

ASEAN Region – Press Review January 2022

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ASEAN and Myanmar

ASEAN still toothless a year after Myanmar coup – Laetitia van den Assum, Kobsak Chutikul, Pou Sothirak, Kyaw Win, and Dinna Prapto Raharja | Bangkok Post

Myanmar Crisis and Hun Sen's Visit: ASEAN in Disarray? - Delwar Hossain | The Diplomat

ASEAN and Myanmar: No sign of progress - Roshni Kapur | The Interpreter

ASEAN and Myanmar: Crisis and Opportunity – Sukegawa Seiya | The Diplomat

ASEAN challenge: Myanmar under Cambodia chair | Bangkok Post/Kyodo News

<u>Cambodia: ASEAN's Spoiler or Savior?</u> – Kavi Chongkittavorn | The Irrawaddy

ASEAN foreign ministers to meet Feb. 16-17 in Cambodia - Tomoya Onishi | Nikkei Asia

ASEAN and Geopolitics

'Minilateral' diplomacy in vogue amid rifts in ASEAN | Radio Free Asia

ASEAN needs a Middle Path – Paritta Wangkiat | Bangkok Post

U.S.-China rivalry makes ASEAN vital, says ex-secretary general – Shogo Kawakita | Kyodo News

What critics miss on ASEAN's Indo-Pacific Outlook - Arrizal Jaknanihan | East Asia Forum

Embracing ASEAN's Role In The Indo-Pacific – Rifki Dermawan | The ASEAN Post

The QUAD adjusts towards ASEAN - Gurjit Singh | The Star

What to expect from Europe-ASEAN relations in 2022 - David Hutt | Deutsche Welle

ASEAN is poised for post-pandemic inclusive growth and prosperity – here's why – Joo-Ok Lee and Shaun

Adam | World Economic Forum



Economy

Economic woes continue to batter Brunei as oil output hits record low – Shareen Han | The Scoop CSPS: Brunei economy projected to grow 3.7% in 2022 – Shareen Han | The Scoop Weaning Brunei off oil – Andrew Tsang | The Scoop

COVID-19 Situation

Brunei sees slight uptick in weekly COVID cases – Shareen Han | The Scoop

'No need to worry', Covid-19 situation well under control in Brunei, says health minister | The Star

China's Vaccine Diplomacy in Brunei: Boon or Bane? – Riyani Sidek and Nafisa Halim | The Diplomat

COVID-19 Country Tracker: Brunei | WHO



Cambodia

Politics

<u>Hun Sen future-proofs Cambodia's politics</u> – Astrid Noren-Nilsson | East Asia Forum

<u>Cambodia resumes treason trial of opposition leader Kem Sokha</u> – Shaun Turton | Nikkei Asia

<u>Cambodia: EU draws criticism over 'inaction' against opposition crackdown</u> – David Hutt | Deutsche Welle

Cambodia as ASEAN Chair

Cambodian PM Calls on Myanmar Junta to Implement ASEAN Peace Plan – Sebastian Strangio How Cambodia's ASEAN chairmanship will play out – Nik Luqman | Asia Times

Prospects for Cambodia's chairing of ASEAN in 2022 | Riko Watanabe | East Asia Forum

Cambodia's chair: trust and tasks ahead – Kavi Chongkittavorn | Bangkok Post

COVID-19 Situation

<u>Cambodia launches 4th round of COVID-19 vaccinations</u> – Sopheng Cheang | ABC News/AP <u>Cambodia's fourth dose campaign for COVID-19 vaccination sees 450,000 getting Pfizer jabs</u> | Khmer Times <u>Groundhog Day for Cambodia's economic rebound</u> – Heidi Dahles | East Asia Forum <u>COVID-19 Country Tracker: Cambodia | WHO</u>



