

## ASEAN Region – Press Review NOVEMBER 2025

Contact: [info@th.boell.org](mailto:info@th.boell.org)

For our readers in a rush, our editors recommend the following 11 news articles:

- ASEAN should have collective voice at UN climate conferences: Malaysian official ([link here](#))
- Cambodia launches \$9.8M climate resilience plan for most vulnerable districts ([link here](#))
- Indonesia pledges energy transition — but the country's new NDC says otherwise ([link here](#))
- Malaysia Solidifies Leadership In Advancing ASEAN Climate Collaboration At COP30 ([link here](#))
- War-torn Myanmar embraces solar to tackle power crisis ([link here](#))
- Philippines urged to break silence as climate talks deadlocked on fossil fuels ([link here](#))
- Singapore backs global push for sustainable cooling as cities step up heat action at COP30 ([link here](#))
- Thailand cabinet approves NDC 3.0, accelerating Net Zero to 2050 ([link here](#))
- Timor-Leste after COP30 in Brazil: the BBNJ Agreement, and the Imperative of Climate Justice ([link here](#))
- Vietnam steps up drive for sustainable green projects on path to net zero ([link here](#))
- People, Finance, Nature: What COP30 Means for Southeast Asia ([link here](#))



## ASEAN and Southeast Asia Region

### ASEAN

[Tackling Asean grid's \\$800bn challenge](#) – Rapeepat Ingkasit | Bangkok Post

[ASEAN should have collective voice at UN climate conferences: Malaysian official](#) – Ang Qing | Asia News Network/The Straits Times

[Timor-Leste: to join the ASEAN neighbourhood, start with the house next door](#) – Iona Main | The Interpreter

[Timor-Leste steps up as ASEAN's new neutrality anchor](#) - Shafiah Muhibat | East Asia Forum

[Vietnam The Fulcrum Of India's Defence And Strategic Policy Towards ASEAN – Analysis](#) – Rajaram Panda | Euriasia Review

[ASEAN Must Act On Tariff Fallout With Clearer Trade Rules](#) - BNM Governor | Bernama

[ASEAN's Upgraded ATIGA Pact to Help Members Settle Trade Dispute](#) – Jayanty Nada Shofa | Jakarta Globe.ID

[China, ASEAN pledge deeper collaboration](#) – Yang Ran | The Nation/China Daily/Asia News Network

[Where the Philippines might lead ASEAN](#) – Richard Javad Heydarian | The Interpreter

[PH sets ASEAN chairship agenda: Security, digital, climate, people](#) – Marita Moaje | Philippines News Agency

[Philippines eyes completion of South China Sea code as ASEAN chair next year](#) | Reuters

[Left out of Asean trade deals](#) | Inquirer

[Korea's New ASEAN Policy: Pragmatic Partnership for a Shared Future](#) – Lee Jaehyon|Ko Youngkyung | Fulcrum

[ASEAN can't let Trump's America set the pace on climate action](#) – Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad

[Philippines takes the helm as Chair of ASEAN](#) | Borneo Bulletin

[Smart grids can drive ASEAN's industry boom](#) – Alnie Demoral and Dinita Setyawati | The Nation/China Daily/Asia News Network

### Southeast Asia

[AI's growth is depleting water reserves](#) - Friederike Rohde & Paz Peña | Bangkok Post

[Great aspirations? Examining Russia's role in Southeast Asia](#) – Georgi Engelbrecht | The Interpreter

[Toxic mines put Southeast Asia's rivers, people at risk, study says](#) – Napat Wesshasartar and Devjyot Ghoshal | Reuters

[Southeast Asian Countries Engaging in Export Circumvention: Not So Fast](#) – Archanun Kohpaiboon and Ratchanon Ketramrit | Fulcrum

[People, Finance, Nature: What COP30 Means for Southeast Asia](#) – Trang Nguyen | The Diplomat

[S-E Asia protesters at COP30 highlight regional vulnerability, call for more adaptation finance](#) – Ang Qing | The Straits Times

[Sharing renewable energy sources in S-E Asia key to dealing with rising heat: Climate scientist](#) – Ang Qing | The Straits Times

[Australia's role in Southeast Asia's critical-minerals development](#) – Alice Wai | The Strategist

