

## ASEAN Region – Press Review February 2025

Contact: [info@th.boell.org](mailto:info@th.boell.org)



### ASEAN and Southeast Asia Region

#### ASEAN and Geopolitics

[Unlocking Growth: The Future of the ASEAN Consumer](#) | Bangkok Post

[Asean now more professional and sophisticated; next step is to enforce decisions: Ong Keng Yong](#) – Ng Wei Kai | The Straits Times

[Vietnam's second ASEAN Future Forum hosting showcases growing regional leadership: Malaysian expert](#) | Vietnam Plus

[Malaysia to capitalise on Asean chairmanship to be global focal point](#) – Arfa Yunus | The Star

[Timor-Leste looks to ASEAN for membership and modernisation](#) – Zhai Kun | East Asia Forum

[East Timor has a historic opportunity to break ASEAN deadlock on Myanmar](#) – Patrick Phongsathorn | Al Jazeera

[Malaysia spearheading efforts for Timor-Leste's full Asean membership, says Tok Mat](#) – Junaid Ibrahim, Martin Carvalho and Gerard Gimino | The Star

[Anwar's Asean summit risks Trump's ire as Malaysia courts China, Gulf bloc](#) – Hadi Azmi | South China Morning

[Storm clouds gather over ASEAN as it enters 2025](#) – Abdul Rahman Yaacob | East Asia Forum

[Asean plans US summit to discuss tariff concerns](#) | Bangkok Post/Reuters

[Anwar, Thaksin discuss Myanmar, South China Sea with Brunei's Sultan](#) | The Nation

[China-ASEAN Relations Expected to Remain Strong but Face Geopolitical Challenges - Analyst](#) | Bernama

[Thai PM: RCEP, regional integration key to ASEAN prosperity](#) – Linda Khoo | Bernama

[ASEAN Synergy Strengthen Maritime Security Along Melaka Straits](#) – Mohd Fakri Awang Lah | Bernama

[Myanmar Junta Gives New ASEAN Envoy Frosty Reception](#) | The Irrawaddy

[Southeast Asia Looks To Nuclear Power To Supercharge Its Energy Transition](#) | Khaosod English/AP

[ASEAN and Geopolitics Securing Southeast Asian waters: Formalising the role of the ASEAN Coast Guard Forum](#) – Su Wai Mon, Thư Nguyễn Hoàng Anh and Jonathan Gabriel Mendoza | The Interpreter

[ASEAN Sec-Gen Reaffirms Commitment To Strengthening Media Ties At Engagement Session](#) – Mohd Iswandi Kasan Anuar | Bernama

['Diplomatic flexibility': Malaysia's coyness over its ASEAN advisers could help region but hurt PM Anwar](#) – Aqil Haziq Mahmud | CNA

[Trump's gutting of USAID sends chill through Southeast Asia](#) – Erin Hale and Vijitra Duangdee | Al Jazeera

[Malaysia's ASEAN chairmanship is off to a disappointing start](#) – Bridget Welsh | The Jakarta Post



### Brunei

#### Politics

[His Majesty announces healthcare policy updates, increased LegCo sessions](#) | Borneo Bulletin

[Reflections on Brunei's independence](#) | Borneo Bulletin

[Brunei highlights digital health innovations at global summit](#) – Lyna Mohamad | Borneo Bulletin



### Cambodia

#### Politics

[A women's work is never done: New survey highlights gender gap](#) – Niem Chheng | The Phnom Penh Post

