

ASEAN Region – Press Review February 2022

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ASEAN and Myanmar

Myanmar question is forcing ASEAN to remake itself – Ben Bland | Nikkei Asia New pragmatism on the rise in ASEAN – Kavi Chongkittavorn | Bangkok Post

ASEAN envoy seeks Myanmar junta blessing to meet its opponents – Prak Chan Thul | Reuters

All not lost for ASEAN in Myanmar - Marzuki Darusman | Bangkok Post

Myanmar military barred from ASEAN foreign ministers' meeting | Al Jazeera

Myanmar junta urges ASEAN envoy not to engage with 'terrorist' groups | Reuters

ASEAN and Geopolitics

<u>The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership: Its Significance for the East Asian Economic Order</u> – Oba Mie | Nippon

The CLMV Countries and RCEP: Will They Grasp the Opportunities? – Jayant Menon | Fulcrum ASEAN FMs reiterate commitment to ensure full, effective implementation of RCEP agreement | CGTN Boosting maritime law enforcement in Southeast Asia and the South China Sea – Michael Heazle | ASPI Why Have Southeast Asian Governments Stayed Silent Over Ukraine? – Sebastian Strangio | The Diplomat What Russian aggression in Ukraine means for Southeast Asia – Zachary Abuza | Radio Free Asia ASEAN faces fallout from Russian invasion of Ukraine – Shotaro Tani | Nikkei Asia



COVID-19 Situation

Brunei to proceed with National Day parade despite soaring COVID cases – Shareen Han and Rasidah Hj Abu Bakar | The Scoop

Brunei health minister rules out re-imposing restrictions despite increasing number of COVID-19 cases | The Star/Borneo Bulletin

Brunei ready to reignite tourism when borders re-open: Minister | Borneo Bulletin

Malaysia and Brunei agree COVID-19 guarantine exemption pact | CNA

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Cambodia

Politics

Cambodia's Hun Sen Gives Up On Myanmar | BenarNews

Hun Sen's global moment tainted by labor clampdown – David Hutt | Asia Times

Six opposition parties mull alliance to challenge Cambodia's ruling party | Radio Free Asia

Cambodia: Will Hun Manet be more pro-US than his father? - Richard Ehrlich | Asia Times

COVID-19 Situation

Cambodia vaccinates children aged three to five against COVID | Reuters

Almost 7 million in Cambodia complete third dose of COVID-19 vaccine as Omicron rages with deaths

Khmer Times

Is Or Vandine Cambodia's Future? - David Hutt | The Diplomat



Indonesia

Politics

Presidential politics heats up in Indonesia – Greg Fealy | East Asia Forum

Nusantara, Indonesia's future capital on Borneo gets underway - Erwida Maulia | Nikkei Asia

Muslim parties eve 'cool' candidates | The Star/The Straits Times

Indonesia begins to look beyond Jokowi - ANU | East Asia Forum

Now is not the time for geopolitical rivalry, says Jokowi as he kicks off G20 finance ministers meeting - Kiki Siregar | CAN

Pinning hopes on Indonesia's 2022 G20 Presidency for global recovery | Antara

COVID-19 Situation

As Omicron cases climb rapidly, Indonesia tries to learn from its devastating Delta outbreak - Sastra Wijaya and Hellena Souisa I ABC News

Indonesia walks tightrope between growth and COVID restrictions | Nikkei Asia

Indonesia starts testing homegrown COVID vaccine on humans | Al Jazeera

Indonesia Set to Become mRNA-Based Vaccine Production Hub for Southeast Asia | Jakarta Globe

The inequities in Indonesia's vaccine rollout - Nicholas Kuipers and Saiful Mujani | New Mandala



COVID-19 Situation

Laos Begins Covid-19 Vaccination of Children Aged 6-11 - Latsamy Phonevilay | The Laotian Times Laos govt aims expedite vaccination programme | The Star/Vientiane Times

