HEINRICH BÖLL STIFTUNG

ASEAN Region – Press Review March 2022

Contact: info@th.boell.org



ASEAN and Myanmar

ASEAN envoy for Myanmar crisis arrives on first mission – Grant Peck | Associated Press Myanmar's generals must be pressed to keep ASEAN promises | Nikkei Asia Misreading the room: Why Hun Sen is failing on Myanmar – Andrew Nachemson | Al Jazeera ASEAN envoy denied meeting with Aung San Suu Kyi by Myanmar's junta | RFA Myanmar Junta Takes Cautious Steps With ASEAN on International Aid Access – Kavi Chongkittavorn | The

Irrawaddy

<u>ASEAN envoy sees tough road for cease-fire in first Myanmar trip</u> – Tomoya Onishi | Nikkei Asia <u>As ASEAN envoy wraps up first Myanmar visit, is the Five Point Consensus looking less viable?</u> – Maria Siow | SCMP

Russia-Ukraine War and Southeast Asia

Russia's war and its regional impact – Kavi Chongkittavorn | Bangkok Post Russia's war causes regional disarray – Thitinan Pongsudhirak | Bangkok Post ASEAN faces 'collateral damage' from Ukraine war's Europe impact – Dylan Loh | Nikkei Asia ASEAN responds to invasion of Ukraine – Kavi Chongkittavorn | Bangkok Post Southeast Asian companies brace for impact from Ukraine invasion – Muramatsu and Onishi | Nikkei Asia

ASEAN and Geopolitics

<u>The strategic significance of RCEP in East Asia</u> – ANU | East Asia Forum <u>Asean economic ministers optimistic on upgrading pacts</u> – Phusadee Arunmas | Bangkok Post <u>Reaping the Benefits of RCEP: From Utilisation to Exports</u> – Tham Siew Yean | Fulcrum <u>Asean needs a forward-looking trade agreement</u> – Satvinder Singh | Bangkok Post <u>Asean should ditch 'younger, weaker brother' mentality when dealing with China, experts say</u> – Kok Xinghui | <u>SCMP</u>

Stiffening the ASEAN spine in the South China Sea – Arrizal Jaknanihan | The Interpreter

Asean must prevent external interference in South China Sea Code of Conduct, says Chinese minister – Elizabeth Law | The Straits Times

US trying to create Asian NATO with blocs to 'suppress' China: FM Wang Yi | Business Standard

US rivalry with China in Indo-Pacific 'needs greater economic focus' - Liu Zhen | SCMP

US-China rivalry and public diplomacy in Southeast Asia – Aristyo Darmawan | Bangkok Post

Joe Biden to host special ASEAN summit; to discuss Indo-Pacific strategy | Business Standard



Sultan at World Government Summit

Sultan of Brunei warns of growing inequity, climate change threats, and hard-won peace under threat – Anup Oommen | Arabian Business

Sultan of Brunei says peace and security 'critical' | Khaleej Times

Brunei Sultan draws similarity between Asean and UAE in economic goals | The Star

COVID-19 Situation

<u>Travellers to Brunei need only take antigen rapid test, no need for quarantine upon arrival</u> | Malay Mail <u>COVID-19 vaccine will not be mandatory for kids</u> – Ain Bandial and Hazirah Zainuddin | The Scoop <u>Schools to resume face-to-face learning next week</u> | The Scoop

🔣 Cambodia

Politics

<u>Cambodia's progress has been stalled</u> - Vitit Muntharbhorn | Bangkok Post <u>Cambodia agrees to prevent intimidation in run-up to elections</u> | RFA <u>Cambodia convicts 21 members of the political opposition of conspiracy, incitement</u> | RFA <u>Cambodia's small but growing opposition party threatens to boycott upcoming elections</u> | RFA <u>Sokha warned not to cross 'red line'</u> – Ben Sokhean | Khmer Times <u>Cambodia opposition chief Kem Sokha seen to support succession for Hun Sen's son</u> | RFA

