

ASEAN Region – Press Review August 2023

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ASEAN

ASEAN and Geopolitics

Great power competition raises concerns within the ASEAN - Premesha Saha | ORF

South China Sea tensions and implications – Jose Chalhoub | Modern Diplomacy

South China Sea: China warns of external influence in lead-up to code of conduct talks - Jack Lau | SCMP China Pushes for Negotiation Over the Code of Conduct With ASEAN in the South China Sea – Shruti Dey |

Military expansion among ASEAN members – Guriit Singh | ORF

Partnership with ASEAN part of strategy for Indo-Pacific: EU | Antara

The Quad and ASEAN Must Learn to Work Together - Manjari Miller | CFR

US Says Quad is Open to Cooperation with ASEAN - Jayanty Shofa | Jakarta Globe

ASEAN and Myanmar

ASEAN role stuck on Myanmar coup – Thitinan Pongsudhirak | Bangkok Post

Myanmar to skip Asean chair of 2026 | Thai PBS

Myanmar military regime to withdraw from chairing ASEAN in 2026 | Nikkei Asia

Myanmar crisis highlights limits of Indonesia's 'quiet diplomacy' as it sets sights on becoming a 'great

regional power' - Angguntari Sari | The Conversation



Politics and Environment

Brunei Sultan underlines importance of meaningful ASEAN community | The Star/Borneo Bulletin

Sultan calls for Al guidelines to shape smart nation | The Star/Borneo Bulletin

Brunei is all for ensuring safe, fair practices across the maritime sector | The Star/Borneo Bulletin

Brunei slightly affected by transboundary haze | Borneo Bulletin

Brunei's decarbonisation efforts highlighted at Apec meeting in US | The Star/Borneo Bulletin



Cambodia

Politics

Cambodia parliament elects Hun Sen's son, Hun Manet, as new PM | Al Jazeera

Cambodia: son of long time ruler Hun Sen becomes PM in historic transfer of power | The Guardian

Hun Manet: Cambodia's new prime minister | Bangkok Post/AFP

Hun Manet aims to turn Cambodia into upper middle-income country by 2030 | RFA

Hun Sen's legacy: Cambodia as the family business – Alex Willemyns | RFA

Cambodia's king calls on lawmakers, government to resolve their differences | RFA



Indonesia

Politics and Elections 2024

Indonesia will hold the world's biggest single day election: here is what you need to know - lka Krismantari & Nurul Ramadhani | The Jakarta Post

How the Jokowi-Megawati rivalry is shaping the 2024 election – Yerica Lai | The Star/The Jakarta Post Analysis: Tension between Jokowi and Megawati about to get worse – Tenggara Strategics | The Jakarta Post President Joko Widodo calls for capable successor as Indonesia election looms | The Straits Times

Prabowo gathers momentum in the race to succeed Jokowi – Liam Gammon | East Asia Forum

Analysts: Prabowo adds party support, gains edge in 2024 Indonesian presidential race | Benar News

Prabowo becomes main contender 6 months ahead of Indonesia's presidential polls – Wahyudi Soeriaatmadja

I The Straits Times

Indonesia militants adopt political tactics ahead of 2024 polls - Amy Chew | Nikkei Asia

Politicised Religion and Indonesia's Youth: Time to Overhaul Identity Politics – Iim Halimatusa'diyah | Fulcrum

Air Pollution and Energy Transition

<u>Jakarta's 'very bad' air pollution to persist due to government foot-dragging, green groups say</u> – Joseph Rachman | SCMP

Jakarta becomes world's most polluted major city | Bangkok Post/AFP

Critics denounce government's methods in tackling Jakarta pollution – Nina Loasana | The Jakarta Post/ANN Jakarta snags 'most polluted' title as air quality plunges and officials dither – Hans Nicholas Jong | Mongabay Reducing Air Pollution, Jakarta Residents Urged to Switch to Public Transport – Petir Bhwana | Tempo Weeks of living dangerously in Jakarta, all over again – Muhammad Pamungkas | The Interpreter Indonesia delays \$20bn green plan, after split with rich nations on grants and new coal plants | Climate Change News

<u>The High Stakes of Indonesia's \$20 Billion Just Energy Transition Partnership</u> – Scot Marciel | The Diplomat <u>Rising borrowing costs complicate Indonesia's energy transition plans, finance minister says</u> – Gayatri Suroyo & Stefanno Sulaiman | Reuters

Indonesia Submits Plan on How it Will Spend \$20 Billion on Clean Energy Transition – Victoria Milko | The Diplomat



Laos

Economy

<u>Lao gov't vows to urgently resolve economic woes</u> | The Star/Xinhua
<u>Lao households struggle to survive amid high inflation</u> | Bangkok Post/Xinhua
<u>To cope with surging inflation</u>, <u>Laos raises minimum wage by about 25%</u> | RFA
<u>Laos and China to increase trade cooperation</u> | The Star/Xinhua



Malaysia

Politics & State Elections Result

Relief for Malaysian leader Anwar, as the opposition fails to alter status quo in state elections – Eileen Ng | AP