[Cambodia, Germany strengthen cooperation in digital transformation](#) | Khmer Times  
[Japan grants over \\$240K for clean water supply in Tonle Sap community](#) – Niem Chheng | The Phnom Penh Post  
[In Cambodia, The Death of A Journalist Highlights The Secrecy Shrouding Environmental Crimes](#) – Léa Peruchon and Sinorn Thang | CamboJa News  
[Manet: New textbook contains no historical distortions, barely mentions Vietnam](#) – Niem Chheng | The Phnom Penh Post  
[Cambodia passes bill toughening penalties for denial of Khmer Rouge genocide](#) – Sopheng Cheang | AP  
[Business and Human Rights Law Group Report: Cambodia Must Act Fast to Offset US Aid Cuts](#) – Seoung Nimol | CamboJa News  
[Transport ministry, Royal sign railway development partnership](#) – Hin Pisei | The Phnom Penh Post  
[Hun Sen vows to hunt would-be assassins](#) | The Star/AFP  
[Residents Who Lost Homes to Mekong River Want Riverbanks Reinforced, Authorities Say Collapse Caused by Nature](#) – Sovann Sreypich | CamboJa News  
[CMAC Demining Work Boosted by Chinese Aid Amid U.S. Freeze, Civil Society Surveys Impact to Inform U.S. Government](#) – Seoung Nimol | CamboJa News  
[U.S. Aid Freeze Forces Cambodian Government to Seek New Funding Partners Amid NGO Layoffs](#) – Seoung Nimol | CamboJa News  
[Concerns grow over press freedoms in Cambodia after British journalist blacklisted from the country](#) – David Rising and Sopheng Cheang | AP  
[New irrigation systems will support triannual rice harvests: Hun Manet](#) | The Star

## Indonesia

### Politics

[Russia security chief meets Prabowo in Indonesia](#) | Borneo Bulletin/AFP  
[Japan, UNICEF Collaborate for Free Meals and Education in Papua](#) – Suci Sekarwati | Tempo.co  
[Indonesia President Prabowo replaces controversial minister in first Cabinet change](#) | CNA  
[Prabowo holds leaders retreat amid emerging signs of dissent and ongoing students' protest](#) – Chandra Asmara and Norman Harsono | The Star  
[Student protests have erupted in Jakarta as Indonesia's government cut budgets](#) – Bill Birtles and Hellena Souisa | ABC  
[Students lead 'Dark Indonesia' protests against budget cuts](#) – Budi Satriawan and Yuddy Cahya Budiman | Reuters  
[The Nickel-based Industrial Paradox: Indonesian Resources, Chinese Profits](#) – Ahmad Syarif | The Diplomat  
[Indonesia's conducting studies to implement 50% biodiesel blend in 2026](#) | Reuters  
[Indonesia industrial coal power plans undercut emissions pledge: Report](#) | CNA/AFP  
[Indonesia's climate retreat puts the region's green future at risk](#) – Mutiara Indriani | The Interpreter  
[Indonesia plans to import around 200,000 tons of raw sugar for food reserve](#) | Reuters  
[Indonesia plans to boost renewable usage in new electricity supply plan](#) | CNA/Reuters  
[Indonesia mulls Paris Agreement exit, citing fairness and energy transition costs](#) – Hans Nicholas Jong | Mongabay  
[Indonesia plans age restrictions on digital platforms to protect children](#) | The Star/Bernama  
[North Jakarta Named National Model for Urban Waste Management](#) – Irsyan Hasyim | Tempo.Co  
['I will get rid of them': Prabowo warns ministers to perform or face the boot](#) | CNA  
[Indonesia health programmes with USAID on hold, minister says](#) | CNA/Reuters  
[Commentary: The real costs of Indonesia's free school lunch programme can't be ignored](#) – Maria Monica Wihardja | CNA  
[Atheists say Indonesia denies right to live religion-free](#) – David Hutt | DW  
[Indonesia orders the halting of tourism projects linked to Trump over environmental issues](#) – Niniek Karmini | AP

## Laos

## Politics

[Vientiane Launches Sustainable Tourism Initiative with Innovative Technology for Growth](#) – Kheuakham Chanlivong | Laotian Times

[Russia, Laos Clear Over 285 Unexploded Ordnance in Past Three Months](#) – Souliyasone Ngotsyoudom | Laotian Times

[Empowering Laos' Deaf Community Through Education and Employment](#) – Kheuakham Chanlivong | Laotian Times

[Climate Crisis in Laos: Heatwaves Threaten Agriculture and Public Health](#) – Kheuakham Chanlivong | Laotian Times

[Top state inspector calls for tough action amid mounting corruption](#) | Vientiane Times

[Laos to Introduce New Rules to Strengthen Lao Kip, Reduce Reliance on Foreign Currency](#) – Kheuakham Chanlivong | Laotian Times

