# HEINRICH BÖLL STIFTUNG

### **ASEAN Region – Press Review August 2021**

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#### ASEAN at 54

ASEAN at 54: In need of some speed – Kavi Chongkittavorn | Bangkok Post ASEAN turns 54 amidst COVID-19 – Pushpanathan Sundram | Unravel 54 years on, ASEAN needs new modality – Thitinan Pongsudhirak | Bangkok Post The crafting of ASEAN's 'protector' role – Vitit Muntarbhorn | Bangkok Post

#### **ASEAN** envoy to Myanmar

ASEAN ministers pick Brunei diplomat as envoy to Myanmar – Jim Gomez and Eileen Ng | Associated Press ASEAN envoy wants 'full access' in Myanmar | Bangkok Post

As ASEAN's foot-dragging fuels anger in Myanmar, what next for 'special envoy' Erywan Yusof? – Dewey Sim and Min Ye Kyaw | South China Morning Post

Weak and inadequate, ASEAN yet remains indispensable - Ben Bland | Nikkei Asia

ASEAN too late for Myanmar? – Editorial | Bangkok Post

Myanmar's crisis tests ASEAN - Kavi Chongkittavorn | Brookings

#### **COVID-19 Situation**

<u>COVID-19 in Southeast Asia: much more than a health crisis</u> – Facal, Wilson, Khoo, Sciortino, and Andrieu | The Conversation

<u>As COVID surges, Southeast Asia struggles to vaccinate citizens</u> – Andrew Nachemson | Al Jazeera <u>As Chinese Vaccines Stumble, U.S. Finds New Opening in Asia</u> – Sui-Lee Wee and Steven Lee Myers | The New York Times

<u>Delta Variant Should Not Derail Southeast Asia's Economic Recovery</u> – Jayant Menont | Fulcrum <u>COVID-19 Has Resulted in Massive Southeast Asian Job Losses</u> – Sebastian Strangio | The Diplomat <u>COVID-19 Outbreaks: The Challenge Facing the Fight Against Poverty</u> – Phi Minh Hong | Fulcrum

#### The Mekong River

ASEAN formalises Mekong involvement with water security dialogue, as China's dams come under scrutiny – Maria Siow | South China Morning Post

Water Security in the Mekong and ASEAN Key to Safe and Sustainable Future – Francis Savankham | The Laotian Times

<u>Mekong talks not inclusive</u> – Editorial | Bangkok Post



#### **COVID-19 Situation**

<u>COVID-19 Breaches Last Southeast Asian Bastions</u> – Sebastian Strangio | The Diplomat <u>Brunei masks up as COVID-19 detected in the community after 15 months</u> – Rasidah Abu Bakar | The Scoop <u>Brunei enters partial lockdown amid record number of new COVID-19 cases</u> – Shareen Han | The Scoop <u>Brunei reports first COVID-19 deaths in over a year</u> | The Star/Borneo Bulletin

### 🚺 Cambodia

#### **COVID-19 Situation**

Cambodia closes in on 90% of initial target of 10 million peope to be vaccinated against COVID-19 | Khmer Times

Minister urges vigilance as Cambodia's Delta cases hit 1,538 - Mom Kunthear | The Phnom Penh Post

<u>Cambodia now allowing citizens to get COVID-19 booster shots</u> | The Star/Bernama <u>Cambodia's Hun Sen Orders Quarantine, Treatment for Workers Returning From Thailand</u> | Radio Free Asia <u>Handle COVID waste properly, or else: Phnom Penh official</u> – Mom Kunthear | The Phnom Penh Post <u>COVID in Cambodia: Vulnerable Households and Debt</u> – Prak Rathyrea | The Asia Foundation

#### Politics

<u>Cambodia union leader faces court verdict as crackdown continues</u> – Phorn Bopha | Al Jazeera <u>Jailed Cambodian Union Leader Rong Chhun Urges Supporters to Carry on Fight For Justice</u> | Radio Free Asia

<u>Cambodia Jails Activists Over 2020 Paris Peace Petitions</u> | Radio Free Asia <u>Cambodian Opponents Form New Political Parties, With PM's Blessing</u> | Radio Free Asia <u>Ex-CNRP distances itself from newly-formed parties</u> – Ben Sokhean | Khmer Times