[Sand mining reducing the flow of Southeast Asia's largest lake, new report warns](#) | Loughborough University

[Scam centers in southeast Asia are on the rise despite crackdowns](#) – Huizhong Wu | AP/ABC

[Southeast Asia's digital economy set to top US\\$300b by end-2025; Singapore attracts most AI funding: Report](#) – Abigail Ng | CNA

[Recalibrating Southeast Asia's Climate and Energy Strategies Amid US Policy Shifts](#) – Angel Hsu and Silvia Landa | Fulcrum



## Brunei

[Wasan Milling Company more than doubles national milling capacity](#) – Aaron Alwines | Biz Brunei

[Brunei higher education summit emphasises role of innovation in South-East Asia](#) | The Star/Borneo Bulletin/ANN

[Brunei, Thailand reaffirm strong defence ties](#) | Borneo Bulletin



## Cambodia

[\\$27 Million Loan Set for \\$1.2 billion Funan Techo Canal](#) – Seoung Nimol | CamboJa News

[Are Cambodia–U.S. Relations Improving—Or Simply Politically Convenient for Trump?](#) – Seoung Nimol | CamboJa News

[Why is the US restarting military drills with Cambodia?](#) – David Hutt | DW

[Cambodia's Prince Group denies link to scams after asset seizures](#) | CNA

[Global Index Flags Cambodia for High Organized Crime, Low Resilience](#) – Coby Hobbs | CamboJa News

[Cambodia launches \\$9.8M climate resilience plan for most vulnerable districts](#) – Hong Raksmeay | Asia News Network/The Phnom Penh Post



## Indonesia

[‘We can no longer predict the seasons’: why Indonesia’s coal mindset has to change](#) – Michael Neilson in Jakarta | The Guardian

[Thousands protest against state takeover of palm oil plantations in Indonesia's Riau](#) | Reuters

[Jakarta to allow US firms to sell energy to Indonesia without competitive bidding](#) – Wahyudi Soeriaatmadja | The Straits Times

[Indonesia to boost renewable push with Tolo Wind Farm expansion](#) – Saifulbahri Ismail and Marcel Pereira | CNA

[Jakarta’s new governor Pramono faces his toughest test yet: Building a resilient city amid austerity](#) – Nivell Rayda | CNA

[COP30: Indonesia, Norway seal 12.5 million tons carbon trade deal](#) | Antara

[Indonesia and UNEP join forces to boost forestry and climate action](#) | Antara

[Indonesia to open new land for palm oil plantations, ending freeze on expansion](#) – Bernadette Christina Munthe | The Edge Malaysia/Reuters

[Indonesia grants national hero status to late strongman President Suharto](#) | CNA

[VP Gibran calls for faster development in Papua](#) | Antara News

[Indonesia’s China-funded ‘Whoosh’ railway faces corruption probe](#) – Resty Woro Yuniar | SouthChina Morning Post

[Prabowo opens Southeast Asia's largest petrochemical plant in Cilegon](#) | Antara News

[Indonesia pledges energy transition — but the country’s new NDC says otherwise](#) – Hans Nicholas Jong | Mongabay

[Prabowo’s personal diplomacy needs institutional buy-in](#) – Rizky Ihsan and Adhi Priamarizki | The Strategist



## Laos

[Party Central Committee finalises blueprint for national development](#) | Vientiane Times  
[Lao Government Rolls Out USD-10-Million Electricity Subsidy](#) – Phontham Visapra | The Laotian Times  
[Lao parliament session opens with leaders promising to drive national development](#) | The Star/Xinhua  
[Coffee, livestock, rehab success mark opium replacement achievements in Huaphan](#) | Vientiane Times  
[Mineral Sector Surpasses Five-Year Goals as Government Strengthens Oversight](#) – Kheukham Chanlivong | The Laotian Times  
[New Partnership Strengthens River Data, Forecasting, Sustainable Development in Laos](#) | The Laotian Times  
[Laos Sets New Economic Direction Under 2026–2030 Development Strategy](#) – Beatrice Siviero | The Laotian Times



