

ASEAN Region – Press Review September 2021

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ASEAN Integration

<u>Shaping the ASEAN identity</u> – Apiradee Treerutkuarkul | Bangkok Post <u>ASEAN chair Brunei shares views on bloc's prospects</u> | The Japan Times

ASEAN Envoy to Myanmar

ASEAN's Myanmar Envoy Negotiating With Junta Over First Country Mission – Sebastian Strangio | The Diplomat

ASEAN envoy to Myanmar calls for 4-month cease-fire to deliver aid – Siti Rahil | Kyodo News Myanmar Junta Denies Accepting ASEAN Ceasefire Proposal | The Irrawaddy

COVID-19 Situation

<u>Low Vaccination Rates are Hurting Southeast Asia's Economy: ADB</u> – Sebastian Strangio | The Diplomat <u>COVID surge in Southeast Asia disrupts global supply chains</u> - Srinivas Mazumdaru | Deutsche Welle <u>Southeast Asia Nations Plan To 'Live With Virus' As Delta Surges</u> – Alifah Zainuddin | The Diplomat <u>What the Delta variant did to South-East Asia</u> | The Economist

<u>Southeast Asia Faces Narrow Window to Tackle Endangered Wildlife Trade</u> – Sebastian Strangio | The Diplomat

ASEAN and Geopolitics

AUKUS: The View from ASEAN - Laura Southgate | The Diplomat

<u>Australia seeks to calm ASEAN nerves over AUKUS, nuclear weapons</u> – Kentaro Iwamoto | Nikkei Asia <u>China seeks support from Southeast Asia after US, Britain and Australia unveil new security pact</u> – Laura Zhou | South China Morning Post

New Regional Alliances Highlight ASEAN's Irrelevance, Analysts Say | Radio Free Asia/BenarNews Reformulating ASEAN's Outlook on the Indo-Pacific – Aristyo Darmawan | East Asia Forum

Labour Abuses in Supply Chains

<u>Dear ASEAN, modern slavery at sea is worsening on your watch</u> - Annisa Erou and Tashrin Mohd Shahrin | The Jakarta Post

ASEAN food makers look to correct labor abuses in supply chains – Kyozuka, Kishimoto and Nakano Nikkei Asia

Advocacy groups pressure ASEAN over 'slavery' on trawlers- Ryan Dagur | UCA News

Climate and Energy Transition

Decarbonisation, the SE Asian way – Johanna Son | Bangkok Post/Reporting ASEAN

Most people in Asean say no to coal, yes to renewables as climate risks grow: Survey – David Fogarty | The Straits Times

How Asia Can Achieve a Just Energy Transition in a Post-COVID World – Nithi Nesadurai and Hang Dao | Climate Network/The Diplomat



COVID-19 Situation

<u>Daily COVID tally hits record high as active cases surpass 2,000 for first time</u> – Shareen Han | The Scoop <u>Brunei revises vaccination target to 80% by year's end</u> – Shareen Han | The Scoop <u>Brunei to offer COVID-19 booster jabs in stages</u> – Shareen Han | The Scoop

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COVID-19 Country Tracker: Brunei | WHO

Cambodia

COVID-19 Situation

What Explains Cambodia's COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Success? – Sebastian Strangio | The Diplomat Cambodia schools reopen as COVID vaccinations near targets – Shaun Turton | Nikkei Asia Boosters for public in capital slated to kick off in October | The Phnom Penh Post Cambodian Migrant Workers Complain of Extended Quarantines Amid COVID Surge | Radio Free Asia COVID-19 Country Tracker: Cambodia | WHO

Indonesia

COVID-19 Situation

<u>Indonesia COVID rate falls to ASEAN's lowest as rebound fears loom</u> – Shotaro Tani | Nikkei Asia <u>Indonesia Begins to Reopen Borders</u> – Fana Suparman | Jakarta Globe

<u>Indonesia mulls over free Covid-19 vaccine boosters as 'inevitable' third wave looms</u> | The Straits Times/Bloomberg

Indonesia in talks with WHO to become global vaccine hub: Health minister | CNA

<u>Long quest for COVID-19 vaccines in remote Indonesia as insufficient supply hampers efforts</u> – Kiki Siregar | CNA

COVID-19 Country Tracker: Indonesia | WHO

Politics

Indonesia: painted politics – Stania Puspawardhani | The Interpreter

Jokowi's overweight coalition – Editorial | The Jakarta Post

Why Widodo may cling to power beyond 2024 – John McBeth | Asia Times

Environment

<u>Indonesia court finds president negligent in air pollution lawsuit</u> – Kate Lamb and Agustinus Beo Da Costa | Reuters

<u>Jakarta court finds Jokowi negligent over city's air quality</u> – Erwida Maulia and Shotaro Tani | Nikkei Asia <u>Links to coal mining add to Indonesian palm oil sector's risk for buyers</u> – Hans Jong | Mongabay <u>Monitoring reveals Indonesia's 'legal timber' scheme riddled with violations</u> – Hans Jong | Mongabay