COVID-19 Situation

Cambodia drops Covid testing requirements for overseas visitors | Bangkok Post/Reuters <u>Hun Sen okays local production of Covid medication</u> – Mom Kunthear | The Phnom Penh Post <u>Cambodia Weaponizes COVID-19 in its Struggle Against Striking Workers</u> – Josep Prat | The Diplomat <u>Hun Sen wary of new variants past Omicron</u> – Mom Kunthear | The Phnom Penh Post

Indonesia

Politics

What might happen if Joko Widodo gets third term as Indonesian president? – Kate Lamb | Business Day/Reuters

Indonesia's Jokowi Reiterates He Will Obey Constitution on Term Extension | Bloomberg

Explainer: Talk of extended Jokowi term puts Indonesia democratic resilience under spotlight – Kate Lamb | Reuters

The Discourse of Three Periods of Widodo's in the Perspective of the Indonesian Constitution – Faiha Oktrina | Modern Diplomacy

Whether the 2024 elections delayed or not, Jokowi will be king – Kornelius Purba | The Star/The Jakarta Post Javanese symbolism still pervades Indonesian politics – Nur Janti | The Jakarta Post

Unfinished business: Indonesia's Jokowi still has lots to do - Shotaro Tani | Nikkei Asia

Indonesia is building a new, high-tech capital city to symbolize its reformed future. That was the dream, at least – Simon Willis | Fortune

G20 Summit 2022

Debate over Russia's G-20 seat creates headache for Indonesia – Koya Jibiki | Nikkei Asia Russia's Putin plans to attend G20 summit in Indonesia, envoy says | SCMP/Reuters Russia at G20: Debate on Indonesia's guest list hits crescendo with US, China, Australia remarks – Resty Woro Yuniar | SCMP

<u>'Unjustified attack': Australia slams Russian invasion at G20 event</u> – Chris Barrett and Karuni Rompies | The Sydney Morning Herald

Russia-Ukraine War Threatens to Derail Indonesia's G20 Chairmanship – Sebastian Strangio | The Diplomat Indonesia must include Russia in G20 summit – Phar Kim Beng | The Jakarta Post

<u>G20 chair Indonesia seeks standardised health requirements for travel</u> – Stanley Widianto | Reuters <u>Indonesia stands firm on G20 economic agenda</u> – Norman Harsono | The Jakarta Post

COVID-19 Situation

Indonesia scraps COVID-19 quarantine for overseas arrivals | CNA Indonesia's annual holiday exodus to go ahead this year as COVID-19 cases ease | CNA Indonesia's G20 presidency and the COVID-19 recovery – Luther Lie and Yetty Komalasari Dewi | Policy Forum



Energy and Infrastructure Development

Laos' expensive gamble on electricity may dim its economic future | RFA

Laos power plant deals in the pipeline – Yuthana Praiwan | Bangkok Post

Hydropower Dams Have Had 'Profound' Impact on Mekong River, Monitor Claims – Sebastian Strangio | The Diplomat

Thailand to buy power from Mekong River dams in Laos | RFA

<u>Thailand agrees to buy more electricity from Laos</u> | RFA <u>First Thai Durians Enter China via Laos-China Railway</u> – Chinda Boutdavong | The Laotian Times <u>Golden Triangle Gambling Zone the World's 'Worst' SEZ, Group Says</u> – Sebastian Strangio | The Diplomat

COVID-19 Situation

Laos Rolls Out Fourth Covid-19 Vaccine Doses – Phayboune Thanabouassy | The Laotian Times Laos rolls out second round of Covid booster shots | The Star/Vientiane Times Laos moves to curb COVID-19 spread during new year festival | Vietnam Plus



Politics

<u>Malaysia's Johor polls offer a window on next general election</u> – P Prem Kumar | Nikkei Asia <u>Malaysia's Grand Old Party Scores Decisive Victory in Pivotal State Election</u> – Sebastian Strangio | The Diplomat

18-year-olds voting for first time in Malaysia | Bangkok Post/Bloomberg

Rising force calls on Malaysia to break away from the old guard – Chris Barett | The Sydney Morning Herald IN FOCUS: With a general election looming in Malaysia, youth votes may hold key to power – Rashvinjeet S. Bedi and Amir Yusof | CNA

