

ASEAN Region – Press Review OCTOBER 2025

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- How the Myanmar Junta's Election Laws Are Stifling Dissent Ahead of Polls ([link here](#))
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- Exclusive: China, Malaysia in talks for rare earths refinery project, sources say ([link here](#))
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ASEAN and Southeast Asia Region

ASEAN

[ASEAN Adopts Landmark Declarations Affirming Right to Peace, Development and Healthy Environment](#) | Bernama

[US Grants 0% Tariffs to Three ASEAN Nations Under New Trade Pacts](#) | The Nation

[Thailand and Cambodia Sign Peace Deal at ASEAN Summit](#) – Erich Parpart | Thai Enquirer

[Trump in Kuala Lumpur: Upstaging ASEAN?](#) – Tang Siew Mun | Fulcrum

[PM Anwar: ASEAN must stay united, adaptable amid uncertainty](#) | Borneo Bulletin/Bernama

[ASEAN's growing geopolitical and economic clout draws attention from world leaders: Former sec-gen](#) – Aslam Shah and Calvin Yang | CNA

[Asean unveils 2026-2030 roadmap for clean-energy links](#) – Natasha Busst | Free Malaysia Today

[World Bank, ADB back Asean cross-border power grid project](#) – Luqman Amin | The Edge Malaysia

[Asean's regroup requires deep reforms](#) – Thitinan Pongsudhirak | Bangkok Post

[Caught in the Sino-US Crossfire: ASEAN Needs to Act as One](#) – Maria Monica Wihardja and Dennis Trinidad | Fulcrum

[Asean energy ministers to ink key agreements at 43rd AMEM – Natasha Busst](#) | Free Malaysia Today

[Trump 'looking forward' to Thailand-Cambodia ceasefire deal at ASEAN summit, Malaysia says](#) – Rozanna Latiff | Reuters

[Flawed Asean needs to regain footing](#) – Thitinan Pongsudhirak | Bangkok Post

[Asean is already economically divided. AI will make it worse](#) – Hariz Baharudin, Mara Cepeda, Phillip Wen and Hazlin Hassan | The Straits Times

[ASEAN to discuss Myanmar election observers at October summit](#) | Reuters

[Trump seeks peace ceremony spotlight at ASEAN summit](#) – Phelim Kine | Politico

[Philippines to take ASEAN chair with focus on South China Sea](#) | CNA

Southeast Asia

[Energy trade in Southeast Asia: The need to address resource nationalism](#) – Mirza Sadaqat Huda | Eco-Business

[Trump strikes deals on trade, critical minerals in Southeast Asia](#) | Reuters
[South-east Asia's emerging carbon markets could be Singapore's defining opportunity](#) – Ch'ng Li-Ling and Tan Chong Huat | Business Times
[Air pollution from forest fires may intensify Southeast Asia storms: study](#) | Borneo Bulletin
[Forest clearing in South-east Asia causes more heat-related deaths than in other tropical places](#) – Shabana Begum | The Straits Times
[Opinion: Fractured crossroads — How Southeast Asia is splitting in two](#) – Abbi Kanthasamy | The Edge Malaysia
[Social Media and Southeast Asian Youth's Solidarity Beyond Borders](#) – Panarat Anamwathana and Lim Halimatusa'diyah | Fulcrum



Brunei

['Economic diversification now a national responsibility'](#) | Borneo Bulletin
[Inchcape Brunei pledges to reduce carbon footprint through solar panel initiative](#) | The Scoop
[Brunei welcomes Gaza ceasefire, calls for full implementation](#) | The Star/Borneo Bulletin/ANN



Cambodia

[NGOs Urge Stronger Action on Gender Equality Amid Violence and Debt](#) – Sovann Sreypich | CamboJa News
[Cambodia urges global front against cyber fraud](#) | Borneo Bulletin/ANN/The Phnom Penh Post
[The dangers of wars fuelled by Cambodia's digital forays into Bitcoin](#) – Phar Kim Beng | Malaysia Mail
[Koh Sralao to become Cambodia's first 'carbon neutral island'](#) – Phak Seangly | The Phnom Penh Post
[Op-Ed: Freedom of Association at an Impasse: Cambodia's Systemic Union Registration Barriers](#) – Center for Alliance of Labor and Human Rights | CamboJa News
[Gold-mining firm faces heat for polluting stream](#) – Sen David | Khmer Times
[Cambodia Urged to Fast-Track Clean Energy or Risk Losing Garment Brands](#) – Marissa Carruthers | Kiripost



