

ASEAN Region – Press Review AUGUST 2025

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- Court gives Sara Duterte a new lease on political life ([link here](#))
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- EU provides €700,000 humanitarian aid for civilians affected by conflict at Thailand-Cambodia border ([link here](#))
- The EU's Tipping Point in Cybersecurity Cooperation with Southeast Asia: A New Era for Digital Diplomacy? ([link here](#))
- EU-ASEAN Cooperation on Critical Minerals in a New Geo-economic Era ([link here](#))



ASEAN and Southeast Asia Region

ASEAN

[ASEAN economies face slowdown in H2 as export boost fades](#) | The Nation

[B. Grimm urges faster ASEAN energy integration](#) | Borneo Bulletin

[Asean can fend off protectionism blow by boosting integration: Singapore Business Federation chief](#) – Ovais Subhani The Straits Times

[What Can Timor-Leste Bring to ASEAN?](#) – Julia Lau and Sharon Seah | Fulcrum

[Malaysia Can Be 'Beneficiary Window' Linking ASEAN To South Asia Through Bangladesh](#) – Yunus | Bernama

[Malaysia to lead ASEAN delegation to war-torn Myanmar](#) | CNA/AFP

[Malaysia bolsters legal cooperation in ASEAN Economic Community](#) | Vietnam Plus

[ASEAN and China need their own climate compact](#) – Muhammad Zulfikar Rakhmat | The Interpreter

[Securing ASEAN's Nuclear Future: Why the Region Must Move from Consensus to Action – Syarifah](#)

[Huswatun Miswar](#) | Modern Diplomacy

[Asean's charm offensive in full swing](#) – Kavi Chongkittavorn | Bangkok Post

[US Reciprocal Tariffs: Possible Export Strategies for ASEAN](#) – Rajan Sudesh Ratna and Jing Huang | ESCAP

Southeast Asia

[Philippines hosts first regional policy dialogue on loss and damage for Southeast Asia](#) | Eco-Business

[Is China an environmental friend or foe for Southeast Asia?](#) – David Hutt | DW

[Lee Jae Myung's Southeast Asia Policy: Can It Move Beyond Its Vietnam Focus?](#) – Cha Hae Won | Fulcrum

[OECD Green Talks: Securing a Sustainable Plastics Future for Southeast and East Asia](#) | ERIA

[Japan mulls over exporting used destroyers to South-east Asia partners](#) | The Straits Times

[US tariffs won't stop China's long game in SE Asia](#) – Bilal Habib Qazi | Asia Times

[Southeast Asia Should Be Clear-Eyed As It Navigates Trump's Tariff Fog](#) – Stephen Olson | Fulcrum

[Will Trump's trade war widen Southeast Asia's wealth gap?](#) – David Hutt | DW

[Laos, Myanmar Stuck at 40% Tariff Rate as US Reciprocal Trade Regime Takes Effect](#) – Phontham Visapra | The Lao Times

[Vietnam, Indonesia target 18 bln USD trade by 2028 with food security push](#) | Vietnam Net

[Indonesia's ballistic missile deployment, a first in Southeast Asia, could shift regional power balance](#) –

Ericssen | CNA

[Where Does Southeast Asia Fit Within the MAGA Worldview?](#) – Ryan Hass | Fulcrum

[Southeast Asia and the Mirage of Tech Sovereignty](#) – Govand Khalid Azeez and Vishal Rana | The Diplomat



Brunei

[Brunei's flora, fauna valuable asset for 'future generations', says permanent secretary](#) – James Kon | Borneo Bulletin

[Brunei, Thailand seal health collaboration MoU](#) | The Star/Borneo Bulletin/ANN

[Brunei Darussalam Maintains Strong Growth and Stability Amid Global Uncertainty](#) | AMRO

[LegCo member calls for strengthened journey towards Brunei Vision 2035 goals](#) | Borneo Bulletin



Cambodia

[Cambodia MPs pass law allowing stripping of citizenship](#) | CNA/AFP

[Months After US Aid Cuts, Cambodia's Free Press Still Scrambles to Survive](#) – Sovann Sreypich | Camboja News

[Cambodia submits ambitious climate plan to UN, targeting 55% emission cuts](#) – Ben Sokhean | Khmer Times