Laos

COVID-19 Situation

<u>Laos Tightens COVID-19 Restrictions as Infections Reach New Peak</u> – Sebastian Strangio | The Diplomat <u>COVID-19 Cases Reach More Than 20,000 in Laos Following Garment Factory Outbreaks</u> – Latsamy Phonevilay | The Laotian Times

Economic recovery in Laos delayed by Covid-19, says Asian Development Bank | The Star Party Orders Inquiry into Covid-19 Outbreak in Vientiane Capital – Latsamy Phonevilay | The Laotian Times COVID-19 Country Tracker: Laos | WHO

Infrastructure Development

<u>Laos Pushes Ahead With Large Dam Projects, Despite Uncertainty of Power Purchases</u> | Radio Free Asia <u>Connecting with Laos</u> – Nareerat Wiriyapong | Bangkok Post

Chinese Investments in Laos Soar, but Little Wealth is Spread - Ounkeo Souksavanh | Radio Free Asia



Malaysia

COVID-19 Situation

<u>Malaysia aims to unshackle economy as adult vaccinations near 90%</u> - P Prem Kumar | Nikkei Asia <u>Interstate travel, tourism activities allowed when 90% of adult population vaccinated: Malaysia PM Ismail Sabri – Vincent Tan | CNA</u>

<u>Malaysia will start treating Covid as 'endemic' around end-October, trade minister says</u> – Yen Nee Lee | CNBC

<u>Malaysian police warn against fake Covid-19 vaccine certificates as economy reopens</u> – Hazlin Hassan | The Straits Times

More than 51,000 COVID-19 cases in Malaysia's prisons; overcrowding is an issue: Deputy minister | CNA COVID-19 Country Tracker: Malaysia | WHO

Politics

<u>Malaysia's government signs cooperation pact with opposition in boost for PM</u> – Rozanna Latiff and A. Ananthalakshmi | Reuters

<u>Malaysia's political ceasefire shows early signs of promise. How long will it last?</u> – Hadi Azmi | South China Morning Post

Ismail brokers a political ceasefire in Malaysia - Nile Bowie | Asia Times

Malaysia's Ismail Sabri faces battle to curb COVID and spur growth - P Prem Kumar | Nikkei Asia

Malaysia's ex-PM Najib Razak may seek re-election to parliament despite conviction over 1MDB scandal

South China Morning Post/Reuters



Myanmar

Political Situation/Coup

<u>Myanmar opposition announces 'defensive war' against junta</u> – Yangon reporter and Rebecca Ratcliffe | The Guardian

<u>Call for 'defensive war' against Myanmar's junta sparks alarm, even as young citizens cautiously back revolt</u> – Min Ye Kyaw and Bhavan Jaipragas

Myanmar on a military-made road to disaster – Bertil Lintner | Asia Times

Myanmar currency drops 60% in weeks as economy tanks since February coup | Reuters

Chin Residents Flee to India After Fighting by Myanmar Forces And Local Militias | Radio Free Asia

Residents of Town in Myanmar's Chin State Flee Junta Artillery Barrage | The Irrawaddy

New fighting breaks out in Chin State's Thantlang | Myanmar Now

COVID-19 Situation

The Myanmar military's politicisation of COVID-19 – Moe Thuzar | East Asia Forum

<u>Myanmar set for 'extreme deprivation' due to COVID-19, UN World Food Programme says</u> | The Straits Times/Bloomberg

Villagers Displaced by Myanmar Military Regime Infected With COVID-19 | The Irrawaddy

16.7 percent of adult population in Myanmar vaccinated with at least one dose of Covid-19 vaccine | Eleven Myanmar

<u>China secretly sending Myanmar rebels COVID-19 vaccines, medical workers and other aid, groups say</u> | South China Morning Post/AFP

COVID-19 Country Tracker: Myanmar | WHO



Philippines

COVID-19 Situation

I The New York Times

<u>COVID-19 spread slows in Philippines' capital, other areas as curbs take effect</u> | The Straits Times/Inquirer <u>Philippines aims to vaccinate 90% of population against Covid-19 before 2022 election</u> | The Straits Times/Inquirer

PH weakest country in fighting pandemic: Bloomberg – Jerome Aning and Patricia Chiu| Inquirer

Duterte accuses rich countries of hoarding COVID vaccines while the poor 'wait for trickles.' – Rick Gladstone

The Hypocrisy of President Duterte's UN Speech – Mong Palatino | The Diplomat

Nurses bear brunt of Philippines COVID shambles | Asia Times

Misuse of COVID funds alleged as Filipino health workers protest | Al Jazeera

COVID-19 Country Tracker: Philippines | WHO

Philippine Election 2022

Manila Mayor Isko Moreno to run for Philippine president - Cliff Venzon | Nikkei Asia

Marcos making a run for Philippine presidency – Jason Castaneda | Asia Times

Manny Pacquiao Is Campaigning to Be President of the Philippines With Rodrigo Duterte's Playbook. Will

