

ASEAN Region – Press Review March 2023

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ASEAN

ASEAN and Geopolitics

ASEAN's Engagement in the Indo-Pacific – Busbarat, Heydarian, Hoang Thi Ha, Muhibat, & Bich Tran | Fulcrum Japan launches new version of Indo-Pacific strategy | Thai PBS

Where Next for ASEAN-Japan Relations in a Changing Indo-Pacific? - P. Parameswaran | The Diplomat ASEAN 'unprepared' for open conflict in Indo-Pacific – Yvette Tanamal | The Jakarta Post

ASEAN chair Indonesia: South China Sea code of conduct must be 'actionable' - Tria Dianti | Benar News ASEAN and China aim for South China Sea 'hotline' trial in 2023 – Subata & Nugroho I Nikkei Asia

ASEAN and Myanmar

Jokowi's progress on Myanmar | The Jakarta Post

The clock is ticking for ASEAN on Myanmar - Marzuki Darusman, Yanghee Lee & Chris Sidoti | The Jakarta Post Dialogue: A step in the right direction – Kavi Chongkittavorn | Bangkok Post

ASEAN's Myanmar paralysis underlines its illiberal skew - Charles Dunst | Nikkei Asia

Myanmar Crisis and the Fate of ASEAN - Sheikh Kulgami | The Geopolitics



🚲 Brunei

Politics

Some economic sectors making major comeback | Borneo Bulletin

Government construction projects expected to slow down - Rasidah Hi. Abu Bakar

Strategic diplomacy key to safeguarding Brunei's interests: MFA - Rasidah Hi. Abu Bakar | The Scoop



Cambodia

Politics

PM: Cambodia 'has now become an island of peace' | Khmer Times

Cambodians face rare royal insult charge | Bangkok Post

Hun Sen's post-election resignation a near done deal – David Hutt | Asia Times

Hun Sen closes in on independent media in Cambodia – Will Brehm I East Asia Forum

Hun Sen's dynasty plan under hot military fire - David Hutt | Asia Times

Hun Sen defends recent military promotions for his two eldest sons | RFA



Indonesia

Politics & Elections 2024

Indonesia poll body to push ahead with 2024 elections despite court ruling - Ananda Teresia & Stefanno Sulaiman | Reuters

Indonesian 'bizarre' court ruling on election delay controversial, Jokowi says - Resty Woro Yuniar | SCMP Ganjar Pranowo's 2024 Presidential Candidacy: Trapped in the Middle – Made Supriatma | Fulcrum Jokowi plays kingmaker as Megawati weighs Ganjar-Prabowo ticket – Yerica Lai | The Jakarta Post Analysis: PDI-P contemplates Ganjar-Prabowo pairing – Tenggara Strategics | The Jakarta Post Commentary: The Widodo family - Indonesia's newest political dynasty? - Jemma Purdey | CNA Indonesia presidential candidate pledges to deliver Jokowi's new capital if elected | Reuters

Laos

Politics & Environment

Laos' inflation surges over 40% in February | RFA

Laos-China Railway to start cross-border passenger service on April 13 | The Star

Air quality falls to toxic levels throughout Laos | The Star

Forest fires, air pollution hit danger level in Laos | VNA

Laos Takes Another Step Forward on Controversial Mekong Dam – Sebastian Strangio

As Laos builds more hydropower dams, citizens say electricity rates remain too high | RFA

More than 100 million tons of sand mined from Lower Mekong, experts say – Subel Bhandari | RFA

The Last Days of Beautiful Luang Prabang – Tom Fawthrop | The Diplomat



Politics

Anwar's Budget 2023 passes with voice vote in Dewan Rakyat – Isabelle Leong, Hariz Hazwan & Yasmin Ramlan | Malaysiakini

Malaysian PM to focus on stronger economic ties during China visit | Benar News

Muhyiddin Yassin: Ex-Malaysia PM charged with corruption over Covid spending | BBC

Malaysia's Mahathir Mohamad threatens to sue PM Anwar Ibrahim for libel, reigniting political feud - Joseph Sipalan | SCMP

Malaysia's Anwar seeks to mend Saudi ties cooled by 1MDB - Norman Goh | Nikkei Asia Malaysia plans to end life sentencing in slew of prison reforms | Bangkok Post/Bloomberg



