



DANIEL K. INOUE ASIA-PACIFIC CENTER
FOR SECURITY STUDIES

Enhancing Resilience and Advancing the Philippines-Vietnam PARTNERSHIP

8-11 April 2024 | Yokohama, Japan



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Some definitions

Coercive action:

- Makes you feel you are forced to do something you do not want to.
- Puts its victim before two choices: either to defer to its perpetrator or to inflict harm on oneself.

Cognitive domain:

- The realm of human cognition, perception, understanding, and decision-making.
- Includes how individuals and groups think, make sense of information, form opinions, and make choices.



Working Groups: Challenges

Cognitive, Maritime, Economic



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Framing Questions



1. What coercive actions are present in your domain?
What are the intended outcomes of these actions?
Which are of greatest concern?
2. What factors currently inhibit collaboration to address these actions, both within a country and between countries?



Cognitive



Rank	Coercive activity	Intended outcomes
	Propaganda	Political, Cultural
	Media Pressure; Legacy media	Narrative Change
	Pressure for Academia	Narrative Change
	SNS (sympathetic populations)	Impact to population
	Commercial Pressure	Weaken Economy

Inhibitors to collaboration: Internal

- Political system- Polarization
- Absence of awareness and user education
- Populism, Cultural Apathy, Anti-Intellectual Sentiment (Intellectual silence)
- Lack of Policy Documents or Strategic Documents

Inhibitors to collaboration: External

- Global Tech Company; Collecting Personal Info.
- Malign operations
- Big power competition
- Global Issues, Interests



Maritime



Three dimensions of the gray zone	Intended outcomes
High intensity to low intensity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ultimate: replacement of the current rules-based order with a China-centric order• Intermediate: control of all three dimensions of the maritime domain in the long term
Strategic to tactical	
Less coercive to more coercive	



Maritime



Rank	Coercive activity	Intended outcomes
	Economic coercion at sea: preventing access, from exercising sovereign rights, civilian activities,	
	Economic infiltration	
	Excessive claims, undermining rules-based order	
	Use of technology (UAV, UUV, sea sliders, etc.)	

Maritime

Rank	Coercive activity	Intended outcomes
	Swarm at Whitsun Reef	
	Spectrum of activities from low-intensity tension to high-intensity conflict, e.g. deploy a giant oil rig	Send a message: China can do and will do (Gray zone: China doesn't want war)
	Principle of China's activities in SCS: no use of force applies to others, not to China. Set the framework	China's sovereignty is assumed. Focus on how to maintain China's rights and interests, how to exert China's power
	Public threats: PH has to bear the costs	

Maritime

Rank	Coercive activity	Intended outcomes
	Unfavorable terms of agreements	
	Non-coercive actions that affect our activities: influence operations, political operations	Subvert the current/rules-based order, replace it with a China-centric order
	“Mission-kill tactics”: e.g., Not sinking a vessel, but disabling the navigation system or denying supply, etc. Affect the sustainability of the mission.	
	Gray zone assertiveness	Control all three dimensions of the maritime domain in the long term
	Counter-IUU fishing	

Inhibitors to collaboration: Internal

- Ineffective use of resources
- Interagency competition for resources
- Different priorities even within a country
- Lack of long-term commitment (political will)

Inhibitors to collaboration: External

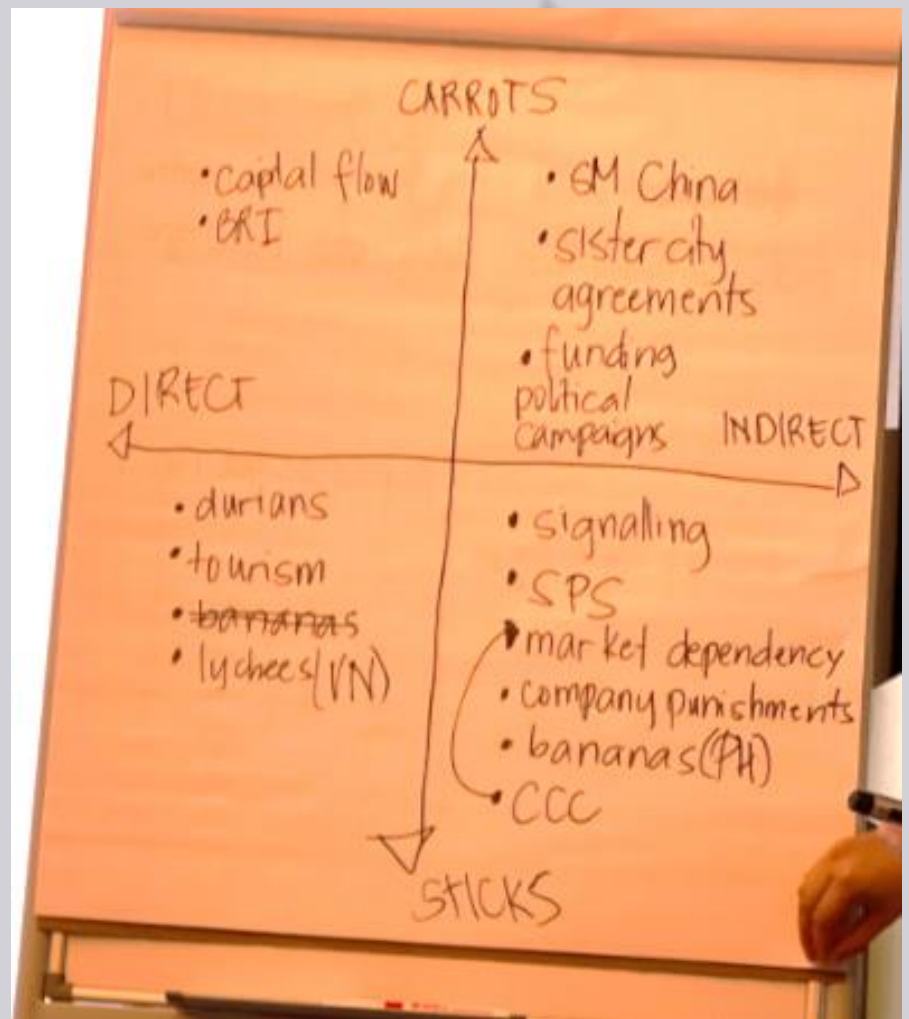
- China as a hindrance
- Fear of alliance
- Distrust

Economic – Coercive Action

COERCIVE ACTIONS - ECON

- ^{PRC} PREVENTION OF OIL/GAS EXPLORATION
- PRC HARASSMENT VS -PHILIPPINE FISHERFOLK
->VIETNAMESE
- TRADE RESTRICTIONS
 - > administrative barriers
 - > increase tariffs
 - > block of exports to PRC
- TOURISM RESTRICTIONS
 - > travel bans
- COMPANY PUNISHMENTS
- CYBER OPS

Economic - Carrots




INHIBITORS - internal

PH

- lack of information
 - ideological orientation
 - PH gov't no end goal
tactical rather than strategic
- collaboration
- political system
 -

VN

- lack in confidence
- gov't + people



Inhibitors to collaboration: Internal and External