

PH-VN workshop: Policy Recommendations & Follow-On Actions

Items are listed by domain and in order of greatest interest as determined by votes (#1 having the highest number of votes). Items that touch multiple domains are in the “Mixed” category. Of note, recommendations that were related have been grouped together to form a single input. The bar below indicates if the recommendation includes (green) or does not yet include (red) key details.

MARITIME DOMAIN

#1 Philippines Public Statement

Philippines public statement of support for Vietnam on the PRC’s announcement of straight baselines in the Gulf of Tonkin. The Philippines Department of Foreign Affairs should lead the effort.

What	When	Where	Who	How

#2 Joint Naval Exercises

Philippines and Vietnam conduct annual bilateral naval exercises in Economic Exclusion Zones/Spratly Islands. Exercises are intended to develop interoperability and increase the effectiveness of maritime sovereignty operations. Each series of exercises should increase in complexity (ships and aircraft) and should recruit other ASEAN nation participants.

What	When	Where	Who	How

#3 Maritime Policy Dialogue – Track 1.5

Create reoccurring talks between government, NGOs, and academia to provide perspective on national maritime policies, strategy, and programs. Dialogue should increase transparency on issues relating to international law and regulations in the maritime domain and modern lawfare practices. Products of these reoccurring talks could include a joint submission on “Extended Continental Shelves” or “South China Sea boundaries” by which the two countries begin jointly communicating AND supporting each other’s interpretations of international law.

What	When	Where	Who	How

#4 Joint Coast Guard Forum

Establish bi-annual forum between Philippines and Vietnam Coast Guard administrations to create reoccurring training, exercises, information sharing, and joint operations (law enforcement, search and rescue, domain awareness, etc.) between the two countries...product should be some form of “Joint Maritime Patrol Agreement”. Heavy emphasis on joint patrols (shared responsibility) and load sharing to offset limited resources between the two countries. Exchange programs of mid-level officers should also be pursued to expedite trust between the two organizations while also minimizing misunderstanding. Finally, as the forum matures there is an opportunity to expand membership to other nations (US, Japan, ASEAN).

What	When	Where	Who	How

#5 Maritime Economic Technical Working Group

Host a 3-day technical cooperation conference (Oct 24) in Ho Chi Minh City focused on long-term Bilateral economic development strategy. Attendees should include academia, private sector, and government to explore investment opportunities to include those areas that require additional research (energy). Focus areas could include submarine cable infrastructure, sea-floor oil/gas surveys, and Mekong River development. Product of this reoccurring working group should include a Joint Publication between the two countries highlighting long-term economic development areas. Possible involved agencies include: Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam, Philippine Public Safety College, Vietnam & Philippines Chamber of Commerce, Vietnam Internet Association, etc.

What	When	Where	Who	How

ECONOMIC DOMAIN

#1 Joint Marine Seismic Undertaking (JMSU) Revision

Establish a conference to revisit JMSU that stalled in 2005 (PRC involvement). Goal is to formalize an agreement between the two countries to locate mineral rich areas and assess viability of development within both Vietnam and Philippines EEZs. Will need to focus initially on areas that are not disputed. Must include government, private sector, and international partners.

What	When	Where	Who	How

#2 Green Economy Technical Working Group

Establish a Green Economy Technical Working Group to define a strategy/road map for Philippines and Vietnam to increase participation in electric vehicle supply chain (raw materials, manufacturing, etc.). Initial working group should commence Nov 24 and should include Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam, ASEAN Development Bank, Chambers of Commerce (Philippines, Vietnam, US, etc.), and academia.

What	When	Where	Who	How

#3 Bilateral Business Resiliency Summit

Establish a joint business summit focused on Philippines and Vietnam supply chain resilience. Initial summit should provide an opportunity for each country to discuss ongoing economic coercive activities in an effort to highlight how each country perceives the environment. Next step should focus on best practices to counter coercion with priority given to those areas where both countries can agree to counter together. One area specifically called out was the Philippines and Vietnam Energy Sector and the need to diversify each country's foreign energy dependence. By minimizing dependency on China's supply chain, each country makes progress in countering conditions which lead to coercive activities.