Indonesia

New Capital City: Nusantara

Indonesia names new capital Nusantara as MPs back relocation | Al Jazeera
Indonesia names new capital Nusantara, replacing sinking Jakarta – Rebecca Ratcliffe | The Guardian Indonesia's new capital, Nusantara, sparks controversy – Erwida Maulia | Nikkei Asia
As Indonesia names its new US\$34 billion capital 'Nusantara', historically minded critics say it's 'hard to see the idea' – Resty Woro Yuniar | SCMP

Will Nusantara be Jokowi's greatest legacy or his unmitigated folly? – Johan Jaffar | ANN/The Star

Politics

Indonesia sets date for 2024 election, ending Jokowi speculation | The Straits Times/Bloomberg
Indonesia Ends Speculation on Jokowi Term Extension, Sets 2024 Polls Date - Tria Dianti | BenarNews
2024 Indonesian election: Who's got the ticket to ride? - Endy Bayuni | The Star/The Jakarta Post
Popular governors warm up for 2024 - Yerica Lai | The Jakarta Post
Election law comes under scrutiny again in Indonesia - Wahyudi Soeriaatmadja | The Straits Times
Politics and Islam a potent new mix in Indonesia - John McBeth | Asia Times

COVID-19 Situation

Indonesia records first Omicron community case | Al Jazeera

Third COVID wave looms in Indonesia as omicron spreads – Niniek Karmini | The Washington Post/AP Indonesia Begins Distributing Booster Shots as Omicron Makes Inroads – Sebastian Strangio | The Diplomat A million vaccine shots tossed in Indonesia on short expiry date | Bangkok Post/Bloomberg

With COVID-19, parental loss and economic hardship bear heavily on Indonesia's children – Lianne Chia and Lewa Pardomuan | CNA

COVID-19 Country Tracker: Indonesia | WHO



Laos

Infrastructure Development

China-Laos Railway transported over 1 million passengers since launch | CGTN
So far, freight on new Laos-China high-speed railway only goes one way | RFA
China trades goods worth over \$100 million via China-Laos Railway | CGTN
In the China-Laos Railway, Beijing reveals its designs for Southeast Asia – Harry Seavey | SupChina

Hydropower Dams

Lao local government clears land for families displaced by dam | RFA | In Laos, a 'very dangerous dam' threatens an ancient world heritage site - Tom Fawthrop | Mongabay Worries in Laos and Thailand as upstream dams drain Mekong River | RFA | Mekong dams hit fishing and farming in Laos, Thailand | UCA News | Lao dam collapse survivors still wait for new homes amid construction delays | RFA

COVID-19 Situation

<u>Laos records first case of Omicron variant; people told to strictly follow Covid-19 rules</u> | The Star/Vientiane Times

<u>Lao health authorities urge more people to get vaccinated amid Covid-19 pandemic</u> | The Straits Times/Xinhua <u>Laos health ministry targets 87.25% Covid shots by end of 2022</u> | The Phnom Penh Post/ANN <u>Laos to Vaccinate Young Children Against Covid-19</u> – Khonephachanh Syboun | The Laotian Times <u>COVID-19 Country Tracker: Laos</u> | WHO



Politics

In Malaysia, new political parties signal their strengths and what they can bring to the table – Vincent Tan | CNA

UMNO strikes back after Malaysia's year of political melee – William Case | East Asia Forum

'Here to serve': Floods put Malaysia youth party in spotlight - Kamles Kumar | Al Jazeera

Teachers can now get involved in politics, says PM | Free Malaysia Today

Malaysia's former PM Mahathir admitted to cardiac unit – P Prem Kumar | Nikkei Asia

<u>In Johor election, is Malaysia's Umno seeking stability or a 'get-out-of-jail' card for Najib?</u> – Hadi Azmi | SCMP Multiculturalism is alive and well in Malaysia, just not in politics: Analysts – Shannon Teoh | The Straits Times

COVID-19 Situation

Malaysia's new Covid cases top 5,000 again as Omicron spreads | The Straits Times/Bloomberg