Indonesia

[Indonesia announces cash handout, internship programme to stimulate economy](#) | CNA/Reuters
[Indonesia to introduce mandatory bioethanol-blended gasoline in 2027, minister says](#) | Reuters
[Indonesia must look beyond nickel to unleash its global potential](#) – Jannata "Egi" Giwangkara | Nikkei Asia
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[Takaichi and Prabowo can redefine the Japan-Indonesia relationship](#) – Ayu Rachman | The Interpreter
[Indonesia Hands Over 1.8 Million Hectares of Seized Palm Oil Land to State Firm](#) | Jakarta Globe.ID/Antara
[Indonesia's shrimp industry reels after radioactive contamination case](#) | The Straits Times/Reuters
[Prabowo orders acceleration of Indonesia's free-meals programme with stronger controls amid food poisoning outbreaks](#) | CNA
[Indonesian military begins producing multivitamins distributed through meals programme](#) | CNA/Reuters
[Indonesia reiterates support for Palestine amid Prabowo's appearance in Israel campaign](#) | The Straits Times/The Jakarta Post/Asia News Network



Laos

[Rare earth mining expands into Laos, threatening entire Mekong River](#) | Mongabay
[Lao Green Business Forum 2025 sets vision for Laos as ASEAN's future Green Business Hub](#) | The Laotian Times
[Laos' Foreign Minister Concludes Visit to Brunei, Pledges Stronger Partnership](#) – Phontham Visapra | The Laotian Times
[Japan pledges US\\$4.3 million to modernise Laos' geospatial infrastructure](#) | Vientiane Times

[To track a unicorn: Laos team goes all out to find the last saolas](#) – Carolyn Cowan | Mongabay
[Laos aims to significantly increase renewable energy share by 2030](#) | Vientiane Times
[Vang Vieng Under Review for ASEAN Clean Tourist City Award](#) – Oulayvanh Sisounonth | The Laotian Times



Malaysia

[Malaysia moves to tackle food waste through new law](#) | Borneo Bulletin
[Trump's semiconductor tariff threat casts long shadow on Penang's chip hub status](#) – Amir Yusof | CNA
[MyPower fund signals Malaysia's tangible push for nuclear energy](#) – CGS International | The Edge Malaysia
[Malaysia's politics shaken and stirred by alcohol controversies](#) – Hazlin Hassan | The Straits Times
[Why is Malaysia banning more books?](#) – Zsombor Peter | DW
[Thousands in KL march against Urban Renewal Act, invoking parallels to 'stolen' Palestinian land – Lu Wei Hoong](#) | The Straits Times
[Exclusive: China, Malaysia in talks for rare earths refinery project, sources say](#) – Rozanna Latiff, Danial Azhar and Mei Mei Chu | Reuters



Myanmar

[The Intangible Yet Unmistakable Costs of Myanmar's Political Crisis](#) – Sharon Seah | Fulcrum
[Myanmar and Thailand discuss expansion of offshore energy cooperation](#) | Mizzima
[How the Myanmar Junta's Election Laws Are Stifling Dissent Ahead of Polls](#) – Myo Pyae | The Irrawaddy
[Myanmar junta says Malaysia to observe election](#) | Borneo Bulletin
[Myanmar's rare earth gold rush is fool's gold](#) – Thant Thura Zan | East Asia Forum



Philippines

[BMI: Philippines crowned 'most nuclear-ready' nation in ASEAN](#) – Gabriell Christel Galang | Manila Bulletin
[A protected mangrove forest stands strong as Metro Manila's last coastal frontier](#) – Mikael Angelo S. Francisco | Mongabay
[Philippines accuses China of ramming, damaging vessel in South China Sea](#) – Ted Regencia and News Agencies | Al Jazeera
[Distrust in govt hits 3-year high – survey – Franco Jose C. Baroña](#) | The Manila Times
[How corruption drowns the Philippines' climate response](#) – Cristina Eloisa Baclig | Inquirer
[Philippines seeks agri partnership with Timor-Leste](#) – Dexter Barro II | Manila Bulletin
[ICC rejects release bid from ex-Philippines president Duterte](#) | Borneo Bulletin/AFP
[IMF joins others, cuts Philippine growth outlook on tariff woes](#) – Ian Nicolas P. Cigaral | Inquirer



Singapore

[Singapore to deepen nuclear energy cooperation with US institutes, issues background paper to allay public concerns](#) – Koh Wan Ting | CNA
[Singapore firms commit S\\$5.5 billion of investments to SEZ in Johor; Malaysia unveils new steps to woo investors](#) – Izzah Aqilah Norman | CNA
[Steer clear of identity politics, uphold integrity of Singapore's secular system: Shanmugam](#) – Linette Lai | The Straits Times
[S'pore constantly looks to improve external ties, takes upgraded partnerships seriously: PM Wong](#) – Anjali Raguraman | The Straits Times



