

# **ASEAN Region – Press Review October 2023**

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# **ASEAN**

#### **ASEAN and Geopolitics**

Not only the dragon: Understanding Southeast Asia's complex security landscape – Rahman Yaacob | The Interpreter

Beijing, Asean to start on third reading of South China Sea code of conduct - Dewey Sim | SCMP

ASEAN joint military drills pointed daintily at China - Collin Koh | Asia Times

Asean 'ineffective' in SCS dispute - Fatima Cancel | The Manila Times

Owning the Indo-Pacific term: Time for a new ASEAN strategic narrative - Ngo Di Lan | The Interpreter

ASEAN Condemns Escalation of Israeli-Palestinian Conflict – Muthiariny and Arkyasa | Tempo

Israel-Hamas crisis tears a splintering ASEAN in half – Richard Heydarian | Asia Times

<u>Israel-Hamas conflict could have implications on ASEAN centrality as members adopt different stances:</u>

Experts – Leong Wai Kit & Calvin Yang | CNA

How Southeast Asian States Are Responding to the Growing Middle East Conflict – Joshua Kurlantzick | CFR ASEAN, Gulf nations urge end to Israel-Hamas war in first summit – Oshikiri, Shiga, and Fukutomi | Nikkei Asia History and domestic dynamics: How ASEAN members see the Hamas-Israeli conflict – Rahman Yaacob | The Interpreter

<u>Firmly by Palestine's Side: Behind Malaysia's Response to the Israel-Gaza Crisis</u> – Julia Lau and Francis Hutchinson | Fulcrum

#### **ASEAN** and Myanmar

ASEAN's Myanmar stance won't change with Laos in charge: official – Nana Shibata | Nikkei Asia Why Southeast Asia Just Can't Seem to Cut Off Myanmar's Junta – Koh Ewe | TIME Is Laos Able to Make a Difference in the Myanmar Crisis? – Joanne Lin | Fulcrum Thailand Postpones Regional Summit to Which Myanmar Junta Boss Invited | The Irrawaddy



#### **Politics**

Sultan welcomes new Thai PM to Brunei | The Scoop

Why Brunei is Hedging Between the U.S. and China – Sufrizul Husseini I USIP

<u>Mainland Chinese Workers in Brunei Darussalam: Living in a Bubble</u> – Chang-Yau Hoon and Kaili Zhao | Fulcrum

Brunei-Singapore ties gaining momentum, says visiting Singapore minister | The Star/Borneo Bulletin

Sabah-Brunei collaboration optimistic, says Phoong – Kristy Inus | The Star

Brunei makes strides in the quest for global ecotourism prominence, says minister | The Star/Borneo Bulletin



# Cambodia

### **Politics**

In Hun Manet's Cambodia, It Is the Perception of Change That Matters – David Hutt | The Diplomat Critics cry hypocrisy as Hun Manet urges students to volunteer | RFA

After message from Hun Sen, Cambodia's new leader halts tax changes | RFA

Billion-dollar airport whets Cambodia appetite for Chinese investment - Shaun Turton | Nikkei Asia

After 10 Years of China's BRI Projects in Cambodia, Benefits Up for Debate – Sun Narin | VOA

# Indonesia

#### **Politics and Elections 2024**

Jokowi is building a political dynasty | The Economist

<u>Indonesian Presidential Candidate Names Current President's Son as Running Mate</u> – Faris Mokhtar and Chandra Asmara | TIME

<u>From pancake seller to Indonesian vice-president? Joko Widodo's son aims for the top</u> – Rebecca Ratcliffe | The Guardian

<u>Jokowi's dynasty-building risks tensions with his PDI-P party base</u> – Yose Kenawas | East Asia Forum <u>Indonesia's Constitutional Court to Investigate Ethics Complaints Regarding Election Ruling</u> – Sebastian Strangio | The Diplomat

<u>Defence Minister Prabowo to run for Indonesia president with Jokowi's son Gibran as V-P</u> – Linda Yulisman | The Straits Times

Can Jokowi influence Indonesia's presidential election? – Made Supriatma | East Asia Forum

An election loophole could tarnish Jokowi's legacy – Warief Basorie | The Interpreter

These Are the Three Contenders Vying to Be Indonesia's Next President – Faris Mokhtar | TIME/Bloomberg

Indonesia presidential race shapes up as three-way fight – Erwida Maulia | Nikkei Asia

Indonesia election 2024: as Jokowi ends his term, what issues do 3 presidential hopefuls face? – Amy Sood | SCMP



## Laos

#### **Economy & Politics**

Lao government increases minimum wage for third time since 2018 | RFA

Will Laos' economic zones boost growth or bring in criminals? – Alastair McCready | Nikkei Asia China's promise of prosperity brought Laos debt — and distress – Shibani Mahtani and Ore Huiying | The Washington Post

'I feel hopeless': Living in Laos on the brink - Alastair McCready | BBC

Major Laos dam project sparks fears for environment and local heritage – Hunt, De Tamaris, Popuri, and Simon | France 24



# Malaysia

#### **Politics**

Sultan Ibrahim of Johor to be appointed Malaysia's king, 34 years after his father's reign – Amir Yusof | CNA Malaysian sultans choose new king in unique rotational monarchy | Al Jazeera