[Govt sets target of 4.3 million foreign tourists in 2025](#) | Vientiane Times

[Lao Government Calls for Boost in Agricultural Production in 2025](#) – Phontham Visapra | Laotian Times



## Malaysia

### Politics

[Malaysia is betting on data centers to boost its economy. But experts warn they come at a price](#) – Aniruddha Ghosal and Vincent Thian | AP

[Upcoming leadership changes in Malaysia's judiciary stir concerns of political intervention](#) – Leslie Lopez | CNA

[Anwar to meet Abang Johari to strengthen collaboration in oil and gas operations](#) – Arfa Yunus | The Star  
[Petronas dispute: Sarawak 'must have a say' on production of oil and gas within state, says Premier Abang Johari](#) | CNA

['Puzzling': Malaysia's new rules for Sarawak's oil and gas sector set to trigger fresh political tensions](#) – Leslie Lopez | CNA

[Malaysia's ECRL: Can Beijing-backed megaproject deliver on local development?](#) – Aqil Haziq Mahmud | CNA

[Malaysia's ECRL: Megaproject could shake up national, regional connectivity, but single-track design makes it 'challenging'](#) – Aqil Haziq Mahmud | CNA

[Malaysia's ECRL: Residents in opposition-controlled states laud railway's benefits, but could it create political tension?](#) – Aqil Haziq Mahmud | CNA

[Malaysia's proposed 'guidelines' for Muslims attending non-Muslim events draw brickbats, but some defend move](#) | CNA



## Myanmar

### Political Situation/Coup

[Junta Passes Law Allowing Chinese Security Firms to Operate in Myanmar](#) – Maung Kavi | The Irrawaddy

[Myanmar's Blackout Junta Seeks Solar Power Aid From Neighbors](#) | The Irrawaddy

[Third attempt to auction off the home of Myanmar's ousted Aung San Suu Kyi fails to draw any bidders](#) | AP

[Four years after coup, Myanmar regime prepares for 'violent, messy' polls](#) – Alastair McCready | Al Jazeera

[Trump's retreat leaves Myanmar wholly to China](#) – Bertil Lintner | Asia Times

[Nay Pyi Taw's goals still out of reach](#) – Kavi Chongkittavorn | Bangkok Post



## Philippines

### Politics

[Japan, Philippines deepening ties in 'severe' security environment](#) | Borneo Bulletin/AFP

[Midterm Outlooks: Digital Proxy Warfare in the Philippines](#) – Japhet Quitzon | Center for Strategic & International Studies

[Philippine ex-President Duterte faces criminal complaint over 'kill senators' comment at rally](#) | AP

[Philippine Vice President Duterte asks Supreme Court to void her impeachment and block Senate trial](#) – Jim Gomez | AP

[Exit from 'Dirty Money' list is complete; Philippines now aim to boost investment and further improve economy](#) – Manolo Serapio Jr. | The Star

[PH, EU fast-track FTA talks; completion eyed before 2027](#) – Alden M. Monzon | Inquirer

[Philippine investigators file criminal complaints against vice president over assassination threats](#) | Borneo Bulletin/AP

[Philippines' Manalo discusses South China Sea coordination with Rubio](#) | The Star

[Duterte's future in balance as Philippine election season kicks off](#) | AFP/CNA

[A flurry of international naval drills around the Philippines prompts complaints from Beijing](#) – Christopher Bodeen | AP

[Philippine vice president's impeachment trial will start after Congress reopens in June](#) – Jim Gomez | AP

[Philippines' Duterte mulls presidential bid amid impeachment fight](#) | Al Jazeera

[Philippine Congress paves way for impeachment of Vice President Sara Duterte](#) – Mikhail Flores and Karen Lema | Reuters

[Fretful of Trump, Philippines floats missile compromise with China](#) – Gabriel Honrada | Asia Times



## Singapore

### Politics

[Budget 2025 about strengthening S'pore's social support system and economy: PM Wong](#) – Anjali Raguraman | The Straits Times

[Singapore prepared to tackle challenges in fast-shifting global landscape: SM Lee](#) – Chin Soo Fang | The Straits Times

[Singapore budget to tackle living costs and jobs as election looms](#) – Bing Hong Lok | Reuters

[Former Singapore transport minister S Iswaran moved to home detention](#) – Davina Tham and Matthew Mohan | CNA

