

ASEAN Region – Press Review October 2021

Contact: info@th.boell.org



ASEAN

ASEAN and Myanmar

ASEAN summit starts with Myanmar junta excluded for ignoring peace deal | The Guardian/Reuters

ASEAN Acknowledges Illegality of Myanmar's Military Coup – Aung Zaw | The Irrawaddy

ASEAN urged to take 'decisive step' by recognising Myanmar's NUG | Al Jazeera

Why ASEAN finally took a stand on Myanmar – Bertil Lintner | Asia Times

Give ASEAN seat to Myanmar opposition – Thitinan Pongsudhirak | Bangkok Post

Chairman's Statement of the 38th and 39th ASEAN Summits | ASEAN

New ASEAN chair to keep pressure on Myanmar junta | Reuters

Dual task: Save ASEAN, save Myanmar – Kavi Chongkittavorn | Bangkok Post

COVID-19 Situation

Which Asia-Pacific countries are re-opening to foreign visitors? | Bangkok Post/AFP

Widodo calls for ASEAN travel corridor to bolster recovery | Associated Press

Vietnam wants ASEAN to create COVID vaccine supply chain - Huyen Le | VN Express

Thai PM presses ASEAN to reopen | Bangkok Post

How Asia, Once a Vaccination Laggard, Is Revving Up Inoculations – Sui-Lee Wee, Damien Cave and Ben

Dooley | The New York Times

ASEAN Summits and Geopolitics

ASEAN summits conclude with focus on recovery from Covid-19, community building | The Straits Times/Xinhua

AUKUS roils ASEAN waters ahead of East Asia Summit - Kentaro Iwamoto I Nikkei Asia

Australia defends AUKUS pact at ASEAN summit | The Jakarta Post/Reuters

Australia, ASEAN to establish comprehensive strategic partnership – ASEAN | Reuters



COVID-19 Situation

COVID-19: Brunei unveils lockdown exit plan - Shareen Han | The Scoop

Enhanced cooperation paramount in COVID battle - Azlan Othman | Borneo Bulletin

Brunei lifts ban on essential travellers from Indonesia, five South Asian countries - Shareen Han | The Scoop

COVID-19 Country Tracker: Brunei | WHO



Cambodia

COVID-19 Situation

Cambodia to re-open to international travellers | Bangkok Post/AFP

Cambodia in top ten spot of countries with highest vaccination rates globally |Khmer Times

Ready or Not, Cambodia Plots its 'New Normal' - Luke Hunt | The Diplomat

COVID-19 Country Tracker: Cambodia | WHO

Politics

Cambodia passes law barring 'dual citizens' from top political jobs | Radio Free Asia

Cambodia's democratic dream in shreds 30 years after Paris accord – Phorn Bophal Al Jazeera

On the 30th Anniversary of the Paris Peace Accords, Gareth Evans Reflects on How Things Went Wrong -Men Kimseng | VOA



COVID-19 Situation

Indonesia COVID: Slow start as Bali re-opens to foreign tourists | BBC

Indonesia to make Covid-19 PCR tests mandatory for all holidaymakers – Linda Yulisman | The Straits Times Indonesia hits 150 million mark in Covid-19 vaccine jabs – Wahyudi Soeriaatmadja | The Straits Times Indonesia's pandemic-fuelled problem: Mounds of medical waste – Adi Renaldi | Al Jazeera Indonesia's Covid-19 medical waste swamps country's rubbish mountains – Avery Choi | South China Morning Post

COVID-19 Country Tracker: Indonesia | WHO

Climate Change and Energy

Indonesia's Climate Commitments Ahead of the COP-26 Summit – Noto Suoneto | The Diplomat Gov't Reaffirms Commitment to Energy Transition – Jayanty Nada Shofa | Jakarta Globe Indonesia starts process to raise VAT and introduce carbon tax – Shotaro Tani | Nikkei Asia Indonesia's new carbon tax signals higher power costs amid calls for clarity – Fathin Ungku and Bernadette Christina | Reuters

<u>Solar gets a boost in Indonesia's new \$35bn renewable power plan</u> – Erwida Maulia | Nikkei Asia <u>Indonesia needs \$200bn a year until 2030 for net-zero emissions</u> – Shotaro Tani | Nikkei Asia



Laos

COVID-19 Situation

<u>Laos provinces continue lockdowns to slow down COVID-19 transmissions</u> | The Star/Vientiane Times

<u>Residents Dissatisfied with Strict Lockdown in Luang Prabang</u> – Phayboune Thanabouasy | The Laotian Times

