

# ASEAN Region – Press Review April 2022

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#### **ASEAN and Myanmar**

One year on, Asean still struggling to resolve Myanmar crisis | Free Malaysia Today/Bernama

One year on from ASEAN consensus, Myanmar no closer to peace | Thai PBS

UN Envoy on Myanmar Calls on ASEAN to Engage 'All Voices' | The Irrawaddy

Malaysian FM Admits Contacts With Myanmar Opposition Shadow Government – Sebastian Strangio | The Diplomat

Myanmar: ASEAN's Failed '5-Point Consensus' a Year On | Human Rights Watch

### ASEAN and Geopolitics

RCEP and ASEAN: old and new - Jayant Menon | East Asia Forum

The Season of Caucuses: QUAD, AUKUS and the Exclusive-Inclusive Duality of Indo-Pacific Asia | Observer Research Foundation

A date with Biden | The Jakarta Post

Asean-US balancing act – Tisnadibrata and Wiriyapong | Bangkok Post

US-ASEAN Summit opens up UNCLOS ratification issue – James Borton | Asia Times

ASEAN-US summit: Yes to economic cooperation, no to security alliance - Endy Bayuni | The Jakarta Post

US determined to hold summit, deepen engagement with Asean - Nirmal Ghosh | The Straits Times



### **COVID-19 Situation**

Brunei continues to flatten Covid curve | The Star/Borneo Bulletin

Dust off your passports: Brunei gov't relaxes more travel protocols – Rasidah Hj Abu Bakar and Ain Bandial |

Brunei rolls out COVID vaccine for kids aged 5-11 – Rasidah Hj Abu Bakar | The Scoop

Teens eligible for booster shots from April 16 – Ain Bandial | The Scoop

# Cambodia

#### **Politics**

PM: I will be in power 'at most another 10 years' | Khmer Times

Hun Sen's call for fair local elections this June in Cambodia raises eyebrows | RFA

Cambodian election authority removes opposition candidates from list | RFA

Prime Minister Hun Sen says he will not engage directly with election campaign - Soth Koemsoeun | Khmer Times

Cambodia's Hun Sen violates election law by campaigning early, watchdog says | RFA

Cambodia arrests leader of opposition political party who was in hiding I RFA

The Cambodian activists risking their freedom for the environment | BBC

PM to attend ASEAN-US summit, meet compatriots | The Phnom Penh Post

### COVID-19 Situation

Cambodia cuts guarantine for unvaccinated visitors to 7 days | Associated Press

Historic day for Cambodia as PM removes mask requirement for open spaces | Khmer Times

Hun Sen urges public to receive booster jabs | The Phnom Penh Post

# Indonesia

#### **Politics**

No Indonesia term extension plans: Jokowi – Niniek Karmini | 7 News

Say It Ain't So, Joko: No Third Term for Widodo - Julia Lau | Fulcrum

<u>Indonesia's Jokowi Denies Plan to Extend His Term Beyond 2024</u> – Sebastian Strangio | The Diplomat <u>Indonesian oligarchs are defending their wealth at the cost of democracy</u> – Yassar Aulia | Indonesia at Melbourne

Hundreds in Jakarta Protest Talk of 2024 Election Delay – Fadlan Syam and Niniek Karmini | The Diplomat

#### Indonesia bans palm oil exports

Indonesia suspends all exports of palm oil | Bangkok Post/AFP

Indonesia stuns markets as it widens ban to include CPO, refined palm oil – Bernadette Christina and Fransiska Nangoy | Reuters

<u>Indonesia's Indrawati says palm oil export ban will hurt other countries, but necessary</u> – David Lawder and Andrea Shalal | Reuters

<u>Indonesia's palm oil ban threatens further global food inflation</u> – Shibata, Damayanti and Sharma | Nikkei Asia Palm oil is in half your groceries. Here's why prices might shoot up – Michelle Toh | CNN

### **COVID-19 Situation**

Some 400.5 million COVID-19 vaccine doses administered in Indonesia | Antara News

Study shows 99% on Indonesia's most populous island have COVID antibodies | Reuters

The sleeping giant awakens: Indonesia reopens to the world – Terence Wang and Aditya Akbar | The Jakarta Post



# Laos

#### **Energy and Infrastructure Development**

Another Mekong River dam in Laos begins review process | RFA

As Lao dam plans progress, farmers worry about compensation for lost land | RFA

Death of last river dolphin in Laos rings alarm bells for Mekong population – Carolyn Cowan | Mongabay

CKP to build hydropower plant near Luang Prabang – Yuthana Praiwan | Bangkok Post