[More Singapore residents want the government to be more involved in race, religious issues: IPS survey](#) – Abigail Ng | CNA

[Singapore unlikely to be hit by direct US tariffs but may still be impacted: Vivian](#) – Hariz Baharudin | The Straits Times

[ST Education Forum 2025 to tackle Singapore's role in region and rise of South-east Asia](#) – Gabrielle Chan | The Straits Times



## Thailand

### Politics

[Pheu Thai pushes court on referendum](#) – Aekarach Sattaburuth | Bangkok Post

[Thaksin allowed to travel to Brunei, but not to Vietnam and Cambodia](#) | The Nation

[Senator wants court referendum ruling](#) – Aekarach Sattaburuth | Bangkok Post

[Thai parliament to debate amendment of Charter's Article 256 next week](#) | Thai PBS

[Thailand to remain top in Sustainable Development Goals](#) – Mongkol Bangprapa | Bangkok Post

[World Bank sees Thai fiscal risks mounting due to spending surge](#) | Bangkok Post/Bloomberg

[PM Paetongtarn Promises Economic Reforms to Woo Foreign Investors at JFCCT Event](#) – MC Marketing | Khaosod English

[Thai PM: Economic Corridor Crucial To US\\$30 Bln Trade Targer With Malaysia](#) – Linda Khoo | Bernama

[Thailand's big casino gamble hangs on fine print of regulations](#) – Panu Wongcha-um and Panarat Thepgumpanat | Reuters

[Thailand hopes it will not face U.S. tariffs, commerce minister says](#) | Reuters

[First-Time LGBTQ Visitors to Thailand Surge with High Spending](#) | Khaosod English

[Thailand seeks deeper economic integration with Hong Kong](#) | The Nation

[Trump tariffs terrify Thailand](#) | Bangkok Post

[China's Xi and Thailand's leader vow to crack down on scam networks that plague Southeast Asia](#) – Huizhong Wu | AP

[Thaksin joins effort to broker peace deal](#) – Mongkol Bangprapa | Bangkok Post

[Thailand's Agricultural Ambition: A Global Vision of Sustainability](#) – Nongluck Ajanapanya | The Nation

[Cabinet approves second phase of Thai-Chinese high-speed train project](#) | The Nation

[Thailand unveils ambitious projects to become Asean's logistics hub](#) | The Star/The Nation/ANN



## Timor-Leste

### Politics

[RI committed to strengthening educational cooperation with Timor-Leste](#) | Antara News

[Timor-Leste says Australian company's \\$523 million lawsuit a 'major fraud'](#) – Najma Sambul | ABC

[Timor-Leste revs up spending in spite of World Bank calls for restraint](#) | The Macao News

[Exclusive: East Timor favours Australia over Chinese firms on major gas project, president says](#) – Sudarshan

Varadhan | Reuters



## Vietnam

### Politics

[Vietnam eyes stronger cooperation with Timor-Leste](#) | VOV

[Vietnamese, Lao, Cambodian PMs meet in HCM City](#) | Vietnam Plus

[Vietnam's strict new social media regulations strangle free speech, report says](#) – David Rising | AP

[Vietnam firmly committed to multilateralism, international solidarity, says UN ambassador](#) | The Star/Vietnam

News/Asia News Network

[Vietnam to use Chinese loans for \\$8.3 billion railway linking both countries](#) | Reuters

[Vietnam open to boosting US agricultural imports as tariff risks rise](#) | The Star/Reuters

[Vietnam ready to engage with US on tariffs](#) | Reuters

[Vietnam builds islands in South China Sea amid tension, challenges](#) | Benar News/RFA

[China and Vietnam cause most damage to South China Sea's corals: Report](#) | CNA/South China Morning

[Vietnam strengthens global cooperation in atomic energy](#) | Vietnam Plus

[Vietnam, France seek to strengthen strategic partnership through local cooperation](#) | Vietnam Plus

[Vietnam, Russia celebrate 75 years of diplomatic ties in Far East](#) | Vietnam Plus

[Vietnam's carbon market development project approved](#) | Vietnam Plus

[Trump administration values cooperation with Vietnam: US defense chief](#) | VNA