

ASEAN Region – Press Review December 2023

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ASEAN

ASEAN and Geopolitics

ASEAN centrality still key to managing regional conflicts - Amitav Acharya | East Asia Forum

ASEAN foreign ministers express concern over South China Sea tensions | Reuters

China vows to keep up military pressure on the Philippines as territorial dispute grows tenser | AP

In Asean, only Philippines embraces US' Indo-Pacific strategy that is 'trigger' for South China Sea tensions – Raissa Robles | SCMP

Japan, ASEAN step up security cooperation amid South China Sea tensions | RFA

Analysts: Japan Strengthening ASEAN Security Ties to Contain China - Christy Lee | VOA

ASEAN and Myanmar

<u>Myanmar a challenge for new Asean chair Laos</u> – Poramet Tangsathaporn | Bangkok Post <u>ASEAN needs an emergency meeting on Myanmar, a failed state in waiting</u> – Kornelius Purba | The Jakarta

ASEAN's credibility and centrality on the line amid crisis in Myanmar – William Jones & Douglas Rhein | East Asia Forum

Myanmar's leader co-chairs China-backed Mekong summit | Nikkei Asia

As ASEAN chair, Indonesia was ineffective, unimaginative on Myanmar crisis: Analysts | Benar News



🔐 Brunei

Politics

Climate change awareness is a priority, says minister | Borneo Bulletin

Brunei, Japan establish energy transition cooperation | Borneo Bulletin

Brunei urged to strengthen fiscal sustainability | Borneo Bulletin

Brunei signs aguatic products protocols agreement with China | Borneo Bulletin



Cambodia

Politics

Hun Manet says he's fine with 'authoritarian' label, cites stability | RFA

Cambodia's leader holds talks in neighboring Vietnam on first visit since becoming prime minister | AP Like his father. Hun Manet vows to end illegal logging | RFA

<u>Cambodian PM Hun Manet directs enhancement of public health as his New Year wish</u> | The Star/Phnom Penh Post

CPP adds Hun Manet's image on logo | Khmer Times



Indonesia

Politics and Elections 2024

<u>'People are relaxed', Jokowi says of pre-election political climate</u> | The Jakarta Post Avoid technical mistakes that can have political ramifications: Jokowi | Antara

Is Joko Widodo paving the way for a political dynasty in Indonesia? - Tim Lindsey & Simon Butt | The Conversation

Indonesian presidential election: How the 3 candidates plan to shape nation's future - Dandy Koswaraputra & Pizaro Gozali Idrus | Benar News

Indonesian presidential candidates launch populist charm offensives – Erwida Maulia | Nikkei Asia Indonesia presidential candidate Prabowo cements lead in the poll | Reuters

From Populist Pariah to 'Jokowi's Man': Analyzing Prabowo Subianto's Political Transformation - Angus Lam I The Diplomat

Indonesia election 2024: Prabowo flying high despite 'negative sentiments' towards Gibran – Resty Woro Yuniar | SCMP

Indonesia's first presidential debate: Five key takeaways - Aisyah llewellyn | Al Jazeera

Prabowo attacked on human rights in Indonesia's 1st presidential debate – Erwida Maulia | Nikkei Asia Indonesia election 2024: Gibran gets grilled by rivals on new capital, hits back with acronyms in debate -Resty Woro Yuniar | SCMP

Jokowi's son talks Al, capital move in Indonesia's 2nd election debate – Erwida Maulia | Nikkei Asia Where Indonesia's Presidential Candidates Stand On the New Capital Project – Isti Marta Sukma | The **Diplomat**



Laos

Politics & ASEAN Chair 2024

Lao PDR is ready for ASEAN challenges – Kavi Chongkittavorn | Bangkok Post

Laos as ASEAN Chair: Flying into Headwinds - Joanne Lin | Fulcrum

How Will Laos Handle Its 2024 Chairmanship of ASEAN? - To Minh Son | The Diplomat

Laos inflation remains high in December despite govt's attempts to control it | The Star

Laos' Economic Woes Will Continue In 2024 - David Hutt | The Diplomat

In Laos, forest loss and carbon emissions escalate as agriculture intensifies - Carolyn Cowan | Mongabay Laos may export electricity to Vietnam to tackle the country's power shortage | The Star/Laotian Times



Malaysia

Politics

A Year in Power: Malaysian premier Anwar searches for support as frustration rises over slow reform | AP Recapping the First Year of Malaysia's Foreign Policy Under Anwar Ibrahim – Angeline Tan | The Diplomat Malaysia's Anwar Ibrahim revamps cabinet as voters worry about economy | Al Jazeera Malaysia anticorruption body probes ex-finance minister for abuse of power | Al Jazeera Analysis: Malaysia's business, political elite on edge with Anwar's graft crackdown on ex-financial tsar Daim Leslie Lopez I CNA

