

## ASEAN Region – Press Review JULY 2025

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- AI and disinformation fuel political tensions in the Philippines ([link here](#))
- Prabowo, Albanese Affirm Joint Commitment to Nuclear Non-Proliferation ([link here](#))
- Lao Government to Renegotiate Hydropower Deals Amid Public Outcry Over Electricity Prices ([link here](#))
- Retreating Is Not Safety: How Cambodia Drives Women Out of Civic Spaces ([link here](#))
- Preparing Timor Leste to embrace Artificial Intelligence ([link here](#))
- Europe and Southeast Asia champion multipolar global order ([link here](#))
- Southeast Asia Aid Map: 2025 Key Findings ([link here](#))
- ASEAN risks becoming window dressing in a BRICS expansion ([link here](#))
- Plastic for dinner? Why Southeast Asians may have the most microplastics in their bodies ([link here](#))
- Everything you need to know about the Thailand-Cambodia conflict ([link here](#))



### ASEAN and Southeast Asia Region

#### ASEAN

[ASEAN nations can overcome space, disaster constraints in pursuit of nuclear energy: IAEA chief](#) – Koh Wan Ting | CNA

[Malaysia's Push for the ASEAN-GCC-China Summit: Connecting Past and Present](#) – Kuik Cheng-Chwee | Fulcrum

[Can Malaysia nudge ASEAN beyond non-interference to tackle the scam crisis in Myanmar?](#) – Liu Weiyi and Asha Hemrajani | The Interpreter

[China Introduces Special Visa for ASEAN Businesspeople](#) – Adinda Jasmine | Tempo.co

[Prabowo, Albanese Highlight ASEAN's Role in Indo-Pacific](#) – Savero Aristia Wienanto | Tempo.co

[ASEAN risks becoming window dressing in a BRICS expansion](#) – Aniello Iannone | The Interpreter

[The 2016 South China Sea Ruling at Nine: Where Does ASEAN Stand?](#) – Pham Ngoc Minh Trang | Fulcrum

[ASEAN should 'double down' on its integration amid Trump tariff threat: Vivian Balakrishnan](#) – Charmaine Jacob | CNA

[Why is ASEAN planning a rare joint meeting of foreign and economic ministers?](#) – Rashvinjeet S Bedi | CNA

[China backs Southeast Asia nuclear ban; Rubio, Lavrov at ASEAN meeting](#) | Al Jazeera

[US, Russian top diplomats hold fresh talks on Ukraine at ASEAN meeting](#) | Al Jazeera

[ASEAN agrees Myanmar election is not a priority, Malaysia says](#) – Danial Azhar | Reuters

[ASEAN on the hot seat in US tariff negotiations](#) – Adam Schwarz | Asia Times

[Thailand backs Timor-Leste](#) – Poramet Tangsathaporn | Bangkok Post

[Myanmar opposes Timor Leste's ASEAN membership](#) | Thai PBS

[Everything you need to know about the Thailand-Cambodia conflict](#) | ABC

#### Southeast Asia

[Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia face medium risk of severe haze](#) | Borneo Bulletin

[Trump's Tariff Deals With Southeast Asia: It's Complicated](#) – Stephen Olson | Fulcrum

[Southeast Asia Aid Map: 2025 Key Findings](#) | Lowy Institute

[Southeast Asia's foreign assistance to fall more than \\$2bn next year](#) – Erin Hale | Al Jazeera

[Western aid cuts cede ground to China in Southeast Asia: study](#) | Arab News/AFP

[Will nuclear powers help keep nukes out of Southeast Asia?](#) – David Hutt | DW

[Mekong River Commission detects heavy metal contamination along the Mekong](#) – Apinya Wipatayotin | Bangkok Post

[US Duties on Southeast Asian Solar Panel Exports: Where the Sun Does Not Shine](#) – Archanun Kohpaiboon | Fulcrum  
[China says it is willing to take lead in signing Southeast Asia nuclear weapon-free zone treaty](#) | Reuters  
[Plastic for dinner? Why Southeast Asians may have the most microplastics in their bodies](#) – Nicholas Deroose | CNA  
[Southeast Asia and the ‘middle democracy’ trap](#) – Dan Slater | East Asia Forum  
[Southeast Asia urged to rethink manufacturing model](#) – Ben Sokhean | Khmer Times