Thailand

[Thais use rare earth leverage](#) – Wichit Chantanusornsiri | Bangkok Post

[Concerns grow over MoU on cooperation in “critical minerals” supply chains between Thailand and the U.S.](#) | Bangkok Tribune

[Forest sanctuaries and spiritual balance in the Karen highlands of Thailand](#) – Carolyn Cowan | Mongabay

[Senate paves way for vital clean air act](#) | Bangkok Post

[March 29 proposed as Thai election date](#) – Aekarach Sattaburuth | Bangkok Post

[SPECIAL REPORT SERIES: The Poisoned Rivers: From gold to rare earth, unregulated mining in Myanmar poisons the Mekong and its tributaries in Northern Thailand](#) – Piyaporn W. | Bangkok Tribune

[Thais see Anutin’s economic policy as short-term relief: Dusit Poll](#) | The nation

[Coalition draft to be change basis](#) – Apinya Wipatayotin | Bangkok Post

[Thai industry hopes new government will hasten climate change act, power development plan](#) – Samantha Ho | EcoBusiness

[Energy Minister plans new committee to drive Thailand’s Net Zero goals and Power Development Plan](#) | The Nation



Timor-Leste

[Timor-Leste seeks trade & investment expansion following ASEAN accession](#) | Vietnam Plus

[Gusmao says Asean membership begins inspiring new chapter for Timor Leste](#) – Ragananthini Vethasalam, Rahimy Rahim, Tarrence Tan, Allison Lai and Gerard Gimino | The Star

[East Timor, Asia’s youngest nation, becomes ASEAN’s 11th member](#) – Danial Azhar and Rozanna Latiff | Reuters

[Organised crime may be infiltrating Timor-Leste’s government. One minister is sounding the alarm](#) – Jo Adetunji | The Conversation

[Timor-Leste pushes a US\\$40 million energy infrastructure project](#) | The Macao News

[What Does an ASEAN Membership Mean for Timor-Leste?](#) – Joao da Cruz Cardoso | Stratsea

[Timor-Leste eyes more Japanese investment with ASEAN entry](#) | Borneo Bulletin/Bernama

[Can Timor-Leste Transition from an ASEAN Observer to a Regional Contributor?](#) – Teh Lip Li | The Diplomat



Vietnam

[Vietnam seeks to tighten control over rare earths for national security](#) – Son Ha | VN Express

[Traditional ecological knowledge is under threat in the Vietnamese Mekong Delta](#) – Thong Anh Tran and Duong Van Ni | East Asia Forum

[Vietnam, Singapore foster links in electronics, industrial production](#) | Vietnam Plus

[Vietnam, France promote cooperation in innovation](#) | Vietnam Plus

[Northern Vietnam becomes center of FDI attraction](#) – Phuong Hoa | VNEconomy

[Vietnam re-elected to UN Human Rights Council with highest regional votes](#) | Vietnam Net

[Is Vietnam turning against LGBTQ+ rights?](#) – David Hutt | DW



ASEAN/ Southeast Asia Region and Germany/ EU

[Asean and EU are both confronted with almost identical complex challenges](#) – Phar Kim Beng, Luthfy Hamzah and Rahmah Azizan | Malay Mail

[Finland’s Accession Into TAC A Bridge Linking Southeast Asia And Europe](#) – Nur Atiq Maisarah Suhaimi and Nursyabiha Sukri | Bernama

[EU wants Asean ties to be elevated to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership by 2027](#) – Nor Ain Mohamed Radhi, Qistina Sallehuddin, Iylia Marsya Iskandar | New Straits Times

[ASEAN must ‘push for change’ in Myanmar: Top EU rights official](#) | CNA/AFP

[Germany’s Hessen state ready to support Vietnam in developing int’l financial centres](#) | Vietnam Plus

[Europe notches an early win in Indonesian free trade deal](#) – Henry Storey | The Interpreter

[EU backs Vietnam’s clean energy transition with €430m package](#) – European Investment Bank | Development Aid

[Singapore Strengthens Europe–Asia Ties at Inaugural Europe Conference 2025](#) | IN Diplomacy

[The EU and Singapore hold their 11th Senior Officials’ Meeting \(SOM\) in Brussels](#) | Asean All

[Thailand eyes Europe's booming plant-based protein market as demand surges](#) | The Nation
[Indonesia regrets EU's move to appeal on WTO biodiesel ruling](#) | CNA/Reuters
[Southeast Asia: CDP among signatories of joint declaration on energy security](#) | CDP
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Yanitha Meena | ISIS Malaysia
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