

ASEAN Region – Press Review March 2025

Contact: info@th.boell.org



ASEAN and Southeast Asia Region

ASEAN and Geopolitics

[ASEAN accompanies Myanmar, Thailand to address quake's aftermath](#) | Vietnam Plus

[ASEAN Center for Energy Launches Net Zero Emissions Roadmap for Laos](#) – Kheukham Chanlivong | Laotian Times

[Commentary: ASEAN is losing patience on Myanmar. Can Malaysia push for a new approach?](#) – Moe Thuzar | CNA

[ASEAN–Korea Relations: Achieving a Resilient Partnership](#) – Lee Jang-keun | Fulcrum

[Great Power Competition in Technology: Implications for ASEAN](#) – Elina Noor | Fulcrum

[Southeast Asia Will Be Challenged by Trump 2.0](#) – Sarang Shidore | Fulcrum

[Southeast Asia Should Take the Lead in Tackling the AI Climate Conundrum](#) – Vinod Thomas | Fulcrum

[Unlocking Asean's grid for green growth](#) – Rapeepat Ingkakit | Bangkok Post

[Canada Strengthen Ties With ASEAN Amid Global Challenges](#) – Wan Muhammad Aslah Wan Razali | Bernama

[Placing ASEAN amidst a growing US-China competition](#) – Curie Maharani and Wendy A. Prajuli | Observer Research Foundation

[US-Russia détente will impact Asean](#) – Kavi Chongkittavorn | Bangkok Post

[Russia, Southeast Asia draw closer in pursuit of multipolar political, trade ties](#) – Shailaja Neelakantan | Berna News

[ASEAN summit invites China, Gulf states amid tariffs threat](#) – Thomas Kohlmann | DW

[ASEAN Must Leverage Australia To Boost Economic Resilience - MGBF](#) – Harizah Hanim Mohamed | Bernama

[RCEP consolidates Asean's regional integration: Cambodian PM](#) | The Star/Xinhua

[Asean sec-gen urges business stakeholders to back US\\$764bil power grid initiative](#) | The Star/Bernama

[Imagine a first for ASEAN, a woman as the Secretary-General](#) – Mutiara Indriani and Lucy Klein | The Interpreter

[US encouraged to continue economic engagement with S-E Asia: Vivian Balakrishnan in first call with Marco Rubio](#) – Aqil Hamzah | The Straits Times

[Malaysia Requests To Relax Requirements For Timor-Leste To Become Full Member Of ASEAN](#) | Bernama

[Commentary: If the US is a 'landlord seeking rent', how must Southeast Asia rethink defence?](#) – William Choong | CNA

[Vietnam Backs Malaysia's ASEAN Chairmanship Priorities for 2025](#) | Bernama

[ASEAN ready to adopt AEC Strategic Plan 2026-2030](#) | Vietnam Plus



Brunei

Politics

[Brunei must improve power efficiency and curb high consumption: PMO](#) – Rasidah Hj Abu Bakar | The Scoop

[Brunei unveils plan to evolve digital Identity by 2025](#) – Abigail Opiah | Biometric Update

[Brunei introduces Long-Term Pass to boost investment and skilled workforce](#) | The Star/ Borneo Bulletin/ANN

[Brunei successfully reduces greenhouse gas emissions by 15 per cent](#) | The Star/Xinhua

[Brunei enacts new law giving citizens control over personal data](#) – Rasidah Hj Abu Bakar | The Scoop

[Brunei projects 1.82 bln USD in revenue from oil, gas in new fiscal year](#) | Xinhua