Laos' logistics vision for ASEAN: All rails lead to Vientiane – Marimi Kishimoto | Nikkei Asia

Laos-China Railway sees brisk passenger, cargo transport over inaugural four months | The Star/Xinhua

### **COVID-19 Situation**

<u>Laos Covid-19 infections continue downward trend despite New Year celebration</u> | The Star/The Laotian Times <u>Lao govt mulls full re-opening for foreign tourists</u> | Borneo Bulletin/Vientiane Times

Travellers to Laos required to take Covid-19 test on arrival | The Star/Xinhua

Laos ranked last in Nikkei Covid-19 Recovery Index; Cambodia placed second overall



# Malaysia

### **Politics**

<u>Malaysian opposition hit by doubts over leader Anwar as polls loom</u> – P Prem Kumar | Nikkei Asia <u>Malaysian politics: Is Anwar-Najib debate a sign the country is hurtling back to 'Game of Thrones' style of politics?</u> – Hadi Azmi | SCMP

<u>UMNO picks Ismail Sabri Yaakob as prime minister candidate for next Malaysia general election</u> | CNA <u>Power plays: How different parties in Malaysia stack up with a possible election this year</u> – Ram Anand, Shannon Teoh and Hazlin Hassan | The Straits Times

<u>How to save the opposition from an Umno-BN onslaught</u> – Murray Hunter and Lim Teck Ghee | Free Malaysia Today

The 'Malay Protector' Debate: Spirited But Short on Substance - Lee Hwok-Aun | Fulcrum

#### **COVID-19 Situation**

Malaysia Scraps Covid Tests for Travelers, Outdoor Mask Mandate – Anisah Shukry | Bloomberg Quint More than 200,000 visitors from Singapore have entered Malaysia since Apr 1: Tourism minister | CNA

<u>7 things to know about eased COVID-19 health protocols in Malaysia next month</u> – Rashvinjeet S. Bedi | CNA <u>Malaysia gives nod for second Covid-19 booster to seniors with comorbid conditions, travelers</u> | The Straits Times/TheStar



# Myanmar

# **Political Situation/Coup**

Myanmar's Suu Kyi handed five-year jail term for graft – Martin Petty | Reuters

Aung San Suu Kyi Found Guilty in Myanmar Ahead of Biden Summit | The New York Times

Engulfed with Mounting Resistance, Myanmar Junta Boss Calls for Peace Talks | The Irrawaddy

Ethnic Armed Organizations Reject Myanmar Junta Peace Talk Bid – Sebastian Strangio | The Diplomat

Myanmar Junta Officially Endorses Militias to Attack Anti-Regime Civilians | The Irrawaddy

Interest in Regime's Planned Election Reveals China and India's Disguised Support for Myanmar Junta | The Irrawaddy

### **COVID-19 Situation**

Myanmar's Yangon int'l airport reopens after two-year suspension | Vietnam Plus

Myanmar issues guidelines for incoming travellers before international flight resumption | The Star/Xinhua

Tourists urged to avoid Myanmar as junta prepares to reopen to world - Rebecca Root | The Guardian

Myanmar's Covid Crisis Needs Thai Cooperation for Cross-Border Vaccine Aid - Tom Fawthrop | The

Irrawaddy

<u>Junta Jails Myanmar's COVID-19 Vaccine Chief for Protecting International Aid Money from Seizure</u> | The Irrawaddy



# **Philippines**

### Philippine Election 2022

Overseas voting begins for 2022 Philippine elections – Michelle Abad | Rappler

One Woman Is Trying to Prevent the Revival of a Marcos Dynasty – Ditas B Lopez and Andreo Calonzo | Bloomberg

<u>The Marcos revival: How late Philippine dictator's son went from exile to election favorite</u> – Cliff Venzon | Nikkei Asia

Philippines' Marcos hails 'genius' father as presidential election nears | Reuters

Marcos solidifies lead - Catherine S. Valente | The Manila Times

Philippines Presidential Election a Rematch Between Late Dictator's Son. Democratic Leader I VOA

Is the Philippines ready for another Duterte? – Regine Cabato | The Washington Post

How Long Will Rodrigo Duterte Remain Neutral in the Philippine Election? – Mong Palatino | The Diplomat

Why Corruption Thrives in the Philippines – Daniel Bruno Davis | Foreign Policy

# **COVID-19 Situation**

Philippines detects 1st case of Omicron subvariant BA.2.12 – Bonz Magsambol | Rappler

DOH: PH's first Omicron subvariant case a fully vaxxed, asymptomatic person - Cathrine Gonzales | Inquirer