What to Know About Malaysia's Next Monarch and the Country's Rotating Monarchy - Chad De Guzman | TIME

Analysis: Johor Sultan's outspoken nature, ties with Singapore and China set to figure in his rule as Malaysia's king – Amir Yusof | CNA

<u>Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim Is on a Mission to Save Malaysia's Democracy</u> – Debasish Roy Chowdhury | TIME

PM Anwar says Malaysia will be fearless in condemning Israeli aggression on Palestine – Muhammad Yusry | Malaymail

<u>Gaza Puts Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim in a Bind</u> – James M. Dorsey | Fair Observer <u>Malaysian PM Leads Large Pro-Palestine Rally in Kuala Kumpur</u> – Sebastian Strangio | The Diplomat

'Threatening' statements came from European MPs, says Anwar - Lynelle Tham | FMT

Malaysians to pay more for staples as weak ringgit enters 'uncharted territory' amid global slowdown – Josep Sipalan | SCMP

Malaysia will cut subsidies and tax luxury goods as it unveils a 2024 budget narrowing the deficit | AP



# Myanmar

### **Political Situation/Coup**

Daw Aung Suu Kyi in Limbo as Myanmar Resumes Prison Visits After Three-Year Ban | The Irrawaddy Myanmar Top Court Rejects Aung San Suu Kyi's Corruption Conviction Appeals – Khine Lin Kyaw | Bloomberg Global Panel Demands UN Act After Myanmar Junta's Massacre of Kachin Civilians | The Irrawaddy Myanmar army seeks to restore order as ethnic groups launch attacks | Nikkei Asia/Reuters Q&A: NUG's first Rohingya minister says Myanmar in 'unified revolution' – Ali MC | Al Jazeera Myanmar Has Had Anti-Junta Uprisings Before. The Spring Revolution Is Different. – Rajeev Bhattacharyya | The Diplomat Myanmar junta stealing from desperate migrant pockets – Nyi Nyi Kyaw | Asia Times

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# **Philippines**

#### **Politics**

Philippines and China clash over South China Sea collisions | DW

South China Sea: Why the Philippines and China are on a collision course | BBC

Bongbong Marcos to AFP brass: Be ready for 'emerging threats' to PH – Dexter Cabalza and Nestor Corrales | Inquirer

South China Sea: Biden says US will defend the Philippines if China attacks – Joel Guinto | BBC

<u>How Bongbong Marcos went from disgraced dictator's son to president of the Philippines</u> – Macdonald,

Baker, LoPresti, and Muller | ABC News

Marcos Halts Philippine Wealth Fund to Ensure Safeguards - Manolo Serapio Jr. | Bloomberg

Bongbong Marcos: Maharlika Fund operational by year-end – Nestor Corrales | Inquirer



# **Singapore**

### **Politics**

<u>As Singapore commemorates LKY100, remember what his generation of leaders stood for: PM Lee</u> – Koh Wan Ting | Today Online

<u>The Singapore Dream no longer just the '5Cs' but leading purposeful lives, says DPM Wong</u> – Renald Loh | CNA

New 'Singapore Dream' is more than just 'material success', No 2 leader Lawrence Wong says – Bhavan Jaipragas I SCMP

<u>Singapore's Wong Says China Needs to Grow Influence 'Carefully'</u> - Philip Heijmans and Chester Yung | Bloomberg



# **Thailand**

### **Politics & Economy**

PM vague on 10K recipients - Mongkol Bangprapa | Bangkok Post

Most Thais back digital handout if govt won't borrow: poll | The Nation

Thailand PM Srettha shows signs of leaning toward China for growth - Kosuke Inoue | Nikkei Asia

Thai PM Srettha visits ASEAN neighbors to Jure investment – Appropriath Phoonphonophiphatl Nikkei Asia

Srettha promises to deliberate Marriage Equality Bill on Tuesday | The Nation

Srettha backs gender equality, sex worker bills – Mongkol Bangprapa | Bangkok Post

How Thai workers became integral to Israel's economy - Shaun Turton | Nikkei Asia

Two more Thai workers die in Israel, increasing death toll to 33 | Bangkok Post

At least 54 Thais held hostage by Hamas, says Israeli government | The Nation

Thai ruling party elects Thaksin daughter Paetongtarn Shinawatra as leader, unopposed I SCMP

Coming clean on Thaksin | Bangkok Post

# Timor-Leste

### **Politics**

<u>How Timor-Leste Escaped the Political 'Resource Curse'</u> – Moritz Schmoll and Geoffrey Swenson | The Diplomat

Why Did Timor-Leste Sign a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership With China? – Joao da Cruz Cardoso | The Diplomat

<u>Indonesia, Australia split over Timor-Leste-China strategic partnership</u> – Kornelius Purba | The Jakarta Post Timor-Leste moves within a few steps of concluding WTO accession negotiations | WTO



# **Vietnam**

#### **Politics**

China's Xi tells Vietnam not to forget roots of their friendship | Reuters

Vietnam president attends BRI Forum as Xi Jinping plans Hanoi trip | RFA

Biden's Vietnam visit generates new wave of interest in investment - Yuji Nitta | Nikkei Asia

Foreign investment surges in Vietnam as companies plan new factories | Reuters

Vietnam: Why climate activism can be a risky business - Tommy Walker | DW

Reports: Vietnam's rights situation has worsened since last review | RFA