Cambodia

Politics

[EU invests \\$90M in modernisation of Cambodia's agricultural sector](#) – Hong Raksmeay | The Phnom Penh Post
[Thirty USAID Contracts Cease in Cambodia; Civil Society Find Ways to Survive, Gov't Unfazed](#) – Seoung Nimol | CamboJa News
[Op-Ed: How Can Cambodia Keep Women in the Workforce After its LDC Graduation in 2029?](#) – Alissar Chaker and Rada Khoy | CamboJa News
[International Women's Day Celebration Aside, Female Workers Call for Rights Protection and Stronger Law Enforcement](#) – Seoung Nimol | CamboJa News
[Japanese delegation seek investment opportunities in Cambodia](#) – Hin Pisei | The Phnom Penh Post
[Manet lauds Kingdom's investment potential](#) – Hin Pisei | The Phnom Penh Post
[New \\$500 million SEZ on way in Preah Sihanouk](#) – Hin Pisei | The Phnom Penh Post
[Cambodia, Germany discuss closer transport connectivity](#) – Hin Pisei | The Phnom Penh Post
[Breaking Barriers: Young Women Lead Cambodia's Tech Revolution](#) – Seoung Nimol | CamboJa News
[Environment ministry lays out plans to eliminate plastic bags from supermarkets](#) – Phak Seangly | The Phnom Penh Post
[Carbon Credit Project Still Threatens Indigenous Livelihoods After Compromised Review](#) – Seoung Nimol | CamboJa News
[Hun Manet: Cambodia won't be a base for kidnapping, cybercrime, trafficking](#) | The Nation/Xinhua/The Star/Asia News Network

Indonesia

Politics

[Indonesia press freedom fears after magazine sent rats, pig's head](#) | CNA/AFP
[Sovereign fund Danantara Indonesia's 'dream team' names ex-presidents, ex-Thai PM Thaksin, experts](#) | The Straits Times/Reuters
[Indonesia passes controversial law allowing greater military role in government](#) – Kate Lamb | The Guardian
[Indonesia keeps commitment on energy transition](#) | Vietnam Plus
[Indonesia Targets 8 Million Jobs with 30 Strategic Projects](#) – Vinnilya | Jakarta Globe
[Can Indonesia produce more food without deforestation?](#) | Eco Business/Thomson Reuters Foundation
[EXPLAINED: Why proposed revisions to Indonesia's military law alarm democracy activists](#) – Tria Dianti | Berna News
[Indonesia Makes Some Progress in OECD Bid](#) – Jayanty Nada Shofa | Jakarta Glob.ID
[Ring the Bell for Gender Equality 2025: Promoting Gender Equality in the Workplace](#) – Dewi Elvia Muthiariny | Tempo.co
[Indonesia seeks alternative funding as USAID freeze delays marine conservation efforts](#) – Basten Gokkon | Mongabay
[Indonesia Says It Can Stand on Its Own Without USAID Donations](#) – Jayanty Nada Shofa | Jakarta Glob.ID
[Indonesia: Towards a Durable Political Order?](#) – Muhammad Fajar | Fulcrum
[Indonesia, Japan to partner in Southeast Asia's largest hydropower plant](#) | Vietnam Plus
[Indonesia and Timor Leste Committed to Bilateral Cooperation](#) – Savero Aristia Wienanto | Tempo.co
[Indonesians swindled by scams using President Prabowo deepfakes](#) | CNA

Laos

Politics

[Laos Signs Clean Energy Deal with Chinese, Singaporean Firms](#) – Oulayvanh Sisounonth | Laotian Times
[Govt vows to comply with int'l laws to combat money laundering](#) | Vientiane Times
[Laos signs \\$1.94 billion clean energy deal with Chinese industrial company](#) | The Straits Times/Reuters
[Laos must not blow chance to become the 'Battery of Southeast Asia'](#) – Kensuke Yamaguchi | Nikkei Asia
[Lao, Chinese Foreign Ministers Discuss Closer Ties, Economic Cooperation](#) – Phontham Visapra | Laotian Times
[Laos Marks International Women's Day with Call for Women, Girls Empowerment](#) – Kheuakham Chanlivong | Laotian Times
[Thailand Further Delays High-Speed Rail Project, Now Expected in 2026](#) – Phontham Visapra | Laotian Times

[China-Laos Railway Powers Trade, Transports Over 54 Million Tons of Goods](#) – Kheuakham Chanlivong | Laotian Times
[Low Wages, High Costs: Lao Workers Struggle as Economic Pressures Mount](#) – Oulayvanh Sisounonth | Laotian Times
[Japan pledges US\\$11.3m grant aid to finance socioeconomic development](#) | Vientiane Times
[Govt outlines priorities to drive 2025 growth](#) | Vientiane Times