Laos Confirms Community Spread of Omicron COVID-19 Variant – Latsamy Phonevilay | The Laotian Times Laos agrees to reopen border – Mongkol Bangprapa | Bangkok Post



Malaysia

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Malaysia: The Need To Move From Personality To Policy Based Politics - Analysis - Murray Hunter | Eurasia Review

Mahathir poised to return to politics after being discharged from hospital | NHK

Malaysia court orders freeze on Najib's assets, limits monthly bank withdrawals to RM100,000 | CNA

Malaysia's political theatre: it's all about power – Murray Hunter I Free Malaysia Today

Malaysia, Thailand agree to conduct KL-Bangkok HSR feasibility study — Ismail Sabri | The Edge Markets/Bernama

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KJ: Malaysia fully into Omicron wave | New Straits Times

Rising hospital admissions in Malaysia due to 'pre-emptive measure', says health minister – Rashvinjeet S. Bedi | CNA

Malaysia Covid-19 panel recommends full border reopening in March | Bangkok Post/Reuters

Covid-19 cases among children on the rise - Tharanya Arumugam | New Straits Times



Myanmar

Political Situation/Coup

Myanmar coup: A year of protest, reprisals and diplomatic inertia | Al Jazeera

One year post-coup: Light ahead after darkness? – Zwe Mahn | Bangkok Post

Myanmar: From Hopeful Spring to Scorching Summer – Naw Theresa | The Diplomat

Pro-junta forces torch hundreds of more homes in Myanmar's volatile Sagaing region | Radio Free Asia

Large 'Six Twos' crowds protest Myanmar junta, marking resistance anniversary | Radio Free Asia

More than 4,500 homes razed by military since Myanmar coup | Radio Free Asia

Myanmar piles on 11th corruption charge against Suu Kyi – Grant Peck | AP

Myanmar's Leader Aung San Suu Kyi Too Sick For Court Hearing | The Irrawaddy

Myanmar's Military Council Supports Russia's Invasion of Ukraine | VOA Burmese

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COVID-19 Cases Spike Again in Myanmar | The Irrawaddy

Myanmar traders worry COVID-19 outbreak in Muse will hinder China trade | Radio Free Asia

Major Myanmar Hospital Closes Outpatient Departments as Doctors Hit by COVID-19 | The Irrawaddy

Omicron COVID-19 wave threatens children in Yangon, says pediatrician | Mizzima



Philippines

Philippine Election 2022

Philippines kicks off chaotic election campaign season | France 24/AFP

Explainer: A guide to the Philippines 2022 election – Martin Petty | Reuters

COVID tames race to replace Duterte as Philippine president - Ted Regencia | Al Jazeera

Marcos-Duterte alliance confirms lead in Philippine election poll - Cliff Venzon | Nikkei Asia

Is it 'back to the future' for Philippine politics under Marcos Jr? - Sol Iglesias | East Asia Forum

Marcos return looms large as Philippines remembers 'People Power' - Cliff Venzon | Nikkei Asia

Robredo roasts debate absentee Marcos: A leader shows up in the most difficult times – Mara Cepeda | Rappler

<u>Make climate change the issue in Philippine presidential election</u> – Criselda Yabes | Nikkei Asia The outcome of the Philippines' election is not as certain as it looks | The Economist

COVID-19 Situation

<u>Philippines shifts to 'new normal' in March after 2 years of Covid-19 restrictions</u> – Raul Dancel | The Straits Times

Philippines lifts most COVID-19 restrictions in capital | CNA

Philippines Fully Opens to Foreign Visitors After Nearly 2 Years – Sebastian Strangio | The Diplomat

Dangerous to assume Omicron last variant: WHO exec – Joye Rocamora | Philippine News Agency

<u>The Philippines' COVID-19 Response Has Left the Most Vulnerable Behind</u> – Yvonne Su and Sivakamy Thayaalan | The Diplomat

