

**CHINESE AIR DEFENSE IDENTIFICATION
ZONE IN THE EAST CHINA SEA**

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Executive Summary

1. China announced its Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ) in the East China Sea on 23 November 2013.
2. The Chinese ADIZ requires submission of flight plan, and facilitation of communication measures to the designated Chinese authority. China's armed forces will adopt emergency defensive measures in case of non-compliance.
3. This decision triggered worldwide discussions on China's intentions and its actual practice. Japan protested and asked China to withdraw its ADIZ.
4. South Korea expands its ADIZ in early December 2013. Seoul is concerned about the overlap of air zones above the Ieodo Island, which is contested by China and South Korea.
5. The United States exhibited opposing positions. The State Department initially questioned the legitimacy of China's ADIZ and refused to accept it. Thereafter, US Vice President Joe Biden visited Japan, China and South Korea in early December to bridge the rifts, showing a softer stance and emphasizing that China should consult neighboring countries before making a decision.
6. China's ADIZ is not a sudden decision; it had been discussed since the 90s, but was postponed due to various concerns.
7. With the ADIZ, China plans to better manage air traffic by establishing its rules, push the US to take a more neutral stance in its East Asia policy and help China identify the purpose of flights which would expel reconnaissance air patrols conducted along China's eastern coastline. China's effective control over the Diaoyu/Senkaku Islands would be strengthened accordingly.
8. The ADIZ is a regular international practice, but state practices vary. The Convention on International Civil Aviation (also known as the Chicago

Convention) enacted in 1944 is an example. However, the Chicago Convention regulates mainly civil aviation issues, leaving state and military aircraft untouched.

9. There are concerns that China would set up ADIZs in the South China Sea and other areas. Given the Xi administration's emphasis on a stable and friendly neighboring environment, China is expected to take cautious steps in this regard.
10. From China's perspective, an ADIZ in the East China Sea is necessary for ensuring aviation safety and better managing of flight information. Japan is unlikely to accept the ADIZ or enter into conflict management talks with China on the East China Sea.