The Omicron wave is here, says Khairy | Free Malaysia Today

Don't deliberately get Omicron to achieve herd immunity: Malaysia Health Minister | The Straits Times

Covid-19 vaccination: 50.8% of Malaysian adults boosted as of Jan 30 |Bernama

Malaysia to roll out Covid-19 vaccination for kids aged five to 12 from Feb 3 | The Straits Times

COVID-19 Country Tracker: Malaysia | WHO



Myanmar

Political Situation/Coup

Violence, poverty haunt Myanmar one year after the junta takeover | RFA

A year after Myanmar coup, growing surveillance threatens lives | Bangkok Post/Thomson Reuters Foundation

A year since it seized power, Myanmar's military is losing - Thitinan Pongsudhirak | Nikkei Asia

Suu Kyi hit with five new charges - Bangkok Post/AFP

Myanmar Court Sentences Suu Kyi on 'Walkie-Talkies,' COVID-19 Violations | VOA

Myanmar's Suu Kyi to go on trial for election fraud Feb 14 – source | Bangkok Post/Reuters

Myanmar sentences lawmaker from Aung San Suu Kyi's party to death | Al Jazeera

Myanmar military won't dissolve Suu Kyi's NLD party: official | Nikkei Asia

Myanmar lost 1.6 million jobs in 2021 amid COVID, coup: ILO | Al Jazeera

COVID-19 Situation

Myanmar Junta Reports 118 Omicron Cases | The Irrawaddy

Why people in Myanmar don't want the junta's jabs - John Liu | Frontier Myanmar

Myanmar Junta Locks Down Indian Border Town After COVID-19 Outbreak | The Irrawaddy

COVID-19 Country Tracker: Myanmar | WHO



Philippines

Philippine Election 2022

<u>The Duo Fighting to Preserve Dynastic Rule in the Philippines</u> – Timothy McLaughlin | The Atlantic Philippine election body in focus over Marcos exclusion ruling – Cliff Venzon | Nikkei Asia

Philippine election body dismisses petition to bar Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos Jnr from presidential

election - Raissa Robles | SCMP

<u>The Philippines in 2022: Elections, Omicron, and a Delayed Recovery</u> – Mong Palatino | The Diplomat <u>Philippine election: why are overseas Filipinos such big fans of Bongbong Marcos Jnr</u> - Marielle Descalsota | SCMP

COVID-19 Situation

COVID: Omicron surge deals heavy blow to Filipino families - Ana P. Santos | Deutsche Welle

Philippine COVID deaths may be double the current number – Ted Regencia | Al Jazeera

Philippines confirms community transmission of Omicron, cases hit record | Reuters

A Record Virus Surge in the Philippines, but Doctors Are Hopeful – Sui-Lee Wee and Camille Elemia | The New York Times

'No vaccine, no ride': Limits imposed on Manila public transport | Al Jazeera

Philippines halves COVID-19 booster wait time to three months | Reuters

How Duterte could use Omicron to cling to power - Jason Castaneda | Asia Times

COVID-19 Country Tracker: Philippines | WHO



Singapore

Politics and International Affairs

Generational change in Singapore's politics – Chia Siow Yue | East Asia Forum

Two-party system like those in UK, US unlikely in Singapore, says Ong Ye Kung – Tham Yuen-C | The Straits Times

Three tax priorities for Budget 2022 – Vikram Khanna | The Straits Times

<u>Jamus Lim urges re-think of GST hike, says it could 'shock' the economy</u> – Anna Maria Romero | The Independent

<u>Singapore, Indonesia sign landmark agreements on extradition, defence and airspace</u> – Dewey Sim and Resty Woro Yuniar | SCMP

Singapore PM: Keep Myanmar junta out of ASEAN talks | Bangkok Post/Reuters

COVID-19 Situation

<u>Large gatherings must 'wait a little longer' as Omicron forces strict measures: PM Lee</u> – Davina Tham | CNA <u>Omicron in Singapore means home isolation and self-testing 'without anyone checking on you'</u> – Kok Xinghui | SCMP