The uncertainty of treating Omicron as sign of pandemic end game – Cristina Baclig | Inquirer

Philippines begins COVID-19 vaccination of children aged 5 to 11 – Bonz Magsambol | Rappler



Singapore

Politics

As Singapore's PM Lee Hsien Loong turns 70, no clear successor is in sight – Bhavan Jaipragas | SCMP Singapore not immune to decline if it lets political standards slide: PM Lee – Lim Yan Liang | The Straits Times Singapore PM's speech uncalled for, says India – Suhasini Haidar | The Hindu

<u>Pritam Singh, Sylvia Lim and Faisal Manap to speak in Parliament debate on COP report</u> – Hariz Baharudin and Goh Yan Han | The Straits Times

Singapore raises GST for first time in 15 years, taxes ultra-wealthy more to support elderly, tackle climate change – Kok Xinghui | SCMP

COVID-19 Situation

<u>High numbers indicate Covid-19 Omicron wave will likely peak soon in Singapore: experts</u> | The Star/The Straits Times

Why did S'pore push back streamlining of Covid-19 measures if surge in cases was expected? – Salma Khalik I The Straits Times

<u>'Let me get Covid, please': Shifting views of virus in Singapore prompts expert to warn against actively</u> seeking out infection – Kok Xinghui | SCMP



Thailand

Politics

<u>Prayut again vows to stay until March 2023</u> – Wassana Nanuam | Bangkok Post <u>PM Prayut's future hangs in the balance</u> – Chairith Yonpiam | Bangkok Post 'We Apologise, But We Don't Regret': Thailand's Frazzled Conservatives - Anusorn Unno | Fulcrum

Prawit: No conflict in PPRP | Bangkok Post

Thammanat versus Phalang Pracharat: Who Will Win - Punchada Sirivunnabood | Fulcrum

Rome wasn't built in a day – Aekarach Sattaburuth | Bangkok Post

Bail allowed for student activist Parit | Bangkok Post/AFP

COVID-19 Situation

<u>Thailand eases entry requirements despite omicron threat</u> – Chalida Ekvitthayavechnukul | ABC News/AP <u>Thailand at 'Crossroads' as COVID-19 Surges Amid Tourism, Economy Rebound</u> | VOA

All risk catching Omicron, says expert – Apinya Wipatayotin and Penchan Charoensuthipan | Bangkok Post Governors ordered to step up fight against coronavirus | Bangkok Post



Timor-Leste

19 March Presidential Election and ASEAN Membership

Timor Leste Nobel laureate Ramos-Horta to run for president again | The Jakarta Post/AFP

Ensuring safety and inclusive elections in Timor-Leste | UN News

Timor-Leste: The European Union deploys an Election Observation Mission | EU

ASEAN looks to expedite entry of Timor Leste | The Star/The Phnom Penh Post

Dengue Outbreak and COVID-19 Situation

East Timor's hospitals are fighting a deadly outbreak, but it's not COVID – Chris Barrett | The Sydney Morning Herald

Timor-Leste to provide basic food for COVID-hit families - Ryan Dagur | UCA News

COVID-19 strikes twice for Timor-Leste PM - Ryan Dagur | UCA News



Vietnam

Environmentalist Nguy Thi Khanh arrested

<u>Award-winning Vietnamese environmentalist arrested as rights groups fear 'clamp down'</u> – Chris Humphrey | The Guardian

Vietnam arrests prominent environmentalist on tax evasion charges | Radio Free Asia

GreenID director arrested for tax evasion | Vietnamnet

Vietnam arrests green activist on tax charges | France 24/AFP

COVID-19 Situation

COVID-19 distracts from Vietnam's long-term development plans – Suiwah Leung | East Asia Forum

Vietnam to end COVID curbs on international flights | Al Jazeera

Vietnam's tourism industry prepares for reopening | Inquirer/Nam News

Vietnam to receive mRNA vaccine technology transfer from WHO training hub | The Star/Vietnam News