<u>Laos concerned about widespread infection risk of COVID-19 pandemic</u> | VNA

<u>Remote learning difficulty leads to push for vaccination of children in Laos</u> | The Star/Laotian Times

Laos to Prioritize Vietnam and China When Restarting International Tourism – Latsamy Phonevilay | The Laotian Times

COVID-19 Country Tracker: Laos | WHO

Infrastructure Development

New 620-mile railway connects China and Laos | CNN

As first Chinese high-speed train reaches Laos, villagers demand overdue compensation | Radio Free Asia Belt and Road starts and stops in China's backyard – Bertil Lintner | Asia Times



COVID-19 Situation

COVID-19: 94.7% of Malaysia's adult population fully vaccinated | The Star

Malaysia to buy Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for children aged 5 to 11 | Reuters

COVID:19: Choosing not to be vaccinated? We will make life 'difficult' for you, says Khairy | The Star Malaysia joins Southeast Asia's 'living with Covid' push with restart of interstate, outbound travel – Bhavan Jaipragas | South China Morning Post

<u>Malaysia struggles to shake COVID stigma as ASEAN restarts tourism</u> – P Prem Kumar | Nikkei Asia COVID-19 Country Tracker: Malaysia | WHO

Politics

Parliament passes 12th Malaysia Plan in a boost for new PM Ismail — Ram Anand | The Straits Times Forget differences, let us develop Malaysia together as a family, says Ismail Sabri | The Star Anwar accuses Ismail Sabri govt of dragging feet on institutional reforms — R. Loheswar | Malay Mail PM Ismail Sabri: Govt aims to grow GDP by 4.5 to 5.5pc and make Malaysia high-tech nation by 2030 — G. Prakash | Malay Mail

Melaka State Election: UMNO to continue cooperation with PAS - Ahmad Maslan | Bernama



Myanmar

Political Situation/Coup

Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi pleads not guilty to incitement as junta muzzles lawyers | Radio Free Asia Aung San Suu Kyi Defends Herself During 'Show Trial' in Myanmar – Sui-Lee Wee and Richard C. Paddock | The New York Times

<u>Myanmar's junta-appointed election commission pushes change to voting laws</u> | Radio Free Asia <u>Myanmar's economic woes due to gross mismanagement since coup - U.S. official</u> – Aradhana Aravindan | Reuters

<u>Myanmar military uses systematic torture across country</u> – Victoria Milko and Kristen Gelineau | Associated Press

<u>Tortured Myanmar political activist in critical condition after arrest</u> | Radio Free Asia

<u>World powers need to stop Myanmar civil war before it is too late</u> – Katsuhiko Meshino | Nikkei Asia

<u>Veteran Diplomat Noeleen Heyzer Appointed UN Special Envoy to Myanmar | The Irrawaddy</u>

COVID-19 Situation

Myanmar's Civilian Government Asks Thailand for Cross-Border Humanitarian Aid | The Irrawaddy Myanmar doctors are under fire from the military and COVID-19 - Geetanjali Krishna and Sally Howard | BMJ Group

Number of COVID-19 vaccination in Myanmar reaches over 11 M people | Eleven Media Group Myanmar Junta to Vaccinate School Students Against COVID-19 | The Irrawaddy COVID-19 Country Tracker: Myanmar | WHO



Philippines

COVID-19 Situation

Philippines still 'worst place' to be in Covid | Bangkok Post/Bloomberg

Delivered COVID-19 vaccine doses to Philippines surpass 100 million | Philstar

<u>Philippines begins nationwide COVID-19 vaccination for minors aged 12-17 early November</u> – Bonz Magsambol | Rappler

Why are COVID-19 vaccinations in the Philippines slowing down? – Sofia Tomacruz | Rappler COVID-19 Country Tracker: Philippines | WHO

Philippine Election 2022

The Philippine Elections Will Be a Test of Rodrigo Duterte's Legacy – Chad De Guzman | TIME Who will succeed Duterte? Five presidential contenders to know – Cliff Venzon | Nikkei Asia As Duterte exits Philippine election, will daughter Sara run for president? – Raissa Robles | South China Morning Post

<u>The Philippines is set for a fiery election, even without any Dutertes (at least for now</u>) – Cleve V. Arguelles | The Conversation

A dictator's son. A former actor. A champion boxer. Inside the manic race to replace Duterte as the Philippines' leader – Ben Westcott and Jinky Jorgio | CNN

Philippines's No 2 Leni Robredo joins race to succeed Duterte – Ted Regencia | CNN