[Cambodia races to clean its rivers, but wastewater still flows freely](#) – Meng Kroypunlok and Mech Choulay | Mekong Eye

[Displaced and dispossessed, Cambodia's ethnic Cham fishers struggle to survive](#) – Daniel Zak, Vutha Srey | Mongabay

[US Lowers Tariff to 19% on Cambodian Goods, Gains Duty-Free Access; Govt Says Competitiveness Restored](#) – Seoung Nimol and Long Somneang | Camboja News



Indonesia

[Thousands clash with police in Jakarta as protests intensify](#) | The Straits Times/Bloomberg

[Indonesia, US and allies launch joint military drills](#) | CNA/AFP

[In Defence, Indonesia Balances Between Giants—Even as its Politics Shift East](#) – Muhammad Zulfikar Rakhmat and Yeta Purnama | Australian Institute of International Affairs

[Indonesia leads the way as Southeast Asia enters BRICS](#) – Trisha Anjanette Balladares | Value Chain Asia

[Indonesia boosts role of military in food security initiative](#) – Ananda Teresia | Reuters

[US Eyes Indonesian Semiconductor Ecosystem After Tariff Deal](#) – Jayanty Nada Shofa | Jakarta Globe.ID

[Chinese investors eyeing Indonesia to avoid US tariffs, tap local market](#) | Reuters

[Indonesia's Free Meal Program May Cost \\$18B a Year by 2026](#) – Arnoldus Kristianus | The Jakarta Globe.ID

[Indonesia Reaffirms Pledge to Eliminate Plastic Waste by 2029 at Geneva Talks](#) | The Jakarta Globe.ID

[Govt considering 'sovereign AI fund' to drive development](#) | The Star/Reuters

[Indonesia says it will treat 2,000 of Gaza's wounded on uninhabited Galang island](#) – Kate Lamb | The Guardian

[Does Indonesia's New Capital City, Nusantara, Fit into the President's Long-Term Vision?](#) – Yanuar Nugroho and Julia Lau | Fulcrum

[How Prabowo is Rewriting Indonesia's Diplomatic Playbook](#) – Muhadi Sugiono | Tempo.co

[Indonesia's biofuel bet risks backfiring](#) – Siwage Dharma Negara and Zi Xuan Ng | East Asia Forum



Laos

[Laos Eyes Hydropower to Drive Digital Mining Sector](#) – Oulayvanh Sisounonth | The Laotian Times

[Fruit of Her Labor: How a Young Farmer Is Redefining Agriculture in Laos](#) – Kheuakham Chanlivong | The Laotian Times

[Laos, Myanmar deepen ties as they mark 70 years of diplomatic relations](#) | The Star/Vientiane Times/ANN

[Laos Calls for Stronger Mekong Cooperation on Digital Growth, Clean Energy, and Water Management](#) –

Thongsavanh Souvannasane | The Laotian Times

[Wrap: Lao Foreign Minister Visits Singapore, The Philippines](#) – Phontham Visapra | The Laotian Times

[Electricite du Laos Targets New Hydropower, Solar Projects to Boost Power Stability](#) – Phontham Visapra | The Laotian Times

[Japan Donates USD 10.5 Million in Road Repair Equipment to Laos](#) – Thongsavanh Souvannasane | The Laotian Times

[Laos aims to boost farming, cut imports](#) | The Star/Xinhua

[Agriculture for forests: Coffee planting helps curb deforestation in Laos](#) | Vientiane Times

[Lao, Russian Presidents agree to cement ties as numerous deals signed](#) | Asia News Network/Vientiane Times

[BYD expands in Laos with new dealership in Vientiane](#) | Vientiane Times



Malaysia

[Malaysia tightens plastic waste import controls](#) | Vietnam Plus

[Anwar's Diplomatic Dilemma](#) – Khairy Jamaluddin | Fulcrum

[Malaysia's top court allows jailed ex-PM Najib to pursue legal bid for house arrest](#) | The Straits Times/Reuters

[Saving Malaysia's AI Dream Amid Shifting US Tech and Trade Policies](#) – Tham Siew Year | Fulcrum

[IN FOCUS: Why is Malaysian oil giant Petronas under siege and its fate crucial for the country?](#) – Leslie Lopez | CNA