## Malaysia

[Malaysia Solidifies Leadership In Advancing ASEAN Climate Collaboration At COP30](#) | Bernama  
[Malaysia suspends rare earths, tin mining operations after river water turns blue](#) | CNBC/Reuters  
[Malaysia offers to host new peace talks as Thai-Cambodia border tensions flare](#) | CNA  
[Malaysia banks on Lynas' expansion to become vital cog in rare earth supply chain](#) – Shannon Teoh | The Straits Times  
[Malaysia's Failed BRICS Bid: A Blessing in Disguise?](#) – Tang Siew Mun | Fulcrum  
[As Cabinet vacancies in Malaysia pile up, reshuffle seen as unavoidable](#) – Rashvinjeet S Bedi | CNA  
[Anwar's international success sours at home](#) – Amy Chew | The Interpreter  
[Malaysia's Chairmanship of ASEAN and Anwar Ibrahim's Foreign Policy](#) – David Han Guo Xiong | S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies  
[Malaysia's RM600 MLN Super Magnet Facility to Unlock New Potential in Rare Earth Downstream Industry](#) – Nor Baizura Basri | Bernama



## Myanmar

[Trump ends protected status for Myanmar national](#) | Borneo Bulletin  
[War-torn Myanmar embraces solar to tackle power crisis](#) | Bangkok Post/Reuters  
[Poll shows 96 percent of respondents reject voting in Myanmar junta's upcoming election](#) | Mizzima  
[Why is Myanmar's military scoring victories again?](#) – Zsombor Peter | DW  
[Myanmar scam hub sweep triggers fraudster recruitment rush](#) | Myanmar Now/AFP  
[Scapegoating Myanmar's Ethnic Armies Over Mining Misses the Real Culprit: China](#) – Surachanee Sriyai | The Irrawaddy  
[As Myanmar Launches Election Campaigning, Only Junta-Backed USDP is Visible](#) | The Irrawaddy



## Philippines

[Philippines urged to break silence as climate talks deadlocked on fossil fuels](#) – Iya Gozum | Rappler  
[How a Japan-Philippines pact is countering China](#) – Tommy Walker | DW  
[Rice consumption outpaces production: Why Philippine farms struggle to keep up](#) – Merlina Hernando-Malipot | Manila Bulletin  
[Will the Philippines break ASEAN's complicity with the Myanmar military junta?](#) – Khin Ohmar | DVB  
[Should you care about ASEAN?](#) – Rappler  
[Philippines, Palestine mark first ministerial visit](#) | The Star/Xinhua  
[Philippines: Mass protest in Manila over corruption scandal](#) – Emmy Sasipornkarn | DW/AP/ AFP/dpa  
[Another ghost project: Former DPWH chief Bonoan probed anew](#) – Kathleen de Villa, Mary Joy Salcedo | Inquirer  
[Poor towns near nickel mines pay the price of energy transition](#) – report – Iya Gozum | Rappler  
[Philippines: The harsh reality of climate change \(video\)](#) – Stanley Gajete | DW



## Singapore

[Governments must tackle job concerns amid global AI excitement, investments: PM Wong](#) | CNA  
[First Singaporean to serve as UN under-secretary-general recognised with National Award](#) – Yap Wei Qiang | The Straits Times  
[Singapore's relevance to China hinges on understanding of its evolving priorities: Chan Chun Sing](#) – Kok Yufeng | The Straits Times  
[Government to focus on diplomatic, economic and social efforts: PM Wong \(video\)](#) | CNA  
[Beyond policy, PAP must also set the tone for politics in Singapore: PM Wong](#) – Goh Yan Han | The Straits Times  
[Singapore backs global push for sustainable cooling as cities step up heat action at COP30](#) – Ang Qing | The Straits Times