Myanmar

Political Situation/Coup and Election

Myanmar junta dissolves Suu Kyi's party as election deadline passes | Reuters

US, UK, Japan, Australia denounce dissolution of Myanmar's NLD | Al Jazeera

Myanmar junta chief vows continued crackdown, then elections | CNA

Myanmar military pledges decisive action against opponents | Al Jazeera

Myanmar junta leader urges foreign powers to back its return to democracy | Reuters

Yes, the Myanmar Military Really Could Implode | The Irrawaddy

Myanmar junta hints at further election delay | The Straits Times

A Road to Nowhere: The Myanmar Regime's Stage-managed Elections | ICG

War-Torn Myanmar Plans to Hold Elections. Will They Matter? - Joshua Kurlantzick | CFR

Myanmar military can put a veneer of legitimacy on an election as long as some political parties are allowed

to run: Analyst | CNA

Five parties eligible for general election suggest victory for Myanmar military | RFA

Pessimistic about future, young Burmese rush to get passports to go abroad | RFA

Philippines

Politics

Philippines' Marcos to shut out ICC after losing drug-war appeal | Al Jazeera

Philippine President Says New Sites Selected for US Forces | VOA

Bongbong Marcos, other gov't officials, lawmakers score high in nationwide survey — RPMD - Dennis Gutierrez | Inquirer

The political theatre behind Philippines police cleansing – Steffen Jensen & Karl Hapal | East Asia Forum

The brutal murder showing the risk of Philippine politics – Federicco Segarra | La Prensa Latina

From living water to toxic sludge: the Philippine island devastated by an oil spill – a photo essay – Alecs

Ongcal | The Guardian

Marcos admits there's water crisis in Philippines - Anna Felicia Bajo | GMA News



Singapore

Politics

<u>Singapore came through pandemic well without spending excessively: Lawrence Wong</u> – Natasha Ann Zachariah | The Straits Times

<u>Public service should be politically sensitive but not politicised: Lawrence Wong</u> – Tham Yuen-C | The Straits Times

'No regrets' in choosing a political career over mathematics: PM Lee | Business Times

<u>Singapore 'will lose its attractiveness' to foreign firms if rising costs continue, European businesses warn | SCMP/Today</u>

<u>China's rich flee crackdowns for 'Asia's Switzerland' Singapore</u> – Frederik Kelter | Al Jazeera <u>Singapore's haze remedy</u> | Bangkok Post



Thailand

Politics and Election 2023

Thai election: as Thaksin's daughter Paetongtarn readies for May 14 vote, army and youth pose major challenges | SCMP

Thai PM Dissolves Parliament, Paving Way For May Election - Sebastian Strangio | The Diplomat

Prayut's poll plans stir speculation – Mongkol Bangprapa | Bangkok Post

PM vows no more coups | Bangkok Post

<u>Thailand: Paetongtarn Shinawatra leads polls as country heads towards election</u> – Rebecca Ratcliffe | The Guardian

Thaksin: "If Paetongtarn becomes PM, she will do better than me" | Khaosod English

Thaksin is 'not serious' about return – Mongkol Bangprapa | Bangkok Post

Thai CEOs name Srettha as top choice for next prime minister | ANN/The Nation

Pheu Thai would welcome back Sam Mitr faction – Aekarach Sattaburuth | Bangkok Post

Pheu Thai ups stakes in race – Sattaburuth & Bangprapa | Bangkok Post

<u>Air pollution chokes Thailand as campaigners call for stricter laws</u> – Rebecca Ratcliffe & Navaon Siradapuvadol | The Guardian

Female lawyers allowed to wear trousers in Thai court - Beatrice Siviero | Southeast Asia Globe



Timor-Leste

Politics

<u>Timorese prez seeks donors to fund NGOs, Church groups</u> | UCA news <u>Why Indonesia is Backing Timor-Leste's ASEAN Bid</u> – Patrick Dupont | The Diplomat <u>Indonesian Police strengthens cooperation with Timor-Leste Police</u> | Antara



Vietnam

Politics

<u>COMMENTARY: What's next as the dust settles after Vietnam's leadership turmoil?</u> – Zachary Abuza | RFA [Video] Vietnam's Political Shake-up | The Diplomat

Nguyen Phu Trong's Dominance in Vietnamese politics: Far-reaching Implications – Nguyen Khac Giang | Fulcrum

Mythbusting Vietnam's Recent Leadership Change – Carl Thayer

Activist sentenced to 6 years for giving interviews to U.S.-based program | RFA

What is slowing Vietnam's just energy transition? - Johanna König | China Dialogue