## Brunei

[MoU strengthens maritime security collaboration](#) – Daniel Lim | Borneo Bulletin  
[EnQuest secures production rights for offshore Brunei block](#) | The Scoop  
[Brunei ends free healthcare for foreign PRs amid escalating costs](#) | The Scoop  
[Sultan announces major reforms to land ownership](#) – Rasidah Hj Abu Bakar | The Scoop  
[DST launches key report on Brunei’s digital economy](#) | The Scoop



## Cambodia

[Ministry of Environment welcomes Japanese tech firms to boost Cambodia’s carbon credit market](#) | Khmer Times  
[Cambodia unveils ambitious waterway plan connecting Kep and Siem Reap](#) | Khmer Times  
[Hun Manet pushes agro-industrial investment in western provinces to boost self-reliance](#) – Mom Kunthea | Khmer Times  
[Sites of Khmer Rouge execution, torture in Cambodia added to UNESCO list](#) | Al Jazeera  
[More than 1,000 arrested in Cambodian cyber-scam raids](#) | Al Jazeera  
[Cambodia passes constitutional change allowing gov’t to revoke citizenship](#) | Al Jazeera  
[Retreating Is Not Safety: How Cambodia Drives Women Out of Civic Spaces](#) – James Gomez and Asia Centre | The Diplomat



## Indonesia

[Mining Row Exposes Ideological and Generational Split Within Indonesia’s Nahdlatul Ulama](#) – Ary Hermawan | Fulcrum  
[Global EV demand is killing Indonesia’s coral ecosystems](#) – Kurniawan Arif Masputi | East Asia Forum  
[Indonesia targets foreign investment with new AI roadmap, official says](#) | CNA/Reuters  
[Commentary: Will Indonesia regret its trade deal with Trump?](#) – Lili Yan Ing | CNA  
[Indonesia to cut tariffs, non-tariff barriers in US trade deal, Trump official says](#) | CNA/Reuters  
[What is Jokowi’s political gameplan after saying he ‘fully supports’ party chaired by son?](#) – Denny Armandhanu | CNA  
[Prabowo Vows Free Healthcare for the Poor if Budget Allows](#) – Alif Ilham Fajriadi | Tempo.co  
[Prabowo, Albanese Affirm Joint Commitment to Nuclear Non-Proliferation](#) – Savero Aristia Wienanto | Tempo.co  
[CO25157 | The Use of Artificial Intelligence in Countering Online Radicalisation in Indonesia](#) – Raneeta Mutiara | RSIS  
[Indonesian civil society urges probe after payout for mine recovery that never happened](#) – Muhibar Sobary Ardan | Mongabay  
[Indonesia tests shows blood mercury rising at ground zero of world energy transition](#) – Rabul Sawal | Mongabay  
[Indonesia’s \\$15 Billion US Energy Import Can Backfire, Analyst Warns](#) – Jayanty Nada Shofa | Jakarta Globe.ID  
[Indonesia’s Free-Lunch Plan Will Cost Prabowo](#) – Daniel Moss | Bloomberg



## Laos

[Lao President Reaffirms Commitment to Deepening Ties with Russia Ahead of Official Visit](#) – Thongsavanh Souvannasane | The Laotian Times

[Laos secures US\\$2.8mil from Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Special Fund to finance development projects](#) | The Star/ Vientiane Times/ANN

[Oudomxay solar farm set to power up this year](#) | Vientiane Times

[Lao Government to Renegotiate Hydropower Deals Amid Public Outcry Over Electricity Prices](#) – Thongsavanh Souvannasane | The Laotian Times

[Laos Wind Farm to Begin Full Operation in Late August, Says Sekong's Deputy Governor](#) – Thongsavanh Souvannasane | The Laotian Times

[Laos Makes Steady Progress in Poverty Eradication, Several Districts Declared Poverty-Free](#) – Kheukham Chanlivong | The Laotian Times

[Laos, China ink pact to enhance transparency in key development zones](#) | Vientiane Times

[Laos Launches Disability-Inclusive Early Warning Workshop to Strengthen Climate Resilience](#) | The Laotian Times



## Malaysia

[Malaysians protest rising living costs, demand PM Anwar Ibrahim step down](#) | Al Jazeera