Malaysia

Politics

[Malaysia will provide US\\$2.3 million in earthquake aid to Myanmar: PM Anwar](#) | CNA
[Malaysia set to expand defence budget, focus on cyber security](#) | Borneo Bulletin
[PM Anwar in political bind over Malaysia government's US\\$230 million 'bailout' of Sapura Energy](#) – Leslie Lopez | CNA
[Malaysia's top court rejects Najib's bid to block AGC's appeal on house arrest royal addendum order](#) | CNA
[Malaysia eyes trade boost with China and Thailand via new inland port and rail links](#) – Hazlin Hassan | The Straits Times
[Malaysia to tighten semiconductor regulations under US pressure, FT reports](#) | The Straits Times/Reuters
[Do not politicise proposal to limit PM's tenure, Anwar warns Opposition](#) – Zakiah Koya | The Star
[INTERACTIVE: Less pay for women, as wage gap widens in Malaysia](#) – Yuen Meikeng | The Star
[Malaysia aims to be 'global leader' in carbon capture](#) | CNA/AFP
[Malaysian Youth: Mixed Views on Clean Governance Amid Stability](#) – Syaza Shukri | Fulcrum
['Let us not judge' yet: Malaysia PM Anwar on corruption probe against predecessor Ismail Sabri](#) | CNA
[Malaysia's booming semiconductor industry braces for Trump's tariffs](#) – Melissa Goh and Louisa Tang | CNA
[Malaysia signs deal with British chip giant Arm to bolster semiconductor ambitions](#) | CNA/AFP



Myanmar

Political Situation/Coup

[Amid earthquake crisis, Myanmar military still bombs towns](#) | CNA/Reuters
[Musk, Myanmar, and the Murky Future of Internet Freedom](#) – Surachanee Sriyai | Fulcrum
[UN World Food Program to cut food aid for over 1 million people in Myanmar](#) – David Rising | AP
[Myanmar Inches Closer to Reviving Dawei Mega-Project with Russian Money](#) – Pa Pa | The Irrawaddy
[Myanmar Junta Pushes Chinese BRI projects in Rakhine Amid Fierce Fighting](#) – Maung Kavi | The Irrawaddy
[Myanmar to build 110MW nuclear plant, partner on Dawei Port with Russia](#) | The Nation/ Eleven Media/Asia News Network
[Myanmar junta chief announces election for December or January](#) | The Star/Reuters
[Myanmar Junta Eyes Russian Investment in Tanintharyi](#) – Maung Kavi | The Irrawaddy
[Myanmar's head of military government travels to ally Russia for talks with Putin](#) | AP



Philippines

Politics

[Pentagon chief Hegseth heads to Philippines amid South China Sea tensions](#) – Jason Gutierrez | Berna News
[The Philippines's two most powerful dynasties formed an alliance. Now they're at war](#) – Natashya Gutierrez and Naomi Selvaratnam | ABC
[Duterte arrest: Justice or political theater?](#) – Antonio Contreras | The Manila Times
[Marcos Jr. in the shadow of Marcos Sr.](#) – Segundo Eclar Romero | Inquirer
[Philippines Senate launches investigation into Duterte's ICC arrest](#) | Al Jazeera
[Not enough power to share: The political feud behind Rodrigo Duterte's downfall](#) – Jonathan Head | BBC
[Philippines ex-leader Duterte on plane to The Hague after arrest](#) – Joel Guinto and Jonathan Head | BBC
[US-China trade war weighs heavily on Filipino minds, survey finds](#) – Sam Beltran | South China Morning
[Marcos to local gov'ts: Do more vs malnutrition](#) – Julie M. Aurelio | Inquirer
[Canada and Philippines will sign a key defense pact to boost combat drills and military ties](#) – Jim Gomez | AP

[Philippine defense chief warns allies will fight if China restricts flights over South China Sea](#) – Jim Gomez | AP
[Philippines confident Trump will continue military patrols to keep China in check in disputed sea](#) – Jim Gomez | AP
[Philippines-US defence arrangements to stay intact, ambassador to Washington says](#) | Reuters