### Indonesia

#### **COVID-19 Situation**

Indonesia extends COVID-19 curbs as infections spread in regions – Stanley Widianto | Reuters Indonesia extends COVID restrictions again as deaths stay high – Erwida Maulia | Nikkei Asia COVID deaths more than three times higher for the unvaccinated in Indonesia – Kate Lamb and Stanley Widianto | The Jakarta Post/Reuters Indonesia stuck in the middle with its COVID-19 crisis – Liam Gammon | East Asia Forum

Indonesian politicians criticised for taking Covid-19 boosters when most in country unvaccinated | The Straits Times/Bloomberg

Ex-Indonesian minister jailed for 12 years in COVID-19 graft scandal – Agustinus Costa | Reuters Surge in medical waste a public health problem in Indonesia as COVID-19 rages – Nivell Rayda | CNA

#### **Gender Discrimination**

Indonesian army says has stopped 'virginity tests' on female cadets – Stanley Widianto | Reuters Indonesia: Will the army's ban on 'virginity tests' last? | Deutsche Welle

### 🗕 Laos

#### **COVID-19 Situation**

Laos Reaches Over 14,000 Cases of Covid-19 as Community Spread Continues – Latsamy Phonevilay | The Laotian Times

Laos asks Thailand to help repatriate workers idled by COVID | Bangkok Post

Migrant Workers Stranded by COVID-19 Lockdown Desperate to Leave Laos SEZ | Radio Free Asia

#### Debt

Laos Drowning in Debt That Can't be Repaid: Experts – Ounkeo Souksavanh | Radio Free Asia Laos determined to pay off \$14B worth of debt by 2025 | Phnom Penh Post/Vientiane Times

## 💶 Malaysia

#### **COVID-19 Situation**

<u>Malaysia continues to report record COVID numbers amid a political crisis</u> – Max Walden and Neryssa Azlan | ABC News

<u>Malaysia logs record high 24,599 new Covid-19 cases, 393 deaths in single day</u> | The Straits Times <u>Over 60 per cent of Malaysia's adult population fully vaccinated</u> | New Straits Times/Bernama <u>Fear of arrest among undocumented risks Malaysia vaccine push</u> – Emily Fishbein and Jaw Tu Hkawng | Al Jazeera

**Politics** 

Muhyiddin quits as Malaysia PM after plea for bipartisanship fails - P Prem Kumar | Nikkei Asia

Ismail Sabri as the New PM: An Uneasy Truce – Norshahril Saat | Fulcrum Ismail Sabri named Malaysia PM, putting scandal-hit party on top – P Prem Kumar | Nikkei Asia Malaysian PM Ismail Sabri Yaakob returns Muhyiddin Ioyalists to key roles, sparking criticism – Bhavan Jaipragas | South China Morning Post Malaysia's new Cabinet: PM Ismail retains 4 senior ministers, names Khairy health minister – Nadirah H.

Rodzi | The Straits Times



#### **Political Situation/Coup**

Min Aung Hlaing says no Myanmar elections until 2023 | Al Jazeera Myanmar junta crackdown death toll passes 1,000 | Asia Times Fighting Seen Intensifying in Myanmar as Junta Deploys Troops to Ethnic Controlled Territories | Radio Free Asia Myanmar Junta Boss Min Aung Hlaing's Delusions of Grandeur – Editorial | The Irrawaddy

The Tatmadaw - Phil Thornton | Mekong Review

As anti-coup protests continue, where are Myanmar's monks? - Denis D. Gray | Nikkei Asia

#### **COVID-19 Situation**

<u>Myanmar's unchecked epidemic threatens COVID-19 'tsunami'</u> – Dominic Faulder | Nikkei Asia <u>Myanmar's Shadow Government Plans COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout</u> | The Irrawaddy <u>Coup, COVID take toll on young people's mental health in Myanmar</u> – Allegra Mendelson | Al Jazeera

Between COVID and the Coup, a Humanitarian Emergency Is Underway in Myanmar – Robert Bociaga | The Diplomat

Myanmar Citizens Reject Junta's Immunization Plans and Chinese COVID-19 Vaccines | Radio Free Asia



COVID-19 Situation

Duterte extends COVID curbs in Philippine capital and provinces | Nikkei Asia/ Reuters Philippines detects first case of COVID-19 Lambda variant | Rappler Overwhelmed Philippines hospitals hit by staff resignations – Neil Morales and Karen Lema | Reuters Were Philippine COVID-19 vaccines delayed for election purposes? Senators wonder – Raissa Robles | South China Morning Post

