

ASEAN Region – Press Review August 2022

Contact: info@th.boell.org



ASEAN and Geopolitics

ASEAN at 55: From a dynamic past to new beginnings - Gurjit Singh | ORF

ASEAN-9 Summit Includes Plea for Peace in South China Sea – Luke Hunt | VOA

EU, ASEAN to hold summit in December to develop supply chain - Yasuo Takeuchi | Nikkei Asia

New era for China and ASEAN relations: RCEP - Ahmet Işik | Daily Sabah

ASEAN, India pledge closer co-operation on Indo-Pacific issues | The Star/Phnom Penh Post United States and China vie for influence in Indo-Pacific – Doug Strub | East Asia Forum

ASEAN and Myanmar

ASEAN's Efforts to Mediate the Myanmar Political Crisis Deserve More Recognition – Thuc D. Pham and Hoai Nguyen | The Diplomat

Myanmar junta hits back at ASEAN after being barred from meetings | CNA

Myanmar generals banned from ASEAN until peace plan progress | Al Jazeera

Current geopolitical landscape adds complexity to prolonged Myanmar crisis | The Phnom Penh Post

Why is the Myanmar crisis such a challenge for ASEAN? | Al Jazeera

18 months after coup, Myanmar needs a 'clear endgame' for peace, urges Malaysia's Foreign Minister Saifuddin Abdullah – Maria Siow | SCMP



Politics

ASEAN needs to continue upholding centrality, unity: Brunei's sultan | Khmer Times/Xinhua Australia seeks closer maritime cooperation with Brunei – Ain Bandial | The Scoop Singapore and Brunei sign MOUs, reaffirm longstanding relationship: MFA – Rachel Chan | CNA Brunei, US discuss ways to expand military cooperation – Ain Bandial | The Scoop



Cambodia

Politics

War will break out if CPP is no longer the ruling government of Cambodia, warns PM Hun Sen – Soth Koemsoeun | Khmer Times

Hun Manet, son of Cambodian leader, denies involvement in controversial land deal | RFA

Hun Manet biography to be distributed free - Torn Vibol | Khmer Times

Cambodia's police, judiciary must be independent, rights groups say | RFA

Mining the Mekong: Land and livelihoods lost to Cambodia's thirst for sand – Gerald Flynn, Vutha Srey | Mongabay

Cambodians face sugar giant in Thai court – Jack Brook | Southeast Asia Globe



Indonesia

Politics

<u>Indonesia defence minister Prabowo accepts party's nomination to run for president</u> | Reuters Commentary: Indonesia's 2024 election will pit party elites against popular figures – Burhanuddin Muhtadi More women in politics, please | The Jakarta Post

Post-Widodo political jockeying kicks off in Indonesia – John McBeth | Asia Times

Jokowi struggles to drum up investors for new Indonesia capital – Nana Shibata | Nikkei Asia

<u>Muslim scholars urge Indonesia to look the other way as Singapore, Vietnam ease anti-gay laws</u> – Resty Woro Yuniar | SCMP

Indonesia cements membership of China-backed RCEP trade bloc | SCMP/Reuters

Indonesia's G20 presidency

What can we expect from Indonesia's G20? - Maria Monica Wihardja | East Asia Forum

Xi, Putin to attend November G20 summit in Bali | Reuters

Indonesia steps innocently onto the international stage - Shafiah Muhibat | East Asia Forum

Indonesia talks post-pandemic women empowerment at G20 ministerial conference | The Jakarta Post

Webinar: Indonesia's Plans for the G-20 | The Diplomat



Laos

Politics, Economy, and Hydropower Development

Laos economic crisis intensifies amid massive Chinese debt - Enno Hinz | DW

Laos Government Affirms Commitment to Preventing Default - Latsamy Phonevilay | The Laotian Times

China won't let Laos become a Belt and Road debt trap – Toshiro Nishizawa | Asia Times

Over 1m tonnes of goods transported on China-Laos Railway | Bangkok Post/Xinhua

Nine dams in Laos release water, forcing many to head for higher ground | RFA

Nam Ngum 1 Dam Begins Operating New Extension | The Laotian Times

<u>Opinion: Energy importers must consider true 'sustainability' of Laos hydropower</u> – Ming Li Yong | The Third Pole

Thai court dismisses Mekong River activists' case against Xayaburi Dam in Laos | RFA

Singapore opens taps on renewable-energy imports with Laos deal – Mayuko Tani | Nikkei Asia



Malaysia

Politics

<u>Malaysia's Najib Razak begins 12-year jail term after apex court upholds guilty verdict in 1MDB-linked case</u> – Hadi Azmi and Joseph Sipalan | SCMP

Najib Razak: The verdict that sent Malaysia's untouchable ex-PM to prison – Jonathan Head | BBC

'Absolutely glorious': Malaysians hail jailing of Najib Razak | Al Jazeera

Malaysia Flexes New Graft-Busting Muscle with Jailing of Ex-PM – Zsombor Peter | VOA

