
PHILIPPINES CALLS FOR URGENCY FROM CHINA, ASEAN IN NEGOTIATING SOUTH CHINA SEA CODE

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10.10.2024

Reuters (10 October 2024)

Panu Wongcha-um

Speaking in Laos to leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Chinese Premier Li Qiang, Marcos said substantive progress needed to be made and all parties must "be earnestly open to seriously managing differences" and reducing tension.

China and U.S. ally the Philippines have been at loggerheads over a succession of confrontations near disputed features in the South China, with Manila accusing China's coast guard of aggression and Beijing furious over what it calls repeated provocations and territorial incursions.

The rows have been heated and have raised regional concerns of an escalation that could eventually involve the United States, which has a 1951 defence treaty that commits it to defend the Philippines if it is attacked.

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