Nobel Peace Prize 2021

Nobel Peace Prize: Journalists Maria Ressa and Dmitry Muratov share award | BBC

<u>Philippines: What does Maria Ressa's Nobel Peace Prize mean for the rights movement?</u> | Deutsche Welle 'A triumph of truth over lies': joy in the Philippines over Maria Ressa's Nobel prize win – Girlie Linao | The Guardian

Nobel Prize for Ressa a rebuke to Duterte | Bangkok Post/Reuters and AFP

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Singapore

COVID-19 Situation

Singapore reports 3,432 new COVID-19 cases, down by more than 1,800 from the previous day; 15 more deaths | CNA

Singapore extends COVID restrictions as cases remain high - Abigail Ng | CNBC

Singapore to investigate 'unusual' surge in COVID-19 cases | Al Jazeera

<u>'I haven't seen the daylight in ages': Pressure on healthcare workers as COVID-19 cases spike</u> – Vanessa Lim CNA

No jab, no entry: Singapore highlights rise of vaccine mandates – Kentaro Iwamoto | Nikkei Asia

They Had the Vaccines and a Plan to Reopen. Instead They Got Cold Feet. – Sui-Lee Wee | The New York Times

COVID-19 Country Tracker: Singapore | WHO

Foreign Interference Countermeasures Act

Singapore is cracking down on foreign political interference | The Economist

Singapore passes law targeting 'foreign meddling' in politics – John Reed | Financial Times

Singapore's 'foreign interference' law will weaken people power - Kokila Annamalai | Al Jazeera

Singapore's New Powerful 'Foreign Interference' Law Stirs Fears of Abuse - Zsombor Peter | VOA



Thailand

COVID-19 Situation

Thailand reopens: what you need to know | Bangkok Post/AFP

Thailand readies for tourism reboot with reopening test-run – Jiraporn Kuhakan | Reuters

COVID fears mount as Bangkok eyes tourists | Bangkok Post

Vaccine rollout for youngsters | Bangkok Post

Thailand detects 1st case of Delta Plus in Ayutthaya | Coconuts

Delta Plus won't stop tourist plan | Bangkok Post

COVID-19 Country Tracker: Thailand | WHO

Politics

Thailand's Escalating Crackdown on Dissent – Pornpen Khongkachonkiet | The Diplomat

Battlefield Din Daeng: The Thai protesters with 'nothing to lose' | Al Jazeera

Thai Journalists on Challenges of Covering Protest Movement – Tommy Walker | VOA

PPRP fully backs Prayut | Bangkok Post

Young Shinawatra appointed Pheu Thai chief adviser for innovation | Bangkok Post



Timor-Leste

COVID-19 Situation

Timor-Leste's govt hits the COVID campaign trail – Ryan Dagur | UCAnews

<u>Timor-Leste launched Pfizer COVID-19 vaccination campaign for children ages 12 to 17 years old |UNICEF COVID-19 Country Tracker: Timor-Leste | WHO</u>

ASEAN Membership

<u>Timor-Leste's bid for ASEAN membership</u> – Harsh Mahaseth and Vishnu Bandarupalli | The Manila Times Hun Sen highlights need for Asean to admit Timor Leste – Sar Socheath | Khmer Times

End of Oil and Gas Revenues

<u>Timor-Leste will soon be running on fumes</u> – Charles Steiner | DevPolicyBlog

Vietnam

COVID-19 Situation

Vietnam records 4,876 new local COVID cases – Le Nga | VN Express Vietnam takes Sinopharm vaccines to ease Ho Chi Minh City's woes - Tomoya Onishi | Nikkei Asia Vietnam to vaccinate children against COVID-19 from next month | Reuters Labor paradox leaves Vietnam factories reeling after COVID exodus – Lien Hoang | Nikkei Asia

Counting the cost of Vietnam's Covid collapse – David Hutt | Asia Times

Vietnam PM promises economy will rebound from COVID-19 hit | Reuters

COVID-19 Country Tracker: Vietnam | WHO

Climate Change and Energy

Vietnam Faces Watershed Moment ahead of COP26 – James Borton | Geopolitical Monitor

Vietnam committed to climate change response: PM – Thanh Tam | VN Express

Vietnam's addiction to coal shows tough climate choices developing Asia faces on emissions pledges - Sen Nguven I South China Morning Post

Vietnam's coal-fired power may double by 2030 under draft energy plan | Bangkok Post/Reuters

Construction on Vietnam's Vung Ang 2 coal plant to begin in December – James Pearson | Reuters