Malaysia PM reckons economic risks may spur election this year - P Prem Kumar | Nikkei Asia

Malaysia's Umno chief declares pandemic 'over' in call for Najib pardon, early polls | SCMP/Bloomberg

Malaysia's key political parties hold meetings amid signs of imminent general election – Amir Yusof | CNA

Malaysia Budget Announcement Raises Prospect of Early Polls – Sebastian Strangio | The Diplomat

Malaysia polls likely to be held later this year, say analysts as political parties gear up for campaign -

Rashvinjeet S Bedi | CNA



Myanmar

Political Situation/Coup

Myanmar's Military Regime Cannot Withstand the Revolution | The Irrawaddy

Vicky Bowman: UK ex-ambassador to Myanmar arrested | BBC

Myanmar arrest of ex-U.K. ambassador is 'hostage diplomacy,' activists say – Rebecca Tan and Regine

Cabato | The Washington Post

<u>'Survival at any cost': Myanmar generals move to cement power</u> – Thompson Chau and Dominic Oo | Al Jazeera

Aung San Suu Kyi refused Myanmar military order to gag NLD: Source | Myanmar Now Myanmar to import Russian oil from September, military says | Nikkei Asia/Reuters



Philippines

Politics

<u>Marcos Shuns International Court Probing Duterte Drug War</u> – Andero Calonzo | Bloomberg <u>Be an instrument of unity, Bongbong Marcos urges countrymen</u> – Neil Mercado | Inquirer <u>Philippines' Marcos seeks record \$94 billion budget for 2023</u> | Nikkei Asia/Reuters <u>Philippine sugar 'crisis' tests Marcos' pro-farms push</u> – Cliff Venzon | Nikkei Asia

WATCH: How Philippine dynasties delivered for Marcos | Rappler

<u>Calls to end criminal libel in Philippines after critic arrested</u> – Michael Beltran | Al Jazeera Ex-VP aspirant Walden Bello arrested for libel, cyber libel – Faith Ragasa | CNN Philippines

(::

Singapore

Politics

NDR 2022: Singapore has 'zero margin' for error when it comes to leadership, says PM Lee – Chew Hui Min and Vanessa Lim | CNA

NDR 2022: Singapore must be ready for sudden shifts in region: PM Lee — Hariz Baharudin | The Straits Times Foreign influence efforts on the rise to make Singaporeans 'take sides', PM Lee Hsien Loong warns — Dewey Sim | SCMP

No decision yet on when DPM Wong will take over as Prime Minister, but it could be before next election – Aqil Mahmud | CNA

<u>Singapore's Wong Signals Rich May Have to Pay More Taxes</u> – Michelle Jamrisko | Bloomberg

Section 377A on gay sex is repealed

377A: Singapore to end ban on gay sex – Tessa Wong | BBC

<u>Singapore to Repeal Colonial-Era Law Criminalizing Sex Between Men</u> – Sebastian Strangio | The Diplomat <u>For Singapore's Gay Men, Repeal of Sex Ban Brings Hope After Years of Pain</u> – Sui-Lee Wee | The New York Times

End of Singapore's gay sex ban a 'small step' for some LGBT couples – Chen Lin | Reuters

For Singapore's LGBTQ+ Activists, Repealing Section 377A Is Only the First Step – Robin Vochelet | The Diplomat



Thailand

Politics

Thai court suspends PM Prayut from official duty pending term limit review | CNA

<u>Thailand has suspended its prime minister. What happens next?</u> – Kocha Olarn and Kathleen Magramo | CNN Coups, courts, protests and Prayut: a Thai timeline | Bangkok Post/AFP

<u>Thai court orders PM Prayuth's suspension: 5 things to know</u> – Apornrath Phoonphongphiphat | Nikkei Asia Govt spokesman: Prawit caretaker PM now Prayut suspended | Bangkok Post

Prayut working as usual, still in good morale: Anupong | The Nation



Timor-Leste

Politics

<u>Timor-Leste Denied Entry to ASEAN – For Now</u> – Luke Hunt | The Diplomat <u>Commentary: ASEAN shouldn't delay Timor-Leste's membership bid further</u> – Julia Lau | CNA <u>Timor-Leste president supports LGBT rights</u> – Ryan Dagur | UCA News Penny Wong visits PNG and Timor-Leste as expert warns neighbours are 'playing the China card' | The Guardian



Vietnam

LGBTQ and Human Rights

<u>Vietnam declares being LGBTQ+ is 'not an illness' in victory for gay rights</u> – Jasmine Gadhavi | The Guardian <u>Vietnam says homosexuality 'not a disease' in win for gay rights</u> – Govi Snell | Al Jazeera <u>Vietnam Takes Major Step Forward in Recognizing LGBTQ Rights</u> – Sebastian Strangio | The Diplomat

Vietnamese journalist loses appeal against nine-year sentence | RFA

Vietnamese artist 'shocked' after being ordered to destroy 29 paintings | RFA

Vietnamese refugees held in Thailand say they fear being forced home | RFA