Gov't urged to again isolate new arrivals - Kathleen de Villa | Inquirer

Philippines starts rollout of second booster dose against COVID | Reuters

PH tourism rising on its feet as COVID rules ease - Kurt Dela Peña | Inquirer



# **Singapore**

### **Lawrence Wong the next Prime Minister of Singapore**

Lawrence Wong is Singapore's presumptive next prime minister | The Economist

Singapore's new PM-in-waiting: Who is Lawrence Wong? – Suruga and Iwamoto | Nikkei Asia

Singapore's PM heir apparent Wong takes global stage on US trip | Free Malaysia Today/Nikkei

<u>Singapore's ruling PAP signals finance minister Lawrence Wong will be next PM</u> – Bhavan Jaipragas and Kok Xinghui | SCMP

<u>Lawrence Wong's leadership amid COVID-19 pandemic helped elevate him to top post: Observers</u> – Matthew Mohan | CNA

#### **COVID-19 Situation**

Easing of Covid-19 measures will bring Singapore almost all the way to how things were before: PM Lee – Hariz Baharudin | The Straits Times

<u>Group size limits, safe distancing requirements lifted in schools as COVID-19 measures eased: MOE</u> – Ang Hwee Min | CNA

<u>Singapore announces major easing of Covid-19 rules from April 26: What you need to know</u> – Goh Yan Han | The Straits Times

Fully vaccinated travellers no longer need COVID-19 test to enter Singapore from Apr 26 - Cheryl Lin | CNA



# Thailand

#### **Politics**

<u>Prayut will answer opposition questions during censure showdown: govt spokesman</u> | The Nation

Prinn Panitchpakdi: Rising star of Thai politics eclipsed by sex offence claims | Thai PBS

'Repression breeds defiance': Thai activists unbowed by detention - Caleb Quinley | Al Jazeera

Thaksin's daughter repeats call for landslide in next election | Bangkok Post

The Return of Shinawatra in Thai politics? - Purawich Watanasukh | Asia Media Centre

The local politics of Thai soft power – Thitinan Pongsudhirak | Bangkok Post

# **Bangkok Governor Election**

Bangkok to hold gubernatorial election for first time in 9 years - Apornrath Phoonphongphiphat | Nikkei Asia

Bangkok gubernatorial candidates continue to campaign on Wednesday | Thai PBS

Chadchart ahead in race for Bangkok governor | The Nation

Homelessness and women's safety: Huge problems Bangkok governor hopefuls won't touch | Thai PBS

#### **COVID-19 Situation**

Thailand Scraps Covid Testing Mandate to Lure More Tourists – Anuchit Nguyen | Bloomberg

Thailand Pass to end on June 1 – Dusida Worrachaddejchai | Bangkok Post

Vaccine passports likely to replace Thailand Pass | The Star/The Nation

Thailand's recovery lags on COVID-19 rule changes | CNA



# Timor-Leste

#### Ramos-Horta declares victory

Ramos-Horta declares victory in East Timor presidential election | Reuters

Timor-Leste presidential election: José Ramos-Horta wins in landslide | The Guardian/AFP

José Ramos-Horta declares resounding victory in Timor-Leste presidential election - Marian Faa | ABC

Timor-Leste: The new president needs to tune in – Joao Da Cruz Cardoso | The Interpreter



# Vietnam

#### Coal Dependency and Renewable Energy

Vietnam's power supply under strain from high coal prices – Tomoya Onishi | Nikkei Asia

Coal shortages require Vietnam to diversify supply sources | Vietnam Plus

Vietnam to import coal from Australia amid power shortage fears - Anh Minh | VN Express

Vietnam seeks to increase coal import from South Africa | Vietnam Plus

Vietnam Plans Renewable Energy Projects to Reduce Coal Use | Asia Financial

National Power Development Plan VIII paves way for renewable energy | Vietnam Plus

Solar and wind power project developers demand long-term fix | Vietnam Net

Vietnam keen on pushing for renewable energy: Minister | Vietnam Plus

#### **COVID-19 Situation**

Covid-19 past its peak in Vietnam – Chi Le, Anh Thu, Le Phuong | VN Express

Tourists using Vietnam's int'l airport no longer have to prove Covid-19 status | New Straits Times

Vietnam ditches medical declaration for foreign entrants – Chi Le | VN Express

Vietnamese travel to domestic destinations as COVID curbs ease – Tomoya Onishi | Nikkei Asia

Vietnam tourism recovery prospects dimmer than regional peers – Nguyen Quy | VN Express