## Thailand

[Anutin declares readiness for Dec. 12 dissolution, conceding the situation 'can't go on'](#) | The Nation  
[Powering up thriving data centres](#) – Yuthana Praiwan | Bangkok Post  
[Thailand approves US\\$3.1 billion of data centre investments](#) | The Business Times/Reuters  
[Govt confirms January House dissolution date](#) – Mongkol Bangprapa | Bangkok Post  
[Thailand and Sweden push to expand trade relations](#) – Phusadee Arunmas | Bangkok Post  
[Trump 2.0: Dual Challenges for Thailand's External Sector](#) – Juthathip Jongwanich | Fulcrum  
[Unfinished Business: Why Thailand's Tariff Talks Are a Diplomatic Test](#) – Pongkwan Sawasdipakdi | Fulcrum  
[PM wary of US tariff hike](#) – Mongkol Bangprapa and Poramet Tangsathaporn | Bangkok Post  
[Thai PM declares war on scammers](#) – Online Reporters and Wichit Chantanusornsiri | Bangkok Post  
[Pheu Thai unveils new campaign](#) – Aekarach Sattaburuth | Bangkok Post  
[Karen community fighting corn and coal for clean air in northern Thailand](#) – Gerald Flynn | Mongabay  
[Thailand cabinet approves NDC 3.0, accelerating Net Zero to 2050](#) – Wirassanan Tuengtin | The Nation



## Timor-Leste

[Timor-Leste after COP30 in Brazil: the BBNJ Agreement, and the Imperative of Climate Justice](#) – Dionísio Babo Soares | Tatoli  
[Timor-Leste Commemorates World Tsunami Awareness Day with Youth Vigilance and Resilience](#) | UNESCO  
[Timor-Leste expands airport, eyes major gas project ahead of 2029 ASEAN summit](#) – Saifulbahri Ismail and Marcel Pereira | CNA  
[Timor-Leste urged to look beyond natural resources to drive jobs growth \(video\)](#) | CNA  
[Timor-Leste's new budget aims to 'transform the economy' with targeted investments](#) – Anna O'Connor | The Macau News



## Vietnam

[The Domestic Calculations of To Lam's Foreign Policy](#) – Nguyen Khac Giang | Fulcrum  
[Vietnam steps up drive for sustainable green projects on path to net zero](#) | Vietnam Plus  
[Time for Vietnam to Resolve Its Renewable Energy Legal Quagmire](#) – Le Hong Hiep | Fulcrum  
[Will Vietnam Consolidate Its Top Two Leadership Positions?](#) – Le Hong Hiep | Fulcrum  
[Vietnam eyes stronger links with Indonesian firms to tap market potential](#) | Vietnam Plus  
[Vietnam, Czech Republic advance newly upgraded strategic partnership](#) | Vietnam Plus  
[Vietnam, US continue technical round of negotiations on balanced, fair reciprocal trade agreement](#) | Vietnam  
[High-tech manufacturing boom fuels demand for green IPs in Vietnam](#) | Vietnam Plus  
[Vietnam proposes 0% loans, 30-year terms for high-speed railway investors](#) | Vietnam Net  
[Vietnam's agricultural potential untapped due to policy, processing gaps](#) – Tam An | Vietnam Net



## ASEAN/ Southeast Asia Region and Germany/ EU

[IMPC Invests Rp250 Billion to Build ASEAN Polymer Training Center with SKZ Germany](#) | Antara  
[Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to ASEAN presents Credentials to the Secretary-General of ASEAN](#) | ASEAN  
[NA Chairman pledges strong support for EU-ASEAN investors](#) | NhanDan  
[Thailand's foreign minister hopes EU will help bring balance of powers to ASEAN region](#) | Euronews  
[Philippines wants to strengthen cooperation with the EU in South China Sea](#) | Euronews  
[Singapore sees further cooperation between ASEAN and EU on digital economy, deputy PM says](#) – Lim Hui Jie | CNBC  
[Cambodia's exports to EU, ASEAN see double-digit growth in the first 10 months of 2025](#) | Khmer Times/Xinhua  
[EU Trade Pact A Boon for Indonesian Palm Oil, But Deforestation Law Remains in the Way](#) – Tri Listiyarini | Jakarta Globe.ID  
[Workshop seeks to boost agro-forestry-aquatic exports to EU](#) | Vietnam Plus  
[OECD calls for action amid record growth in global steel capacity surplus](#) – Vadim Kolisnichenko | GMK Center  
[Petrovietnam arm, Germany's Messer to build \\$37 mln industrial gas plant in southern Vietnam](#) – Hai Yen | The Investor  
[Asean firms can't afford to ignore EU's AI Act](#) – Ronald JL Chan | The Business Times  
[South China Sea: what does Europe see in the Philippines?](#) – Sam Beltran | South China Morning Post