Singapore

Politics

[Myanmar quake: Singapore calls for immediate ceasefire to facilitate humanitarian aid](#) | CNA
[Singapore, Vietnam break ground on joint industrial park, ink five pacts to deepen cooperation](#) – Alyssa Woo | The Straits Times
[Singapore and Vietnam upgrade ties; deepen cooperation in digital economy, renewables](#) – Rachel Chan | CNA
[SG60 a time to reflect on Singapore's growth: PM Wong](#) – Hariz Baharudin | The Strait Times
[New national semiconductor R&D facility in Tampines to open in 2027](#) – Abigail Ng | CNA
[Singapore to buy new submarines, infantry fighting vehicles and maritime patrol aircraft for the SAF](#) – Mike Yeo | The Straits Times
[Govt will help S'poreans cope with cost pressures for as long as needed: PM Wong](#) – Hariz Baharudin | The Straits Times
[S'pore should be realistic, yet confident as new world order takes shape, says Vivian Balakrishnan](#) – Tham Yuen-C | The Straits Times
[EU sanctions second S'pore firm over alleged links to Russia's military efforts](#) – Andrew Wong | The Straits Times
[PM Wong reaffirms Singapore's commitment to Palestinian statehood](#) – Anjali Raguraman | The Straits Times



Thailand

Politics

[Bangkok governor urges owners of 11,000 buildings to check safety](#) | The Nation
[House votes down censure motion against PM](#) | Bangkok Post
[Thai PM Paetongtarn grilled in censure motion over father Thaksin's influence](#) | The Straits Times/Reuters/Bloomberg
[Thai casino plan wins overwhelming support in public hearing](#) | The Straits Times/Bloomberg
[Govt 'still pursuing' Land Bridge project](#) – Chairith Yonpiam | Bangkok Post
[Singapore firm commits copybn to Thai data centre](#) – Suchit Leesa-Nguansuk | Bangkok Post
[Thaksin vows cheaper power to turn Thailand into data centre hub](#) | Bangkok Post/Bloomberg
[Casino cities in Thailand named](#) | Bangkok Post
[Govt vows push for gender equality](#) – Mongkol Bangprapa | Bangkok Post
[Women urged to step up and lead Thai workplaces](#) – Suchit Leesa-nguansuk | Bangkok Post
[Thailand takes top honours as 'Best LGBTQ+ Destination' in Germany](#) | The Nation
[Political tensions weigh on Thai stocks and casino plans](#) – Nareerat Wiriyapong | Bangkok Post
[Charter change looks like a lost cause](#) | Bangkok Post
[Thai Gen Y PM Prepares Defense Against No-Confidence Debate](#) | Khaosod English
[Three groups rally outside Government House against casino bill](#) | The Nation



Timor-Leste

Politics

[Refusal to extradite Teves can affect Timor-Leste's bid to join Asean](#) – Jane Bautista | Inquirer
[Timor-Leste's proposed cyber law sparks concerns](#) | UCA News
[Timor Leste issues stern warning against sexual abuse](#) | UCA News



Vietnam

Politics

[Mending Fences: Vietnam and Cambodia's Diplomatic Reset](#) – Nguyen Khac Giang | Fulcrum

[Can Vietnam Dodge the US Tariff Bullet?](#) – Nguyen Hong Thach | Fulcrum

[BRICS, planes and beef in spotlight as Brazil's Lula visits Vietnam, sources say](#) – Francesco Guarascio | Reuters

[Vietnam, Singapore seek cooperation chances in semiconductor industry](#) | Vietnam Plus

[Party chief's visits to Indonesia, Singapore help raise Việt Nam's standing in ASEAN](#) | Vietnam News

[Momentum for Vietnam-Singapore green-digital economic partnership](#) | Vietnam Plus

[German bank honoured for contributions to Vietnam's development](#) | Vietnam Plus

[Vietnam needs clear strategy for private economic development: Party chief](#) | Vietnam Plus

[Vietnam PM pledges quick licensing for Musk's Starlink, more imports](#) – Francesco Guarascio and Khanh Vu | Reuters