Nothing but a political witch hunt: Ex-finance minister breaks silence on Malaysian graft probe | The Straits Times



Myanmar

Political Situation/Coup

We must stop Myanmar's descent into a failed state | The Japan Times

Forsaken but not forgotten: Free Aung San Suu Kyi – Peter Popham | Independent

In Myanmar, Accounts of Disappearances Create a Climate of Fear - Sui-Lee Wee | The New York Times

Myanmar Resistance Forces Seize Another China Border Crossing – Sebastian Strangio | The Diplomat

In Pictures: The women soldiers of Myanmar's resistance - Berry | Nikkei Asia

The Myanmar People's Determination to Win Has Begun to Bear Fruit – Kyaw Zwa Moe | The Irrawaddy Myanmar military under pressure as legal jeopardy builds - Adam Simpson | East Asia Forum

<u>China urges nationals to leave north Myanmar region amid unrest</u> | Reuters <u>Myanmar overtakes Afghanistan as top opium producer</u> – Nicholas Yong | BBC <u>Myanmar central bank to no longer set forex rates</u> | Bangkok Post/Reuters



Philippines

Politics

The tide turns: Key moments in Philippine politics in 2023 | Rappler

How House lawmakers flexed their political muscle in 2023 - Kaycee Valmonte | Rappler

Cracks in the Marcos-Duterte political alliance - Jenny Balboa | East Asia Forum

Respect Sara as much as Bongbong, says Martin - Edjen Oliquino | Daily Tribune

Philippine VP Duterte Opposes Marcos' Peace Plan With Leftists - Andreo Calonzo | Bloomberg

China Warns Philippines Ties Face 'Serious Difficulties' - Evelyn Yu | Bloomberg

Philippines drug war victims look to ICC for justice as killings continue under Marcos Jr | ABC News



Singapore

Politics

The Gist 2023: The biggest political stories in Singapore – Goh Yan Han | The Straits Times

<u>Singapore's turbulent yet tantalising 2023: from political scandals to pop sensations</u> – Kimberly Lim | SCMP <u>DPM Lawrence Wong meets Chinese Premier Li Qiang, expects 'fruitful' top-level bilateral forum</u> – Elizabeth Law | The Straits Times

'New era' in Singapore-China ties? Incoming PM Lawrence Wong and Li Qiang agree to boost cooperation – Kimberly Lim | SCMP

<u>Singapore's Budget 2024 to be delivered by DPM Lawrence Wong on 16 February 2024</u> – Esther Au Yong | Yahoo Finance



Thailand

Politics & Economy

Politics, parties and PMs – Aekarach Sattaburuth | Bangkok Post

Thai PM Srettha seeks longevity as political factions bide time - Francesca Regalado | Nikkei Asia

Opposition leader sees Srettha losing PM's seat to Paetongtarn next year | The Nation

Move Forward and Pheu Thai: a love-hate relationship – Chanapat Komlongharn | The Nation

Thailand prison rule sparks accusations of favoritism for Thaksin - Kosuke Inoue | Nikkei Asia

Opponent challenges rule permitting Thaksin's long hospital stay | Bangkok Post

Talk of royal pardon sparks rumours of Yingluck return | The Nation

Legal issues 'make charter rewrite hard' – Aekarach Sattaburuth | Bangkok Post

First referendum will ask public just one question – Mongkol Bangprapa | Bangkok Post



Timor-Leste

Politics

Timor Leste: 11th Asean member in jeopardy? | Thai PBS

Beginning the repairs on Timor-Leste's economy - Damien Kingsbury | East Asia Forum

Timor-Leste faces uncertainty in every direction – Parker Novak | The Jakarta Post

Henry Kissinger and the Murder of Timor-Leste – Klas Lundström | The Diplomat

Vietnam

Politics

Vietnam's 5% economic growth for 2023 misses official target - Yuji Nitta | Nikkei Asia

Vietnam Wary of China's 'Swift, Large-Scale' Investment - Ha Nguyen | VOA

Xi Jinping in Vietnam to rekindle a love-hate relationship – Jonathan Head | BBC Xi Jinping meets with Vietnam's leaders during official visit to Hanoi | RFA

Vietnam's partnership with China is 'window dressing' as it aims for flexibility in international relations –

Maria Siow | SCMP

Breaking the laws of the land: Vietnam's real estate scandals | RFA