

ASEAN Region – Press Review May 2025

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ASEAN and Southeast Asia Region

ASEAN and Geopolitics

ASEAN want to discuss tariffs with Trump as a unified bloc - Malaysia PM | Thai PBS/AP

East Timor could join ASEAN bloc by October: minister | Thai PBS

Timor-Leste's membership divides Asean – Kavi Chongkittavorn | Bangkok Post

ASEAN exclusion not enough to force Myanmar junta's hand – Phar Kim Beng | Asia Times

The Inaugural ASEAN-GCC-China Summit: Economic Aspirations Amid Strategic Ambiguity – Sufian Jusoh and Joanne Lin | Fulcrum

US tariff hikes, Myanmar war and sea disputes will top ASEAN summit agenda | AP

Youths want greater role in Asean - Gerard Gimino | The Star

ASEAN to dedicate two meetings to Myanmar conflict next week, chief says - Stanley Widianto | Reuters

Malaysia's ASEAN Leadership Aligns with Growing Demand for Pragmatic Alliances | Bernama

China, Asean complete negotiations on upgraded free trade deal | Bangkok Post/Reuters

China Backs ASEAN-GCC-China Summit, Sees Malaysia as Key Regional Partner – Kisho Kumari Sucedaram | Bernama

KL Declaration will set tone for Asean's future in governance, digital transformation, says PM – Tarrence Tan | The Star

China, South Korea and Japan looking into ASEAN's clean energy market amid US scale-back | The Phnom Penh Post/ Asia News Network/The Straits Times

ASEAN-Korea Centre boosts trade ties in Laos and Thailand | Vientiane Times

ASEAN countries face their own 'China shock': Raychaudhuri - Manishi Raychaudhuri | Reuters

ASEAN plans to set up monetary fund | Vietnam Plus

Uncertainty clouds Timor-Leste's admission to ASEAN - Nuno Canas Mendes | East Asia Forum

How the Squad risks upending ASEAN norms - Vincent Kyle Parada | The Interpreter

ASEAN's largest economy slows to lowest growth since Q3 2021 | Vietnam Plus

Will Xi's Three-Nation Visit Convince ASEAN To Challenge Trump? - OpEd - Shankaran Nambiar | Eurasia Review

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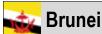
Southeast Asia

An Intelligent Trade-Off: Al as a Double-Edged Sword in Southeast Asia's Climate Battle - Indira Zahra Aridati I Fulcrum

Why are scammers still thriving in Southeast Asia? - Ole Tangen Jr | DW

Trump blinked in trade war with China. Can South-east Asia get a break, too? - Bhagyashree Garekar, Yew Lun Tian, Mara Cepeda, Philip Wen and Shannon Teoh | The Straits Times

China's strategic push — Asia ties amid tariff tensions – Harsh V. Pant | Observer Research Foundation Commentary: Has China's great relocation helped Southeast Asia industrialise? - Maria Monica Wihardia | CNA



Politics

Stronger commitment urged to elevate Malay, Indonesian languages in Brunei | The Star/ Borneo Bulletin/ANN

MoU expands Brunei, Iran economic cooperation | The Star/Borneo Bulletin/ANN Brunei Sultan welcomes Kosovo President on state visit | The Star/Borneo Bulletin/ANN

Cambodia

Politics

Government outline positive expectations of US tariff negotiations - Phak Seangly | The Phnom Penh Post Cambodian, Malaysian chambers ink MoU to jumpstart investment – Hin Pisei | The Phnom Penh Post Fourteen Wastewater Treatment Plants Under Construction Nationwide, As Activist Rep Calls for Preservation of Natural Lakes – Khuon Narim | CamboJa News

RSF Report: Cambodia's Press Freedom Score Drops Further But Gov't States Real Situation is "Very Good" - Khuon Narim | CamboJa News

Cambodia joining global wave to protect oceans at UNOC3 - Hong Raksmey | The Phnom Penh Post Cambodia widens access to China-funded Ream naval base to parry 'lingering suspicion' – Maria Siow | South China Morning Post

Cambodia takes measures to combat fraudulent US exports – Niem Chheng | The Phnom Penh Post



Indonesia

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Indonesia Spends \$40 Billion Annually on Energy Imports, Prabowo Pushes for Energy Independence – Addin Anugrah Siwi, Celvin Moniaga Sipahutar | Jakarta Globe.ID

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Indonesia plans to cut fuel imports from Singapore in favour of US as part of tariff negotiations | The Straits Times/Reuters/Bloomberg

Indonesia emerges as new hub for Chinese solar firms amid Trump's tariffs on Southeast Asia - Amy Sood | South China Morning Post

Prabowo's US-China balancing act of '1,000 friends, zero enemies' - Gilang Kembara | Asia Times Prabowo Hosts Bill Gates for Talks on Sustainable Development and Free Meals – Eka Yudha Saputra | Tempo.co

Indonesia's deforestation claims under scrutiny over 'cherry-picked' data - Hans Nicholas Jong | Mongabay Prabowo pledges to take back state assets controlled by private business | The Jakarta Post



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In Laos, coffee agroforestry needs more than just the shade – Konlaphat Siri | Mekong Eye New Lao-Thai Mekong bridge to open soon, promising economic lift for the region | Vientiane Times Laos, Switzerland Strengthen Efforts to Improve Dam Safety | The Laotian Times Laos job market continues to evolve amid high cost of living | The Star/Vientiane Times/ANN Jica hands over modern engineering facilities to Lao university | The Star/Vientiane Times/ANN United Nations Rights Review Applauds Laos' Engagement but Flags Deep Concerns – Phontham Visapra | The Laotian Times