['Lost economic opportunity': Why are more Malaysian women leaving the workforce after the age of 30?](#) | CNA

[Malaysia PM Anwar announces US\\$24 cash handout for all adults to head off rising costs](#) | CNA/Reuters

[Malaysia's Anwar says new Chief Justice appointment clears him of interference claims](#) | CNA

[Malaysia boosts investment in green technology, digital transformation](#) | Vietnam Plus

[Malaysia strengthens position in global hydrogen ecosystem](#) | Vietnam Plus

[Anwar says ready to meet Umno leaders over Najib royal addendum but won't pre-empt courts](#) – Muhammad Yusry | MalayMail

[Malaysia grapples with growing religious conservatism](#) – Murali Krishnan | DW

[Malaysia's Anwar warns of weaponised trade as Trump's tariffs loom](#) | Al Jazeera

[Anwar's Paris visit a success, marks revival of partnerships across all sectors, says Macron](#) | The Straits Times/The Star/Asia News Network

[PM Anwar takes flak as Malaysia's judiciary faces leadership vacuum](#) – Shannon Teoh | The Straits Times

[Malaysia data centres battle higher power costs, unclear pricing](#) – Sudarshan Varadhan and Ashley Tang | The Star/Reuters



## Myanmar

[Myanmar Regime Sets More Traps to Guarantee Election Win](#) – Maung Kavi | The Irrawaddy

[In Rare Earth Talks, Another Troubling Sign of a US Pivot on Myanmar](#) – Aung Zaw | The Irrawaddy

[Conjuring an Election Illusion in War-Torn Shan; Raiding Offshore Gas to Stay Afloat; and More](#) | The Irrawaddy

[Tin shipments from Myanmar's Wa State due to resume, tin group says](#) – Eric Onstad | Reuters

[Myanmar-India sign agreement to prepare detailed project report for high-voltage cross-border power transmission line](#) | Eleven Myanmar

[Myanmar's Opposition to Timor-Leste's ASEAN Membership](#) – Max Lane | Fulcrum

[Myanmar armed groups rebuff junta's 'cooperation' appeal](#) | The Straits Times/AFP

[Myanmar ramps up cooperation](#) – Panumate Tanraksa | Bangkok Post

[Russian Choppers on Myanmar Junta's Shopping List: Min Aung Hlaing](#) – Maung Kavi | The Irrawaddy



## Philippines

[US-Philippines trade talks yield modest tariff shift after Trump meets Marcos](#) | CNA/Reuters

[AI and disinformation fuel political tensions in the Philippines](#) | Al Jazeera

[Misogynistic politics endures in the Philippines despite crackdown](#) – Athena Charanne Presto | East Asia Forum  
[The Missing Link in Philippine Infrastructure: Local Governments](#) – Camille Bismonte | Fulcrum  
[Japan to export used destroyers to Philippines to deter China, says report](#) | The Straits Times  
[US aircraft carrier makes Philippines port call as the allies increase defence cooperation](#) | The Straits Times/AFP  
[Marcos weighing public sentiment on PH return to ICC – Palace](#) – Luisa Cabato | Inquirer



## Singapore

[Singapore needs trusted media now more than ever, says PM Wong](#) – Ang Hwee Min | CNA  
[Singapore actively dealing with ongoing cyberattack on critical infrastructure: Shanmugam](#) – Davina Tham | CNA  
[Nuclear safety research in Singapore boosted with S\\$66 million grant, new radiation-proof facility in NUS](#) – Koh Wan Ting | CNA  
[New research institute will grow S'pore's talent in nuclear energy, safety](#) – Chin Hui Shan | The Straits Times  
[Singapore to increase pool of early adopters in AI to complement data scientists, engineers](#) – Sarah Goh | The Straits Times  
[Singapore, Vietnam agree to step up defence ties, dialogue between leaders](#) – Anjali Raguraman | The Straits Times  
[Govt will continue to support families, including growing group of seniors: PM Wong at PCF Family Day](#) – Go Yan Han | The Straits Times  
[Singapore and Cambodia to deepen partnerships in renewable energy, carbon markets: PM Wong](#) – Ng Hong Siang | CNA