Nearly 200 cases of more infectious Omicron subvariant in Singapore – Nadine Chua | The Straits Times Coronavirus: Singapore eases travel restrictions despite expecting 'significant wave' of Omicron cases, predicting up to 15,000 a day – Kok Xinghui | SCMP

<u>Singapore says booster shots needed in order to maintain fully vaccinated status</u> – Abigail Ng | CNBC COVID-19 Country Tracker: Singapore | WHO



Thailand

Politics

Pheu Thai crushes ruling PPRP in Bangkok by-election | Bangkok Post

<u>Analysis: Bangkok By-Election results signal a wind of political change</u> – Pravit Rojanaphruk | Khaosod English

Bangkok by-election results a stumble for Thailand's ruling party - but not quite for PM Prayut - Tan Hui Yee | The Straits Times

Opinion: Yet another binder- the difficult future of move forward party – Bunkueanun Paothong | Khaosod English

PPRP loses South by-elections – Aekarach Sattaburuth and Mongkol Bangprapa | Bangkok Post

Democrats win Chumphon, Songkhla by-elections | Bangkok Post

Thai politics' murky tunnel to nowhere – Thitinan Pongsudhirak | Bangkok Post

Marijuana Decriminalized

<u>Thailand Becomes First Country in Asia to Decriminalize Marijuana</u> – Chalida Ekvitthayavechnukul | Time/AP <u>Thailand gives green light to growing cannabis at home</u> | CNN/Reuters

<u>Legalisation of household cannabis, limited recreational use</u> – Apinya Wipatayotin | Bangkok Post Thailand takes step toward decriminalizing marijuana – Masayuki Yuda | Nikkei Asia

COVID-19 Situation

Omicron-only by month's end | Bangkok Post

Thailand adopts guidelines for declaring COVID-19 endemic | Yahoo News/AP

Thailand to resume no-quarantine entry from February - Masayuki Yuda | Bangkok Post

Youngsters get first shots of Covid-19 vaccine | Bangkok Post

Hoping for a return to normalcy | Bangkok Post

COVID-19 Country Tracker: Thailand | WHO



Timor-Leste

Politics and COVID-19 Situation

<u>Timor-Leste comes of age in troubled times</u> – Michael Rose | East Asia Forum

Timor-Leste: comebacks and contests ahead of presidential elections – Michael Leach | The Interpreter

Timor-Leste presidential race shapes up | NHK Japan

Guterres keen to continue as Timor-Leste president - Ryan Dagur | UCA News

Timor-Leste's Gusmao reflects on 20 years of independence – Yoshida Mayu | NHK Japan

East Timor seeks Cambodia's help over ASEAN, WTO membership - Mom Kunthear | The Phnom Penh Post

COVID-19 Country Tracker: Timor-Leste | WHO



Vietnam

Human Rights

With West Distracted by Pandemic, Vietnam Ramps Up Repression - Linh Dan and An Hai | VOA

Jailed Vietnamese journalist wins human rights award | RFA

Vietnam: Dozens of Rights Activists Detained, Tried | Human Rights Watch

Vietnamese Critics, Others Slam Journalist's 9-Year Sentence | VOA

Vietnam arrests land rights activist for 'spreading anti-state materials' | RFA

COVID-19 Situation

Vietnam detects first Omicron cases in the community - state media | Reuters

Localities urged to accelerate vaccinations against COVID-19 during Tet | VNA

Vietnam eases reentry curbs in move to live with COVID-19 - Tomoya Onishi | Nikkei Asia

Vietnam issues relaxed entry protocols for foreign nationals, overseas citizens | Inquirer/ANN

Vietnam health ministry eyes Pfizer Covid-19 vaccines for children aged 5-11 years | The Star/ANN

Vietnam's COVID-19 testing scandal goes viral - Thiem Bui | East Asia Forum

COVID-19 Country Tracker: Vietnam | WHO