Malaysia

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Malaysia wants Myanmar ceasefire extended amid ASEAN ban on coup leaders | Al Jazeera Prime Minister Anwar's Visit to Russia: Long on Pomp, Short on Outcomes - Ian Storey | Fulcrum PKR Party Elections Will Shape Malaysia's Political Future – Tricia Yeoh | Fulcrum

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Petronas, Petros to jointly develop Malaysia's oil and gas sectors as federal, Sarawak governments resolve dispute | CNA

Opposition leader proposes 'new national consensus' for Malaysia | Free Malaysia Today

Malaysia PM sees possible reduction in U.S. tariffs, but growth to miss target | Reuters

Malaysia wants to lead Asean in becoming cohesive, values-driven force, says PM - Tarrence Tan I The Star

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Malaysia's PM Anwar retains PKR presidency; daughter vies for No. 2 post in party polls – Harith Mustaffa | The Straits Times

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Myanmar

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Northern Myanmar Poses a Challenge to China's Critical Minerals Strategy - Wai Yan Phyo Naing and Lin Saephoo | The Diplomat

A Path to Peace in Myanmar – Kasit Piromya | The Irrawaddy

Myanmar's Earthquake Threatens a Lasting Economic Scar – Jared Bissinger | Fulcrum

Myanmar crisis deepens as military attacks persist and needs grow - Vibhu Mishra | United Nations

Myanmar Junta Will Weaponize Nuclear Power, Warns UN Envoy | The Irrawaddy



Philippines

Politics

Philippine president calls for all Cabinet secretaries to resign after election setbacks – Jim Gomez | AP ICC extends deadline to disclose witnesses, materials vs Duterte - Charie Abarca | Inquirer

Philippines' Marcos says he is open to reconciling with Dutertes | CNA/Reuters

Duterte lawyers challenge ICC judges' impartiality in drug war case | Borneo Bulletin/ANN/Philippine Daily Inquirer

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Detained in The Hague, ex-Philippines president Duterte wins hometown mayoral election | The Straits Times Marcos' grip on power shaken as Duterte allies, opposition surge in Philippines midterm polls - Mara Cepeda | The Straits Times

Why local elections matter – Randy David | Inquirer

<u>Duterte surges as Marcos flags ahead of crucial midterm polls</u> – Phar Kim Beng | Asia Times

How the Philippines could win big amid the US-China trade battle – Mara Cepeda | The Straits Times



Singapore

Politics

Singapore to expand aquaculture operations in East Johor Strait from 2026 - Ang Qing | The Straits Times Govt will provide help for as long as needed: PM Wong at launch of latest tranche of CDC vouchers - Anjali Raguraman | The Straits Times

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Thai FM Reveals 5 Trade Proposals to US in Bid to Avoid High Tariffs | Khaosod English

Proposed Entertainment Complex: Itself A Gamble - Pravit Rojanaphruk | Khaosod English

Thai officials seize over 200 tons of electronic waste illegally imported from the US | Borneo Bulletin

Thailand, Indonesia pledge to boost trade as strategic partners | The Star

Thai PM's upcoming visit to Vietnam hoped to lift bilateral ties to new heights: Ambassador | Vietnam Plus

Thailand showcases potential as one of Asean's top investors in the US | Bangkok Post

Thai business group says U.S. tariffs will deliver hit to economy | Reuters

Cabinet delays 3rd phase of 10,000-baht handout pending input from govt agencies | The Nation

PM slams critics of casinos – Chairith Yonpiam | Bangkok Post



Timor-Leste

Politics

<u>Timor-Leste: A young nation forged in resilience celebrates its independence</u> – Nongluck Ajanapanya | The Star/ The Nation/ANN

Timor-Leste falls to 39th in 2025 World Press Freedom Index | Tatoli



Vietnam

Politics

<u>'Significant progress' made in second round of Vietnam-US trade talks</u> | The Star/ Vietnam News/ANN <u>Vietnam seeks development and balance in game-changing cross-border rail links with China</u> – Olivia Siong | CNA

Exclusive-Vietnam government document says Trump Organization exploring tower in Ho Chi Minh City – Phuong Nguyen and Francesco Guarascio | The Star/Reuters

Party chief's multi-nation tour yields positive outcomes: Deputy PM | Vietnam Plus

What is Vietnam's administrative 'revolution'? - David Hutt | DW

Vietnam enters fray at disputed South China Sea sandbank – Alan Lu | RFA

Ninh Thuan ramps up nuclear power projects with resettlement push | Vietnam Plus

Vietnam partners with the US to develop nuclear power plants | The Nation

Vietnam, Russia agree to quickly sign nuclear power plant deal | Reuters

Agriculture, environment ministry sets forth key tasks for sci-tech, innovation promotion | Vietnam Plus

Vietnam considers constitutional changes to streamline government structure | Vietnam Net



ASEAN/ Southeast Asia Region and Germany/ EU

Cooperation, International Relations and Geopolitics

French President's state visit to Vietnam aims to expand bilateral ties | Vietnam Plus

<u>Vietnam Partners with Germany and Austria for Agriculture and Technology Developments</u> – Sudhanshu Singh | Vietnam Briefing

Southeast Asia taps Germany's defense industry - David Hutt | DW

<u>Toxic tofu? How plastic waste from the west fuels food factories in Indonesia</u> – Michael Neilson | The Guardian <u>EU-ASEAN Health Summit 2025: Building resilient healthcare through public-private partnerships and regional cooperation</u> | The nation

PM Wong congratulates newly elected German Chancellor Merz, thanks outgoing Scholz – Lok Jian Wen | The Straits Times

From Jungle Diplomacy to Geopolitical Jazz: Why Asean and the EU Are the twin anchors of a fragmenting world – Samirul Ariff Othman | Business Times

ASEAN needs both an EU FTA and zero-emissions community – Phar Kim Beng | The Jakarta Post