

Review of: "Project Mausam: India's Cultural Strategy for the Indian Ocean"

Kyaw Than Oo¹

¹ Nanjing University of Information Science and Technology

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The manuscript is well-organized, with a clear structure that guides the reader through the historical context, strategic analysis, and conclusions. However, some sections could benefit from tighter editing to enhance clarity and readability. For instance, certain paragraphs could be condensed to avoid repetition and improve the overall flow of the narrative.

1. The title is appropriate, clearly reflecting the focus of the manuscript on India's Project Mausam and its cultural strategy in the Indian Ocean.
2. In the abstract, "the regime of Xi Jinping..." there are a lot of the same names in China. It should be "the regime of Chinese President Xi Jinping."
3. The introduction provides solid background on the historical and geopolitical significance of the Indian Ocean region (IOR). However, it needs some references for some sentences. There are many references for the historical regime of the Indian Ocean. E.g., Lewis, Martin W. *Geographical Review*, vol. 98, no. 2, 2008, pp. 306–08. *JSTOR*, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/30034236>. Accessed 11 Sept. 2024.
4. The manuscript effectively discusses the strategic and cultural objectives of Project Mausam, positioning it as a counterbalance to China's MSRI. The analysis of the project's goals, including the promotion of cultural and civilization connections with Indian Ocean littoral states, is thorough. However, there is no facts table or figures in the manuscript. To attract readers, the author should add some reference facts or figures, e.g., an old sea trade map or a current study region map. <https://mapsforwhap.weebly.com/indian-ocean-trade.html>
5. The manuscript does not explicitly mention the methodology used in the analysis, which could be a point of concern. It would be beneficial to clarify the methodological approach, whether it is based on qualitative analysis, historical comparison, or another research method.
6. The discussion provides valuable insights into the geopolitical dynamics of the Indian Ocean and the role of cultural diplomacy in shaping these dynamics. The conclusion rightly underscores the need for policymakers to address the challenges faced by Project Mausam and to enhance its effectiveness as a tool of foreign policy. However, the conclusion could be more impactful by providing specific recommendations for improving the project and its implementation.
7. The manuscript offers a valuable contribution to the study of cultural diplomacy and geopolitical strategy in the Indian Ocean. With some revisions, the manuscript has the potential to make a significant impact in the field.