What	When	Where	Who	How

#4 Industry-to-Industry Forum

Develop a Bilateral industry-to-industry framework that promotes information sharing (best practices, assessments, challenges). This forum should also focus on crisis management, disaster response, and the defense industrial base. Reference defense, there is an opportunity to build upon existing ASEAN Defense Industry Collaboration framework with the long term goal of each countries local defense industry being mutually beneficial while also diversifying supply chains from over dependence on single sources.

What	When	Where	Who	How

#5 Joint Committee on Agriculture Cooperation

Establish an annual joint committee on agriculture cooperation at the Deputy Ministerial Level. Each country will have a Deputy Minister of Agriculture in the joint committee to lead collaborative activities across imports, exports, production, and manufacturing with the intent of addressing food security between the two countries.

What	When	Where	Who	How

#6 Academia Dialogue Forum

Create a multi-sectoral dialogue forum between Philippines and Vietnam higher-education institutions focused on economic coercion and strategic development. The forum should target face-to-face events at least once per year and alternating host country between Philippines and Vietnam. Outcomes include identification of mutual interests (strengths and weaknesses) and the opportunity to publish findings and strategies jointly.

What	When	Where	Who	How

COGNITIVE DOMAIN

#1 Vietnam – Philippines Cultural Exchange Program

Create annual cultural exchange programs across various sectors (education, government, defense, agriculture, law enforcement, etc.). Programs across each sector should be long enough to truly develop understanding and respect for cultural differences while also highlighting commonalities. Target age demographics should span multiple generations (grade school -> postgraduate); create mutual understanding early and often.

What	When	Where	Who	How

#2 Counter Cognitive Warfare Training – Capacity Building

Create counter cognitive warfare training which increases ability of society to mitigate foreign influence operations. Should include academia, government (National Security Agencies), and private sector of Philippines and Vietnam to improve ability of countries to understand, investigate, track, and develop countermeasures to PRC malign influence. Large part of this effort will require information/intelligence sharing between the two governments and law enforcement cooperation.

What	When	Where	Who	How

#3 Joint Public Awareness Campaign – Coercion

Establish a Vietnam and Philippines public awareness campaign to educate citizens on PRC cognitive coercion tactics with a heavy focus on media literacy (vulnerabilities, responsible use of media, understanding how social media and search engines work, etc.).

What	When	Where	Who	How

#4 Dialogue with Industry (Social Media)

Create a bi-annual forum between social media platforms (Meta, X, IG, etc.), Philippines and Vietnam representatives (government, academia) to discuss misinformation concerns. Leading up to the forum, each country should provide evidence/case studies where social media platforms are proliferating misinformation that undermine credibility of government institutions and promote civil unrest. Intent is to help media platforms maintain integrity of their platforms.

What	When	Where	Who	How

#5 Bilateral Scholar Forum

Establish a research team composed of Vietnamese and Filipino scholars across academic institutions, media, and civil society to document, explain and propose steps to address coercive activities in the cognitive domain. Recommendations should be published jointly to illustrate shared concern and resolve. A specific effort within this forum could be developing an accredited joint course on “Combating Disinformation” at the graduate level to be hosted at universities within both countries and jointly taught by professors from both countries.

What	When	Where	Who	How

#6 Sister City Collaboration

Establish a Sister City program between Philippines and Vietnam communities. Program would have a host of benefits to include promoting cross-cultural understanding and respect, relationship building, and information sharing.

What	When	Where	Who	How

MIXED (MULTIPLE DOMAINS)

#1 Bilateral Fishery Forum

Establish annual forum between Philippines and Vietnam fishery authorities and academics to discuss wildlife management, environmental protection, and discuss emerging malign activities affecting the maritime environment, which could be called “Joint Maritime Preservation Committee”. Possibility to create a “Fishing Exchange Program” to expedite trust between communities and a “Fishery Hotline” to facilitate rapid resolution and dialogue to disagreements.

What	When	Where	Who	How

#2 Annual Track 2 Philippines and Vietnam Strategic Dialogue

Make the recent Track 2 workshop a reoccurring annual event with themes/focus areas that vary each year. Philippine and Vietnam think tanks can rotate responsibility for organizing the dialogues. External partners can support these meetings.

What	When	Where	Who	How

#3 Economic Intel Exchange

Create an Economic Information Sharing forum incorporating National Security Agencies and Economic & Trade Agencies to track Chinese investments that have security implications (for example, Darwin – Australia, Solomon Islands) with the intent to jointly track, investigate, and increase awareness of malign influence activities.

What	When	Where	Who	How