Country's politics unstable due to current crop of leaders, says analyst | Free Malaysia Today

Elders stepping down: A new beginning in Malaysian politics? - Jem | Aliran

Malaysia's 'Politics as Usual' Is Hollowing Out Its Democracy - Michael Hart | WPR

Malaysia's disgraced former prime minister is popular again | The Economist

How political cults have shaped Malaysia – K. Parkaran | Free Malaysia Today

Race, politics, and prospects for reform in Malaysia – Amrita Malhi | Policy Forum

COVID-19 Situation

Malaysia to reopen border April 1 in move toward 'endemic' COVID – P Prem Kumar | Nikkei Asia Malaysia to transition to endemic phase of Covid-19 on April 1, says PM – Syafiqah Salim | The Edge Markets Only one COVID-19 SOP, nine guidelines as Malaysia transits to endemic phase: Senior minister Hishammuddin – Rashvinjeet S Bedi | CNA Covid-19: Over 2.8 million adolescents in Malaysia fully vaccinated | The Star

Z Myanmar

Political Situation/Coup

 Myanmar junta chief vows to annihilate opposition forces | CNN/Reuters

 Nothing New About Myanmar Junta Chief's Cruelty | The Irrawaddy

 Driven from city life to jungle insurgency – Hannah Beech | The New York Times

 Myanmar people recount attacks, torture in first six months after military coup: 'they burned my skin like barbecue' – Maria Siow | SCMP

 Fighting in Myanmar's Kayin state drives thousands to Thai border | RFA

 Witness Disputes Myanmar Junta Allegation of Suu Kyi Power Abuse | The Irrawaddy

COVID-19 Situation

<u>Myanmar to reopen to international tourists</u> | Thai PBS <u>Myanmar Junta Denies Medical Treatment to Prisoners Sick With COVID-19</u> | The Irrawaddy <u>Myanmar, China jointly produce Covid-19 vaccines</u> | The Nation/Xinhua

Philippines

Philippine Election 2022

Why Bongbong Marcos, a Philippine Dictator's Son, Leads the Race for the Presidency – Chad de Guzman | TIME Philippine election frontrunner Marcos endorsed by president's party | Reuters Marcos keeps big lead in latest Philippine presidential poll – Cliff Venzon | Nikkei Asia Philippine activists warn of voting anomalies ahead of election – Michael Beltran | Nikkei Asia

Philippine presidential election heats up as Marcos and Duterte lose ground to Robredo in key battleground of Davao – Raissa Robles | SCMP

Robredo consolidates support of Northern Mindanao politicians – Ryan Rosauro | Inquirer

Philippine election: why is front runner Bongbong Marcos Jnr so hands-off, wary of debates and pressing the public's flesh? – Alan Robles | SCMP

Introducing the Colors of the Philippine Election – Mong Palatino | The Diplomat

Philippine party-list elections steal from the poor and give to the rich — Danilo Araña Arao | East Asia Forum Philippine election bombshell as tax agency says front runner Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos owes US\$3.9 billion on his father's estate – Raissa Robles | SCMP

Elections in a Pandemic: How Filipinos Can Safely Elect Their Leaders – Anthony Esguerra | The Diplomat

COVID-19 Situation

Entry restrictions for foreign travelers relaxed starting April 1 – Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos and Joyce Ann L. Rocamora | PNA

Philippines opens doors to fully-vaccinated foreigners from April 1 | The New Straits Times PH among Asean countries with lowest daily Covid-19 cases – Ma. Teresa Montemayor | PNA

Singapore

Politics

6

Singapore's PAP: The Politics of Dominance – Shashi Jayakumar | The Diplomat

Doubt continues over Singapore's leadership transition – Robin Vochelet | East Asia Forum

Budget debate: Lawrence Wong rebuts proposals by Workers' Party to raise revenue in lieu of GST hike – Choo Yun Ting | The Straits Times

<u>PM Lee, US Vice President Kamala Harris reaffirm ties, discuss continued cooperation</u> – Tang See Kit | CNA <u>PM Lee, Biden discuss Ukraine war's implications on Asia-Pacific and regional issues</u> – Charissa Yong | The Straits Times