[Malaysia King will make state visit to Russia for Putin meeting](#) | The Straits Times/Bloomberg

[What's it like to deal with brutal US tariffs? Ask Malaysia](#) – Alexandra Stevenson and Zunaira Saieed | The Straits Times/New York Times

[Malaysia to modernise defence with drone integration, Turkish UAV deliveries expected in 2026](#) – Arfa Yunus, Khoo Gek San and Junaid Ibrahim | The Star

[Malaysia will 'protect every inch of Sabah' in maritime dispute with Indonesia, says PM Anwar](#) – Aqil Haziq Mahmud | CNA

[Rising govt debt under control, directed at development, says Anwar](#) – Khoo Gek San, Arfa Yunus and Junaid Ibrahim | The Star



Myanmar

[Why do war-torn Myanmar's generals want elections?](#) – Zsombor Peter | DW

[Myanmar junta sets Dec 28 poll date despite raging civil war](#) | CNA/AFP

[Myanmar region sees 'dramatic' hunger rise after aid cutbacks](#) | The Star/AFP

[Myanmar ethnic group vows to block elections in its enclave](#) | CNA/AFP

[Satellite images show surge in rare earth mining in rebel-held Myanmar](#) – Zsombor Peter | Al Jazeera

[Myanmar's other war: The battle for financial control](#) – Sean Turnell | The Interpreter

[Dangerous Mekong River pollution blamed on lawless mining in Myanmar](#) – Fabio Polese | Al Jazeera



Philippines

[Philippine president fires police chief, who led the arrests of Duterte and televangelist Quiboloy](#) – Jim Gomez | AP

[Philippines' new forest policy wins business backing but alarms green groups](#) – Keith Anthony Fabro | Mongabay

[New Philippine-Japan defence deal to take effect on Sept. 11](#) | Vietnam News

[US and Philippines discuss more missile system deployments as tensions rise in South China Sea](#) – Jim Gomez | AP

[A South China Sea collision brings US-Philippines alliance to the fore](#) – Richard Javad Heydarian | The Interpreter

[Filipino communities use vast variety of endemic plants for health: Study](#) – Keith Anthony Fabro | Mongabay

[Court gives Sara Duterte a new lease on political life](#) – Jason Gutierrez | Asia Times

[Can Philippines' semiconductor sector weather Trump's 100% tariff storm?](#) – Sam Beltran | South China Morning Post
[Locking in a resilient Philippine foreign policy](#) – Segundo Eclar Romero | Inquirer
[Speaker to Senate: Impeach bid seeks answers Sara Duterte never gave](#) – Gabriel Pabico Lalu | Inquirer
[Philippine, Indian navies begin first joint South China Sea patrols](#) | The Straits Times/AFP



Singapore

[Singapore seals carbon credit deal with Thailand, its first South-East Asian partner](#) | The Nation/The Straits Times/Asia News Network
[Singapore Parliament releases seating plan for 15th term: Find out who is sitting where](#) – Goh Yan Han | The Straits Times
[Nowhere to run: Why Singapore needs to start protecting its coasts now](#) – Shabana Begum and Chin Hui Shan | The Straits Times
[SG60: The future of Singapore's economy](#) – Khor Hoe Ee | The Straits Times
[Singapore celebrates success on 60th anniversary but challenges loom ahead](#) – Adam Hancock | Al Jazeera
[How urban greening is helping Singapore bounce back from widespread forest loss](#) | Mongabay
[Singapore must stay socially progressive while conserving its cultures: President Tharman](#) | The Straits Times
[Singapore launches review of economic strategy to stay ahead of global shifts](#) – Goh Yan Han | The Straits Times
[AI investments in Singapore over the last 12 months](#) | The Straits Times