## Thailand

[Signs and symptoms of Thai stagnation](#) – Thitinan Pongsudhirak | Bangkok Post  
[Thailand's Climate Change Law Should Be Fortified Before It Is Enacted](#) – Paul Chambers and Watcharapol Supajakwattana | Fulcrum  
[Rethinking Thailand's State Welfare Card: Addressing Targeting Flaws for Greater Impact](#) – Wannaphong Durongkaveraj | Fulcrum  
[Thailand set to finally embrace nuclear power](#) – Yuthana Praiwan | Bangkok Post  
[The Wartime Mining Boom Exporting Rare Earths, and Toxins](#) – Hannah Beech, Mauricio Lima and Weiwei Cai | The New York Times  
[Thailand drops casino legalisation plans after PM suspended](#) | CNA  
[As Thailand does U-turn on legal cannabis, businesses scramble to survive](#) | Al Jazeera  
[Thai politics back at the brink \(again\)](#) – Thitinan Pongsudhirak | Bangkok Post  
[Thailand appoints another acting prime minister amid political turmoil](#) | Al Jazeera  
[Paetongtarn joins new Cabinet ministers to take oath of office at Government House](#) | The Nation  
[Thai prime minister suspended over leaked phone call](#) – Kelly Ng and Thanyarat Dokson | BBC



## Timor-Leste

[Timor-Leste and navigating the ASEAN Way](#) – Flávio Simões | The Interpreter  
[Timor-Leste Set to Become Full ASEAN Member by October 2025](#) – Adinda Jasmine | Tempo.co  
[Timor-Leste rejects Myanmar's opposition to its ASEAN membership](#) | Thai PBS  
[The 11th Seat: Timor-Leste's ASEAN Debut and the Shifting Map of Regional Mobility](#) – Kenneth Lau and Alfred Chong | Fragomen  
[Preparing Timor Leste to embrace Artificial Intelligence](#) | UNESCO



## Vietnam

[Marriage Equality: Could Vietnam Be Next?](#) – Huy Ha | Fulcrum  
[Menace of waste from cheap “green technology” devices](#) | Vietnam News  
[Vietnam steps up engagement with UN in Vienna](#) | Vietnam Plus  
[E10 fuel rollout marks key step in Vietnam’s green energy transition](#) | Vietnam Net  
[Caught in the Crossfire: Vietnam and the Chinese Transshipment Dilemma](#) – Le Hong Hiep | Fulcrum  
[Will Vietnam’s Tariff Deal with the US Make Its Exports More Competitive?](#) – Juthathip Jongwanich and Archanun Kohpaiboon | Fulcrum  
[Vietnam to join international carbon offsetting scheme for aviation](#) | Vietnam Plus  
[The ‘First Lady’ Who Redefines Vietnam’s Diplomacy and Politics](#) – Le Hong Hiep | Fulcrum  
[US-Vietnam trade deal sows new China uncertainty](#) | The Straits Times/AFP  
[Vietnam names 23 new provincial chairs, most from 7X generation](#) – Hoai Thanh | Vietnam Net



## ASEAN/ Southeast Asia Region and Germany/ EU

[Will EU lose out as SE Asia strikes trade deals with US?](#) – David Hutt | DW  
[Building bridges: EU-Taiwan–ASEAN connectivity for a multipolar world](#) – Zsuzsa Anna Ferenczy and Julia Gurol-Haller | 9dashline  
[Germany pushes ratification of EU–Vietnam Investment Protection Agreement](#) | Asia News Network  
[China-led AIIB could play a role in Asean power grid, says bank president](#) – Lim Min Zhang | The Straits Times  
[Europe and Southeast Asia champion multipolar global order](#) – Simone Galimberti | The Jakarta Post  
[‘We are all Vietnamese and came to Germany to build a better life’](#) – Gouri Sharma | Al Jazeera  
[EU Cultural Day: A celebration of music, culture and community](#) | The Scoop  
[Malaysia remains a bright spot for German firms amid global uncertainties](#) – Sharen Kaur | Business Times  
[Vietnam, Germany to fortify dialogues, cooperation](#) | Vietnam Plus  
[Germany’s Economic Pivot to Southeast Asia: Do All Roads Lead to China after All?](#) – Tim Hildebrandt and Julian Klose | China Observers