Voters Trust Him? - Chad De Guzman | TIME

Robredo to make final decision on 2022 run before Oct. 8 – Krixia Subingsubing | Inquirer

Duterte's legacy on the line as Philippine elections loom - Cliff Venzon | Nikkei Asia

Carpio sees Sara Duterte-Bongbong Marcos tandem 'in the end' - Cathrine Gonzales | Inquirer

How Populist Duterte Keeps Shaking Up the Philippines - Andreo Calonzo and Ian Sayson | Bloomberg

Majority in Philippines agree Rodrigo Duterte's vice-president bid violates constitution: survey | South China

Morning Post/dpa



Singapore

COVID-19 Situation

Singapore to expand booster shots after COVID cases hit record – Kentaro Iwamoto | Nikkei Asia

<u>Highly-vaccinated, but more cases than ever: Singapore shows the world what 'endemic' COVID might look</u> like – Grady McGregor | Fortune

<u>Singapore's COVID response overlooked a major factor: Fear</u> – Rachel Rosenthal | Business World/Bloomberg Singapore finding it hard to 'live with Covid' – Nile Bowie | Asia Times

<u>Singapore's pivot to Covid-19 home recovery baffles some residents as cases surge</u> – Dewey Sim | South China Morning Post

COVID-19: Singapore residents who took Sinovac turn to Pfizer to up their antibody counts, amid debate on booster shots | South China Morning Post

Singapore migrant workers are still living in COVID lockdown - Nick Marsh | BBC

COVID-19 Country Tracker: Singapore | WHO

Anti Foreign Interference Law & The Online Citizen/Terry Xu

As Singapore gears up to fight foreign interference, could political critics be caught in the cross hairs? – Bhavan Jaipragas | South China Morning Post

<u>Singapore Proposes Law Combating Foreign Interference Online</u> – Philip Heijmans | TIME/Bloomberg <u>Singapore's draft anti-foreign interference law 'worded very broadly', says Facebook</u> – Justin Ong | The Straits Times

<u>Singapore's foreign interference bill – legal monstrosity with totalitarian leanings</u> | Reporters Without Borders <u>Singapore High Court rules that The Online Citizen bloggers defamed prime minister</u> | Committee to Protect Journalists

Terry Xu underlines TOC received no foreign funding, says TOC won't submit additional information to IMDA – Anna Romero | The Independent



Thailand

COVID-19 Situation

Thailand to reopen to more vaccinated visitors from November | Reuters

<u>Thailand Halves Quarantine Requirement for Vaccinated Visitors</u> – Sebastian Strangio | The Diplomat Virus cases tipped to fall | Bangkok Post

Vaccinations hit 50m doses after record 1.4m on Friday | Bangkok Post

Thailand: Migrants plead for vaccines as COVID takes lives, jobs - Caleb Quinley | Al Jazeera

COVID-19 Country Tracker: Thailand | WHO

Politics

<u>'Everything has exploded now': on the streets with Thailand's protesters</u> – Rebecca Ratcliffe | The Guardian <u>Thailand protests: it's youths vs police at Bangkok's Din Daeng neighbourhood</u> | South China Morning Post <u>Understanding the Various Thai Protest Groups</u> – Pravit Rojanaphruk | Khaosod English

Thai PM Prayuth survives no-confidence vote as Bangkok braces for more protests | South China Morning Post

<u>Prayut elated after no-confidence vote move fails to oust him from office</u> – Aekarach Sattaburuth | Bangkok Post

Thai Parliament approves election system charter change – Chalida Ekvitthayavechnukul | Associated Press Thai Parliament passes election changes favouring ruling party | Borneo Bulletin/Bloomberg With Eye to Next Election, Thai Government Tweaks Voting Rules – Sebastian Strangio | The Diplomat 2-ballot system challenged | Bangkok Post



Timor-Leste

COVID-19 Situation

<u>Timor-Leste's prime minister tests positive for COVID-19</u> – Ryan Dagur | UCA News
<u>Timor-Leste to compensate COVID vaccine-hit patients</u> – Ryan Dagur | UCA News
<u>United States provides additional \$1 million for COVID-19 assistance in Timor-Leste</u> – USAID | Relief Web
<u>COVID-19 Country Tracker: Timor-Leste</u> | WHO



Vietnam

COVID-19 Situation

Has Vietnam turned a corner in its coronavirus fight? – Sen Nguyen | South China Morning Post Vietnam's biggest city to start lifting COVID-19 curbs to revive business | Reuters Counting the cost of Vietnam's Covid meltdown – Bac Pham and Bennett Murray | Asia Times COVID Chaos Fuels Public Anger in Vietnam | Radio Free Asia Vietnam's status as manufacturing powerhouse is shaken by COVID surge – John Reed | Financial Times Vietnam's homemade vaccines struggle to debut as COVID rages – Tomoya Onishi | Nikkei Asia Pandemic 'warning bell' exposed inequalities, governance gaps, says Viet Nam President | UN News COVID-19 Country Tracker: Vietnam | WHO