

# DIGEST

## CHINA

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### Building of the New “Maritime Silk Road”: Its Constraints and Prospects

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#### 1. Introduction

Xi Jinping, President of the People’s Republic of China, placed a proposal before the ASEAN countries to join the efforts in building a new “maritime Silk Road in his speech at the Indonesian Parliament on October 3, 2013.”<sup>1</sup> On March 5, 2014, in the Report of the Work of the Government, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang said that China would enhance economic and technological cooperation by launching a number of major projects, including a 21<sup>st</sup> century’s maritime Silk Road.<sup>2</sup> Obviously, the ancient Maritime Silk Road, through which trade flourished from the east to the west some 600 years ago, is becoming a new olive branch. This, however, has implications for China’s diplomatic strategy under international law.

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<sup>1</sup> Wu Jiao & Zhang Yunbi, *Xi in call for building of new 'maritime silk road'*, CHINA DAILY, Oct. 4, 2013, available at [http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/cndy/2013-10/04/content\\_17009069.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/cndy/2013-10/04/content_17009069.htm) (last visited on May 7, 2014).

<sup>2</sup> Yao Dawei, *Chinese Premier Li Keqiang delivers gov't work report*, XINHUANET, Mar. 5, 2013, available at [http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/special/2014-03/05/c\\_133161950.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/special/2014-03/05/c_133161950.htm) (last visited on May 7, 2014).