#### **Philippine Election 2022**

Rodrigo Duterte to run as Philippines's vice president in 2022 | Al Jazeera Duterte's Philippine vice presidential bid sparks debate and drama – Cliff Venzon | Nikkei Asia Philippines: Duterte to run as vice-president in blow to Pacquiao – Raissa Robles | South China Morning Post Why Do Filipinos Keep Voting for Authoritarian Leaders? – Gretchen Abuso | The Diplomat

## <sup>©</sup> Singapore

#### **COVID-19 Situation**

Singapore Hits 80% Vaccine Threshold Seen as Key to Easing – Philip Heijmans | Bloomberg Singapore won't reach COVID herd immunity: Lawrence Wong – Wong Casandra | Yahoo News Singapore to start gradual easing of COVID-19 border restrictions | Reuters COVID-19's Economic Impact on Tourism in Singapore – Joey Erh | ISEAS Yusof Ishak Institute

#### Racism

<u>Singapore will pass new laws to combat racism, workplace discrimination: PM Lee</u> – Kok Xinghui and Dewey Sim | South China Morning Post

<u>'Entirely baseless' to claim there is Chinese privilege in S'pore, says PM Lee</u> – Justin Ong | The Straits Times

### Thailand

#### **COVID-19 Situation**

PM admits we may have to learn to live with COVID | Bangkok Post

COVID blame game spreads like a virus in Thailand – Shawn W. Crispin | Asia Times

Thailand develops robotic system to up COVID vaccine doses | The Guardian/Reuters

Booster shots start 'next month' | Bangkok Post

Thailand's slow tourism recovery keeps unemployment rate elevated – Masayuki Yuda | Nikkei Asia In Thailand, an army of volunteers fights coronavirus – Jiraporn Kuhakan | Reuters

Thailand eases curbs on retail and restaurants to spur economy – Panu Wongcha-um and Panarat Thepgumpanat | Reuters

#### Politics

Police fire tear gas, rubber bullets at Bangkok protesters | Al Jazeera Thai protesters use stones, ping pong bombs, firecrackers against police during motorbike rally | South China Morning Post / AFP Protest on wheels in Thai capital seeks government's ouster – Chalida Ekvitthayavechnukul | ABC News/Associated Press Thailand's Protests Are Turning Dangerously Violent – Tyler Roney | Foreign Policy Thailand pro-Thaksin group resurfaces as COVID worsens – Toru Takahashi | Nikkei Asia

Thaksin to Return to Thailand? An Old Dream or New Hope for National Reconciliation? – Termsak

Chalermpalanupap | ISEAS Yusof Ishak Institute



### **Timor-Leste**

**COVID-19 Situation** 

East Timor detects first domestic transmission of COVID-19 Delta variant – Kate Lamb | Reuters Timor-Leste's health system 'faces collapse' – Ryan Dagur | UCA News

#### **ASEAN Membership**

Is Timor-Leste Ready to Join ASEAN? - Joao da Cruz Cardoso | The Diplomat

### Vietnam

#### **COVID-19 Situation**

<u>Vietnam: Turning the Tables on Covid-19</u> – Cong Nguyen Bao | Fulcrum <u>Delta variant sets off alarm bells in Vietnam</u> – Barnaby Flower | East Asia Forum <u>Workers try to flee Vietnam's biggest city as coronavirus crisis worsens</u> | Reuters <u>Community-based infection rate remains high in Ho Chi Minh City</u> | Tuoi Tre News <u>Vietnam deploys troops to enforce strict coronavirus lockdown in Ho Chi Minh City</u> | ABC News

#### US Vice-President Kamala Harris' Visit

US Vice-President Harris in Vietnam for Covid-19 Cooperation and Security Talks | Radio Free Asia Harris urges Vietnam to join US in opposing China 'bullying' – Alexandra Jaffe | Associated Press Vietnam says it will not side against China, after US' Kamala Harris visits – Mimi Lau | South China Morning Post

US Vice President Kamala Harris Raises Human Rights Issues in Talks in Vietnam | Radio Free Asia Harris opens CDC office in Vietnam as COVID rages in south – Tomoya Onishi | Nikkei Asia