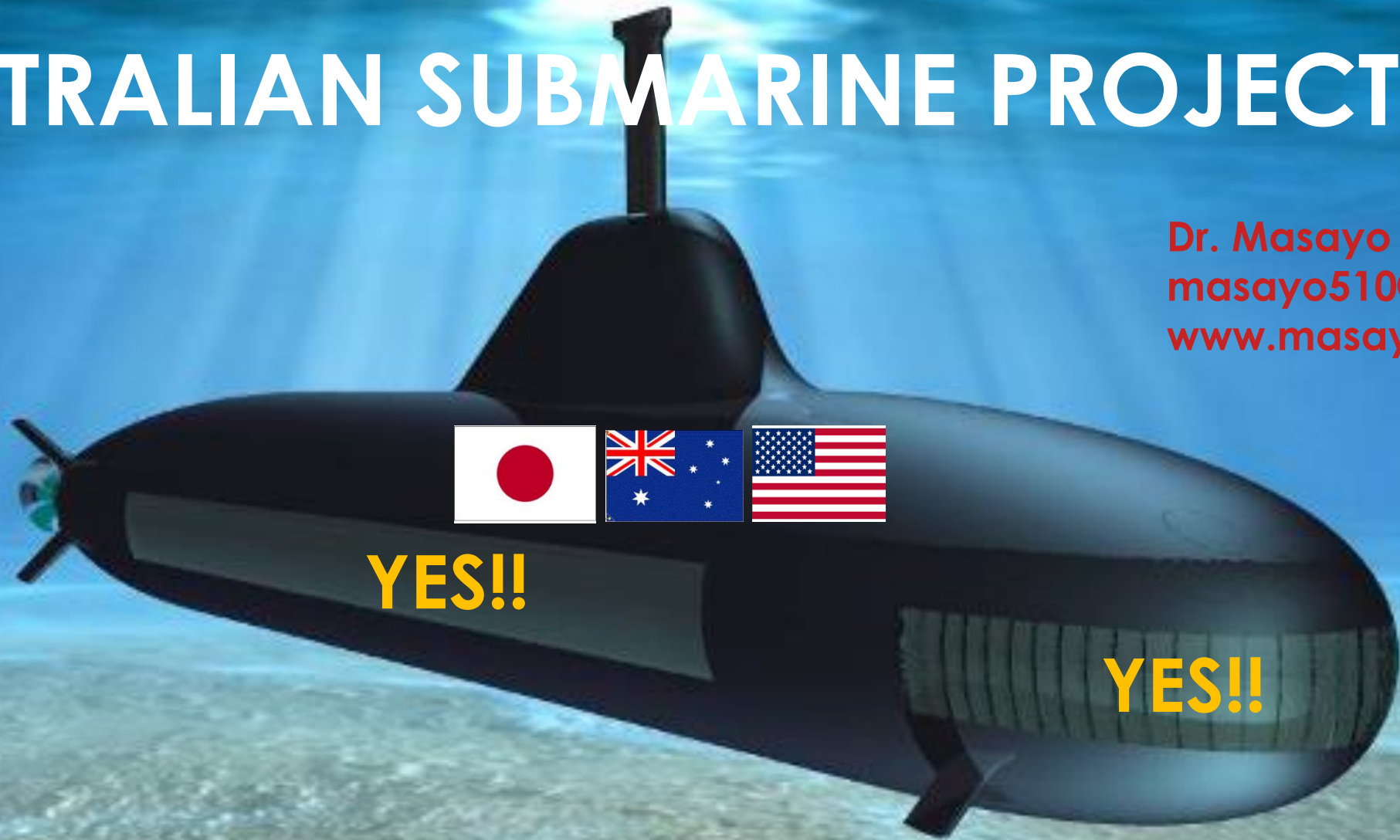
The most likely scenario is that Australia is to select Japan for its submarine deal and Japan is to export submarine technology to Australia. All of these are carefully and deliberately planned against the rise of a belligerent China and to bring peace and security in the region under **Japan-Australia Joint Declaration of Security Cooperation, Australia-US alliance and Japan-US alliance**. It may be a **US call to foster cooperation among its security allies in Asia**.

**My answer is “YES”
for the peace and security of East and South China Seas**

Trilateral Security Cooperation ⇒ Trilateral Alliance ?

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QUESTIONS



Does Australia really want to get a submarine deal with Japan?

Is the US concerned about being dragged into a Sino-Japanese conflict?

Is China a partner or an opponent? Is it correct to say that China is a partner in economy (e.g. AIIB) but an opponent in security?

Is the Trilateral Alliance (Japan, Australia, US) going to be our future direction? If so, what is the main purpose?

If you would like to see my presentation slides, please visit www.masayogoto.com