

International court strikes down China's territorial claim (*strike down 無効にする*)

- 1) Judges at an arbitration tribunal in The Hague on Tuesday rejected China's claims to economic rights across large swathes of the South China Sea in a ruling that will be claimed as a victory by the Philippines. (*arbitration tribunal 仲裁裁判所 swath 帯状の場所*)
- 2) "There was no legal basis for China to claim historic rights to resources within the sea areas falling within the 'nine-dash line'," the court said, referring to a demarcation line on a 1947 map of the sea, which is rich in energy, mineral and fishing resources. (*demarcation line 境界線*)
- 3) In the 497-page ruling, judges also found that Chinese law enforcement patrols had risked colliding with Philippine fishing vessels in parts of the sea and caused irreparable damage to coral reefs with construction work. (*law enforcement 法執行機関(警察) irreparable 修理・回復不可能な*)
- 4) China, which boycotted the case brought by the Philippines, has said it will not be bound by any ruling.
- 5) In reaction, China said: "The arbitration tribunal made the illegal and invalid so-called final verdict on the South China Sea dispute on July 12. Regarding this issue, China has made the statement for many times that it is against the international law that the Aquino III administration of Philippines unilaterally requested the arbitration. The arbitration tribunal has no jurisdiction on this matter." (*invalid 無効な jurisdiction 司法権、権限*)
- 6) Manila had contested China's expansive territorial claims in the South China Sea, which the Philippines contends are invalid under international law. (*contest 争う contend 主張する*)
- 7) This is the first time a South China Sea territorial dispute has been brought to the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in The Hague and many think it will rule in favor of the Southeast Asian nation.
- 8) Control of the region is valuable because more than \$5 trillion worth of global trade passes through the South China Sea each year, and China has been accused of ramping up tensions over control in recent years by building artificial islands on reefs, on which it has added airstrips and other military-style installations. (*ramp up 増加させる airstrip 滑走路 installation 基地、軍事施設*)
- 9) The U.S. is seeking to maintain "freedom of navigation" in the region for its ships including military vessels.
- 10) The case is under scrutiny globally as it could change the region's geopolitical landscape and set future precedence for similar challenges. (*geopolitical 地政学的な precedence 先行、優位*)
- 11) In China, the guns were out on Weibo where #SouthChinaSeaArbitration was a top trending topic on the Twitter-like social media platform on Tuesday.
- 12)
 - Vow to protect the complete territorial integrity of the People's Republic of China! This is our China!"
 - The judgment is not important. Arbitration that is only agreed on by one party is nothing more than toilet paper. This is my land; why should I let someone else decide what belongs to me.
 - Haha, America is arbitrating what belongs to China? Are you crazy? What kind of logic is this?
 Regulate gun control in your country before talking to me. My wish is world peace.
- 13) Philippines made its claim under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which both countries are signatories of. China, however, says its historic rights predate the UNCLOS and are not at odds with its provisions. (*signatory 調印国*)中略
- 14) Philippines president Rodrigo Duterte has indicated that he wants friendly relations with China and has previously said he was open to talks with the economic giant, possibly about joint ventures in the development of the disputed region. The legal action was initiated by his predecessor, Benigno Aquino III.

【July 12, 2016/Reuters with CNBC.com】

☆Ice breaker for active discussion

1. What was your reaction when you heard the final ruling of the international court?
2. What can you say about China's response to it?
3. On social media, some Chinese expressed their opinion in favor of the Chinese government. What is your discernment about their logic?
4. How should other countries get involved in this matter?
5. What do you think will be China's next move?
6. Make sentences using the following words: swath, demarcation, irreparable, invalid, ramp up and geopolitical.