《中国和东盟国家将在2017年年中时候达成南中国海行为准则框架》

导读:中国与东盟就缓解南中国海紧张局势达成共识，双方同意今后在遇到海上紧急事态时，可通过热线进行沟通和降温，以及在有争议的南中国海海域同样适用《海上意外相遇规则》。此外，双方也同意争取在明年年中前完成南中国海行为准则的框架草案。

China and a grouping of Southeast Asian nations aim to finish by the middle of 2017 a framework for a code of conduct to ease tension in the disputed South China Sea, state media said on Wednesday. Since 2010, China and the 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) have been discussing a set of rules aimed at avoiding conflict among rival claimants in the busy waterway.

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In July, an arbitration court in the Hague ruled that China had no historic title over the South China Sea and had breached the Philippines' sovereign rights there. The decision infuriated Beijing, which dismissed the court's authority. But Beijing has been keen to get diplomacy back on track since.

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Meeting in northeastern China, the two sides agreed to get the framework for the code of conduct done by

mid-2017, and also approved guidelines for a China-ASEAN hotline for use during maritime emergencies, the official China Daily said. They also agreed that a pact on unplanned maritime encounters, signed in 2014 by countries in the region, applied to the South China Sea, the newspaper added.

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Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Liu Zhenmin said documents on the hotline and unplanned encounters would be presented for final approval to leaders in Laos in September at a meeting between China and ASEAN members, the paper said. “There is another achievement – we reached broad consensus on pushing forward the negotiations on a code of conduct for the South China Sea,” it quoted Liu as saying.

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“All sides agreed to raise the frequency of the negotiations in a situation without interference, and seek to finish a draft framework of the code of conduct by the middle of next year,” he added. This is the third meeting on the code this year.

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“It shows that as the situation in the South China Sea is getting more and more complicated, especially with the interference of external forces, ASEAN countries and China have realised that we have to grasp the key to the South China Sea issue in our own hand,” Liu said. China has blamed the United States and its allies in the region, such as Japan and Australia, for stoking tension in the South China Sea.

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China claims almost the entire South China Sea, through which more than $5 trillion of trade moves annually. Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam also have claims in the sea, believed to be rich in energy deposits.

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