<u>Malaysia's political blocs split victories in regional polls amid opposition gains</u> – Rozanna Latif & Yuddy Budiman | Reuters

In Malaysia, Anwar Ibrahim survives his first electoral test | The Economist

Malaysia's State Elections: Surprisingly Unremarkable – Kai Ostwald | Fulcrum

After checkered results in state polls, Malaysian leader Anwar needs to unite polarized nation – Eileen Ng | AP

Anwar's Sidestepping Ethnic Policies: Not a Way to Gain Ground – Lee Hwok-Aun | Fulcrum



Myanmar

Political Situation/Coup

<u>Aung San Suu Kyi's partial 'pardon' still means 27-year sentence</u> – Rebecca Ratcliffe | The Guardian

The meaning of relief for Aung San Suu Kyi | The Economist

The Myanmar Regime's Hollow Gestures | The Irrawaddy

Myanmar Junta's Message Is Clear: No Intention of Reducing Violence – Bo Kyi | The Irrawaddy

Myanmar military reshuffles cabinet with eye on extended rule | Nikkei Asia

UN Security Council condemns Myanmar military over 'unrelenting violence' | Al Jazeera

Children of Notorious Ex-Myanmar Junta Minister Continue Corrupt Legacy – Aung Thit | The Irrawaddy



Philippines

Politics

On Ninoy Aquino Day, Marcos calls on Filipinos to 'transcend political barriers' | Philstar

Rice is Philippines' 'most critical problem,' Marcos says – Job Manahan | ABS-CBN

Marcos pitches for federalism – Catherine Valente | The Manila Times

Reviving democracy: Pathways for the PH - Segundo Romero | Inquirer

Philippine senate steps up bipartisan support for stronger stance against 'brazen' China: 'stop bullying us' -

Raissa Robles | SCMP

<u>Sea Change: 'Bongbong' Marcos and the Future of the South China Sea</u> – Patrick M. Cronin | The Diplomat <u>China, Philippines cautiously flip trade dip as 'hot economics, cold politics' define relations</u> – Ji Siqi & Ralph Jennings



Singapore

Politics & Economy

A spate of scandals strikes Singapore - Ying-kit Chan | East Asia Forum

Singapore's Social Contract Is Starting to Fray – Joshua Kurlantzick | CFR

Singapore names 3 candidates for presidential election – Xinghui Kok | Reuters

Singapore's president is not an alternative power centre and his job is not to 'outshine the prime minister',

says Tharman Shanmugaratnam - Zuraidah Ibrahim & Kimberly Lim | SCMP

Commentary: Will Singapore be able to avoid recession in 2023 as hoped? - Selena Ling | CNA

<u>CNA Explains: Slump and recovery – what is the current state of the Singapore economy?</u> – Tang See Kit | CNA

S\$1 billion money laundering case: 4 individuals remanded further over fears of collusion if released – Lydia Lam | CNA



Thailand

Politics

Srettha Thavisin: the real estate tycoon turned Thai prime minister – Rebecca Ratcliffe | The Guardian

New Thai PM Srettha takes office with royal endorsement | CNA

Srettha Thavisin elected Thailand PM as Thaksin returns from exile | Al Jazeera

<u>'It will take time' - Thai PM discusses overcoming rifts with former coup general</u> – Napat Wesshasartar &

Chayut Setboonsarng | Reuters

Thaksin Shinawatra: Former Thailand PM jailed after return from exile | BBC

Thaksin Shinawatra's party seals 'Faustian' pact with Thai military | FT

Thaksin's return seals grand Thai political bargain | BBC

New government forms, but at what cost? | Bangkok Post

Thailand: What lies ahead for the new government? – Emmy Sasipornkarn | DW

Move Forward becomes main opposition party | Thai PBS



Timor-Leste

Politics

<u>Timor-Leste still on for ASEAN, insists President Ramos-Horta</u> – Yvette Tanamal | The Jakarta Post <u>Timor Leste to "Ideally" Become Full ASEAN Member in 2025: President</u> – Jayanty Shofa | Jakarta Globe <u>Myanmar crisis reflects East Timor's 'difficult balancing act' in Asean accession bid: analysts</u> – Maria Siow | SCMP

<u>Timor PM Says Country Won't Join ASEAN if Myanmar Crisis Not Solved</u> | The Irrawaddy Can Timor-Leste shape the future of the region? – Simone Galimberti | The Jakarta Post

Vietnam

Politics and Economy

Biden to sign strategic partnership deal with Vietnam | Bangkok Post/Reuters

Why Hanoi May Agree to a Vietnam-U.S. Comprehensive Strategic Partnership – Le Hong Hiep | Fulcrum Vietnam PM Fighting for Future as Economy Lags Growth Target – John Boudreau & Philip Heijmans | Bloomberg

<u>Vietnam seeks to kick-start property recovery after confidence shaken by crackdowns</u> – Greg McMIllan | FT <u>Wealth of Vietnam's richest man Pham Nhat Vuong balloons by more than 8 times to US\$44.3 billion on VinFast debut</u> | SCMP/Bloomberg

Not so fast on VinFast, experts say - Truong Son Nguyen | RFA