# HEINRICH BÖLL STIFTUNG

## **ASEAN Region – Press Review December 2024**

Contact: info@th.boell.org

## **O** ASEAN

#### **ASEAN and Geopolitics**

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Cattle smuggling in Mekong region threatens bovine and human health – Kannikar Petchkaew and Gebu | The Straits Times



#### Politics

<u>'No screens for children under 2': MoH</u> – Ain Bandial | The Scoop Charity cycling event in Brunei unites riders for common cause | The Star



#### Politics

Report Shows Progress for Indigenous, But Disparities Persist – Seoung Nimol | CamboJa News Discovery of six rare Mekong giant catfish in Cambodia raises hopes for endangered species | The Guardian/AP

Chinese investors eye Cambodia's energy sector for expansion - Hin Pisei | The Phnom Penh Post

## Indonesia

#### Politics

Paying the price | Borneo Bulletin/AP

Indonesian Nutrition Agency: There Will Be 85,000 Recipients of Free Nutritious Meals in Jakarta – Eka Yudha Saputra | Tempo

Indonesia to pardon tens of thousands including Papua activists | Reuters

Indonesia yet to agree joint development areas with Beijing in South China Sea, minister says | Reuters Prabowo steers Indonesia's maritime doctrine to new waters – Jake Thrupp | East Asia Forum

Woman-run cafe shakes off stigma that operating a coffee shop is a man's job | The Star/AFP Dozens more Rohingya refugees arrive by boat in western Indonesia | The Straits Times/Reuters

Indonesia to form a state revenue ministry, president's advisor says | Reuters



#### Politics

Will Laos tourism suffer after bootleg alcohol poisoning? – Tommy Walker | DW Villagers blame Chinese potash mine for massive sinkhole in central Laos | RFA



#### Politics

PM Anwar's pick of Thaksin as Asean adviser raises eyebrows in Malaysia – Harith Mustaffa | The Straits Times Malaysia PM appoints Thai heavyweight Thaksin his adviser on ASEAN – Ashley Tang and Panu Wongcha-um | Reuters

<u>Malaysia facing rising solid waste production, says Nga</u> – Junaid Ibrahim, Martin Carvalho And And Rahimy Rahim | The Star

Malaysia proposes laws to arrest, obtain private data, in clampdown on harmful online content – Shannon Teoh | The Straits Times

Johor's rapid growth still needs Singapore's treated water, says water deputy minister – Junaid Ibrahim, Rahimy Rahim And Martin Carvalho | The Star

Malaysia's jailed ex-PM Najib to argue appeal for house arrest | CNA/AFP

## 🔀 Myanmar

#### **Political Situation/Coup**

Myanmar army's election plan part of regional talks in Thailand, sources say | The Straits Times/Reuters The State Administration Council and the Restyling of Myanmar's Economy – Jared Bissinger | Fulcrum UN drug experts say opium production has leveled off in Myanmar, but instability may trigger a rise – Grant Peck | AP

Myanmar Junta Steps Up Grab for Foreign Earnings | The Irrawaddy

World Bank sees Myanmar economy shrinking as civil war rages on | Bangkok Post/Bloomberg Second major Myanmar rebel group calls for talks with junta | CNA/AFP

Myanmar junta leaders diverge on supplementary budget approaches amid economic struggles | Mizzima

## **Philippines**

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Philippines Senate ratifies new defence pact with Japan | Al Jazeera Philippine vice president skips hearing into threats she made against the president | AP Climate change putting Philippines at double risk of typhoons, scientists say | Reuters Philippines, China trade accusations over confrontation in South China Sea | CNA/Reuters Commentary: Philippines politics is often mad. It just got crazier – Ruth Pollard | CAN/Bloomberg Philippines' Marcos says reported presence of Russian submarine 'very worrisome' | Reuters

Singapore

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<u>Singapore ministers say to sue Bloomberg over mansions story</u> | Borneo Bulletin/AFP <u>Flight of the common rose: How are Singapore's butterflies impacted by climate change?</u> – Charlotte Tan, Nikita Pereira, Lim Zu Ning, Stephanie Adeline And Youjin Shin | The Straits Times

What's behind Singapore's increasingly negative attitudes towards people with disabilities in the workplace? - Charmaine Jacob | CNA

Singapore improves in OECD ranking of adult skills, but atrophy in literacy a concern – Elisha Tushara | The Straits Times

Johor-Singapore SEZ deal signing postponed after PM Wong tests positive for COVID-19: Malaysia PM Anwar – Amir Yusof | CNA

## Thailand

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PM Paetongtarn Outlines 2025 Vision Amid Mixed Reactions | Khaosod English Long road ahead for Thailand's new 'democratic' Constitution | The Nation Thai cabinet approves measures to ease household debt | CNA/Reuters Bangkok's air guality deteriorates to health-risk levels | The Star/The Nation/ANN Thailand supports upcycling projects to bolster sustainability | Vietnam Plus Myanmar and Thailand at the Crossroads | The Nation



## **Timor-Leste**

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Timor-Leste brings health access to classrooms | WHO ADB to Improve Climate Resilience and Rural Livelihoods in Timor-Leste | ADB Timor-Leste moves towards Just Transition for all and green economy | ILO Timor-Leste: Reconciliation 'comes from the heart' - former PM - Lusa | Macau Business Timor Leste PM Accorded Official Welcome At Perdana Putra | Bernama



## Vietnam

#### Politics

Vietnam quiet, firm and resilient in the South China Sea - James Borton | Asia Times Vietnam ex-official took USD300K bribe to allow illicit sand mining | Borneo Bulletin Vietnam Approves \$67 Billion High-Speed Railway Project; China & Japan To Compete For Lucrative Deal -Ashish Dangwal | Eurasian Times Vietnam PM aims for about 8% economic growth in 2025 | Bangkok Post/Bloomberg Huge Vietnam fraud case raises questions over banking system | The Straits Times/AFP