China's Ukraine war stance raises 'awkward questions' on Taiwan, Singapore PM Lee Hsien Loong says – Dewey Sim | SCMP

COVID-19 Situation

<u>Singapore extends quarantine-free entry as Asia shifts to "living with COVID"</u> – Aradhana Aravindan and Chen Lin | Reuters

No testing or quarantine: Those vaccinated can travel by land between S'pore and Malaysia from April 1 – Clement Yong | The Straits Times

<u>5 things you need to know about the Singapore-Malaysia land border reopening</u> – Vanessa Chelvan | CNA Joy, free beer, parties: Singapore lifts Covid-era rules, but many will keep masks on outdoors – Dewey Sim | SCMP

Thailand

Politics

<u>I've done my best, says Prayut</u> – Mongkol Bangprapa | Bangkok Post <u>Prayut regime to stay in power 'until Apec meet'</u> – Poramet Tangsathaporn | Bangkok Post <u>Rifts in Thailand's fractious coalition threaten early election</u> – Masayuki Yuda | Nikkei Asia <u>Thaksin's daughter moves closer to becoming Pheu Thai PM candidate</u> | Bangkok Post <u>Paetongtarn tipped as candidate for PM</u> – Aekarach Sattaburuth | Bangkok Post <u>Can Pheu Thai Party get its groove back?</u> – Aekarach Sattaburuth | Bangkok Post <u>Democrat defections: Thailand's oldest party faces existential crisis as election looms</u> | Thai PBS <u>Committee votes for two ballot papers with different numbers</u> | Bangkok Post <u>Will Thailand Actually Hold an Election?</u> – Joshua Kurlantzick | CFR

Bangkok Governor and City Council Election 22 May 2022 Your guide to the Bangkok council election and how it will shape city for next 4 years | Thai PBS BMA expects 600-700k first-time voters for governor poll | Bangkok Post Big preparations underway for Bangkok's first governor, council elections in many years | Thai PBS Bangkok governor resigns, to contest city election - Supoj Wancharoen | Bangkok Post Chadchart set for landslide in Bangkok governor election: poll | Bangkok Post Race to the finish line - Mongkol Bangprapa and Aekarach Sattaburuth | Bangkok Post

COVID-19 Situation

Thailand's Covid Cases Jump to Record as Easier Visa Rules Loom - Thomas Kutty Abraham | Bloomberg Quint

Travel rules eased if caseload decreases - Dusida Worrachaddejchai | Bangkok Post

'Thailand Pass' revocation, RT-PCR tests waiver upon arrival to be proposed | Thai PBS

Minister says Thailand Pass could be gone by June 1st, but suggests the retention of a test on arrival – James Morris and Son Nguyen | Thai Examiner

Timor-Leste

The First Round of Presidential Election

Observations From the First Round of Timor-Leste's Presidential Election - Li-Li Chen | The Diplomat Timor-Leste set for presidential run-off election in April after neither candidate secures enough votes | ABC News

East Timor chooses new president amid political deadlock - Li-Li Chen | Al Jazeera

Timor-Leste presidential election headed for April run-off | CNA/Reuters

East Timor's Ramos-Horta makes pitch for stability ahead of election | Reuters

EU EOM Timor-Leste 2022 Preliminary Statement | European Commission

Vietnam

Freedom of Expression

Vietnamese Journalist Sentenced to Five Years in Prison – An Hai | VOA

Vietnamese activist Le Van Dung sentenced to 5 years for 'anti-state propaganda' | RFA

Vietnam says over 3,200 "toxic" social media posts removed in Q1 | Reuters

Thugs attack Vietnamese protesting hydropower plant | RFA

Vietnam pledges to promote human rights and fundamental freedom | The Nation/Vietnam News Vietnam's crackdown target: citizens who can inspire others | RFA

COVID-19 Situation

Vietnam ends COVID-19 guarantine for international travelers | CNA Gov't right to prioritize vaccination before full reopening | Vietnam Net Global Vietnam gets set for nationwide launch of digital vaccine passport | VN Express