Thailand

[Thai PM removed from office over leaked phone call](#) | BBC
[One year of Paetongtarn: government at risk, policies at breaking point](#) | The Nation
[Thailand's 'Land Bridge' Project Gets Green Light to Transform Global Trade](#) | The Nation
[Fresh hope for clean energy targets](#) – Yuthana Praiwan | Bangkok Post
[Thailand's First Climate Change Law Nearing Approval, with Focus on Carbon Reduction and Adaptation](#) | The Nation
[Thailand looks to expand foreign labour pool](#) | Bangkok Post
[Cannabis reclassification boosts tourism, say tourism associations](#) | The Nation
[Government spends 12bn baht to subsidise 100,000 EVs](#) | The Nation
[Ministry prepares stimulus measures to counter tariff](#) – Wichit Chantanusornsiri | Bangkok Post
[Thailand passes its first law to protect ethnic groups](#) – Nicha Wachpanich | HardStories
[Thailand braces for a storm of political rulings through August and September](#) | The Nation
[Thai Government Outlines Trade Measures Response to New US 19% Tariff](#) | Khaosod English



Timor-Leste

[Timor-Leste a key partner in building a peaceful ASEAN: Minister](#) | Antara
[Location plans for new Timor-Leste stadium sparks environmental concerns](#) | ABC
[Timor-Leste Says It Has 'Very Low' Foreign Debt Ahead of ASEAN Membership](#) – Jayanty Nada Shofa | Jakarta Globe.ID
[Border Clash Highlights Decades-Old Rift Between Indonesian and Timor-Leste Communities](#) – Muhammad Firman and David Wilson | Jakarta Globe



Vietnam

[Is Vietnam going too far with its tax revolution?](#) – David Hutt | DW

[Vietnam Wants to Be the Next Asian Tiger And It's Overhauling Its Economy to Make It Happen](#) | Jakarta Globe.ID/AP

[PM urges removal of legal obstacles in mining, land management](#) | The Saigon Times

[Vietnam's EV market attractive to both domestic, foreign manufacturers](#) | Vietnam Plus

[Farmers displaced by \\$1.5bn Trump golf course reportedly being offered rice and cash](#) – Rebecca Ratcliffe | The Guardian

[One year into his rule, Vietnamese leader To Lam continues his all-out war on independent journalism](#) | RSF

[Deputy PM urges completion of site clearance for Ninh Thuan nuclear power project in 2025](#) | Vietnam Plus

[National energy master plan revision task approved](#) | Vietnam Plus

[Carbon market development accelerated](#) | Vietnam News

[Record heatwave blasts northern Vietnam](#) | The Straits Times



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[German scholar confident in Vietnam's prosperity](#) | Vietnam Plus

[Germany extends support for sustainable forest management in Laos](#) – Siladda Suliyong | Vientiane Times

[Vietnam writes great success story: German experts](#) | Vietnam Plus

[Indonesia–Germany Consolidate Partnership: From CEPA to the State Visit of the President of Indonesia](#) | ASEAN AI

[EU provides €700,000 humanitarian aid for civilians affected by conflict at Thailand-Cambodia border](#) | EEAS

[EU Ambassador visits Savannakhet to strengthen ties, mark 50th anniversary of relations](#) | Vientiane Times

[EU bluffing it will protect the Philippines from China](#) – Sebastian Contin Trillo-Figueroa | Asia Times

[German foreign minister criticizes China ahead of trip to Japan, Indonesia](#) | The Jakarta Post/Reuters

[From the Rhine to the Mekong: Unlocking ASEAN-EU Trade Potential](#) – Sean Tan | Modern Diplomacy

[German firm unveils \\$175 million R&D centre plans in Ho Chi Minh City](#) – Thanh Van | Vietnam Investment Review

[The EU's Tipping Point in Cybersecurity Cooperation with Southeast Asia: A New Era for Digital Diplomacy?](#) | Foreign Policy Watchdog

[Students from Southeast Asia in demand at universities](#) – David Hutt | DW

[Diversifying partnerships in Indonesia's nickel downstreaming strategy](#) – Alloysius Joko Purwanto and Han Phoumin | The Jakarta Post

[Indonesia becomes first ASEAN country granted 5-year Schengen visa privilege](#) – Gregers Møller | Scand Asia

[Cabinet finalises multi-billion-baht weapons procurement](#) | The Nation

[China exports top forecasts as EU, ASEAN shipments offset US drop](#) – Isabel Kua and Peter Catterall | OC Today-Dispatch/AFP

[EU-ASEAN Cooperation on Critical Minerals in a New Geo-economic Era](#) – Zsuzsa Anna Ferenczy | Observer Research Foundation