



Centre for Air Power Studies (CAPS)

Forum for National Security Studies (FNSS)

Title:	CHINA'S MARITIME SECURITY CONCERNS AND EMERGING STRATEGY
Chairperson:	Mr E. Dilipraj, Associate Fellow, CAPS
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As part of the activities at CAPS, a Fellow's Seminar was held on 04 Sep 15. During the presentation, the speaker gave an elaborate and detailed account of the various maritime security concerns of China. Ample usage of power point slides was done to outline the geographical situation in the East and South China Seas, highlighting the various trade routes/SLOCs of China, bringing out the scenario on the naval front. Majority of China's trade has been happening through these sea routes and hence securing them and maintaining good relations with the key countries enroute (especially near the Straits) is an extremely relevant concern for the Chinese.

There have been several incidents/standoffs triggered by China over sharing/ownership of the Island territories within what it considers its EEZ. China is systematically going about expanding its reach and presence in the East and South China seas to become a major player in the region. She is in the process of making more runways and establishing the requisite infrastructure for operating its fighter aircraft on the islands; there has also been a marked increase in activity by its naval vessels and their presence in the various ports. In fact it may not be out of place to state that China is well on its way to

becoming a Blue water navy. All this is being done by China to safeguard its economic interests by protecting its SLOCs and probably also to send a subtle message to the regional/ extra regional powers like Japan and the US respectively.

It was pointed out that major players like the US and Japan are concerned about China's designs. It would have made the presentation more complete if aspects of the economic impact of the trade through sea route on China and how the financial allocation towards the naval expansion would impact its overall economy were also considered. The energy security concerns that confront China also merit discussion.

