

## ASEAN Region – Press Review DECEMBER 2025

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

- Indonesia Needs \$757 Billion by 2035 to Meet Climate Targets, Government Says ([link here](#))
- Malaysia's Rare Earth Transition ([link here](#))
- The Election — Another Political Trick by Myanmar's Generals ([link here](#))
- China, Quad and the rare earths mineral competition in Myanmar ([link here](#))
- The Philippines tests 'transition credits' to cut coal use in novel experiment ([link here](#))
- Feature Report – Three's A Crowd: Predictions for the Next Thai General Election ([link here](#))
- Timor-Leste remembers Indonesian invasion 50 years after military assault ([link here](#))
- CO25239 | Between Ambition and Implementation: Just and Inclusive Energy Transitions in Southeast Asia ([link here](#))
- Beyond ASEAN, Southeast Asia reasserts its Global South identity ([link here](#))
- ASEAN's Tightrope: Balancing US And China – OpEd ([link here](#))
- ASEAN and Germany Committed to Strengthen Cooperation ([link here](#))



### ASEAN and Southeast Asia Region

#### ASEAN

[Beyond ASEAN, Southeast Asia reasserts its Global South identity](#) – Sarang Shidore and Joanne Lin | Nikkei Asia

[Head in sand, the way of the ASEAN ostrich](#) – Richard Javad Heydarian | The Interpreter

[India's chance with Timor-Leste to shift ASEAN's gaze](#) – Sanchari Ghosh | The Interpreter

[Five economies seen powering ASEAN's next growth cycle](#) | Vietnam News Agency/The Investor

[ASEAN's Tightrope: Balancing US And China – OpEd](#) – Simon Hutagalung | Eurasia Review

#### Southeast Asia

[Southeast Asia embraces offshore wind power, as Trump bashes renewable energy](#) – Anton L. Delgado and Aniruddha Ghosal | AP

[Climate disasters demand swift action](#) – Genevieve Donnellon-May | Bangkok Post

[What impact will UN climate conference COP30 have on South-east Asia?](#) – Ang Qing | The Straits Times

[CO25238 | Southeast Asia's Nuclear Future](#) – Julius Cesar Imperial Trajano | RSiS

[CO25239 | Between Ambition and Implementation: Just and Inclusive Energy Transitions in Southeast Asia](#) – Margareth Sembiring | RSiS

[COP30: Highlighting the Importance of the Agri-food and Forestry Sectors in Southeast Asia](#) – Elyssa Kaur Ludher and Paul Teng | Fulcrum

[Push and pull for S-E Asia as China counters Malaysia's US trade deal with own pact](#) – Shannon Teoh | The Straits Times

[How cyclones and monsoon rains converged to devastate parts of Asia](#) – visual guide – Graham Russell, Oliver Holmes, Paul Scruton, Lucy Swan and agencies | The Guardian

[UNESCO warns Cambodia–Thailand clashes threaten Preah Vihear heritage](#) | The Nation



### Brunei

[China, Brunei pledge to promote building of community with shared future](#) | Xinhua

[Powering Brunei's AI future](#) | The Star/Borneo Bulletin/ANN



## Cambodia

[Cambodia Pushes for Safer, Inclusive Digital Future at Internet Governance Forum](#) – Khuon Narim | CamboJa News  
[Information Minister Says New Journalist Rules Only for 'Newcomers', Concerns Persist](#) – Khuon Narim and Sovann Sreypich | CamboJa News



## Indonesia

[Putin meets Indonesia's Prabowo to discuss military and energy ties, wheat exports](#) | Reuters  
[Indonesia fines dozens of palm oil, mining companies \\$2.3 billion for operating in forest areas](#) | Reuters  
[Commentary: Sumatra floods show Indonesia is stuck in a cycle of crisis management](#) – Hilman Palaon | CNA  
[Indonesia's new capital falls victim to the politics of forgetting](#) – Ronny P Sasmita and Antoni Putra | Asia Times  
[Indonesia Needs \\$757 Billion by 2035 to Meet Climate Targets, Government Says](#) | Jakarta Globe.ID/Antara



## Laos

[Lao Economy Improves but Lasting Growth Requires Sustained Reforms, Road Network Preservation](#) | The Laotian Times  
[New mapping reveals hidden mining boom in Laos that threatens the Mekong](#) – Andy Ball, Gerald Flynn, Konlaphat Siri | Mongabay  
[Vietnamese investment in Laos surges to US\\$2.5 billion in 2025, rising 59.6 percent](#) | Vientiane Times  
[Laos Sets Timeline for LDC Graduation, Begins Work on Readiness Assessment](#) – Phontham Visapra | The Laotian Times  
[Laos, Cambodia Boost Energy Cooperation in High-Level Talks](#) – Phontham Visapra | The Laotian Times



## Malaysia

[Building BRICS? Anwar's Worldview and Malaysia's Foreign Policy](#) – Isabelle Chua and Francis E. Hutchinson | Fulcrum  
[Malaysia must industrialise rare earths, not just export raw materials, says Liew Chin Tong](#) | MalayMail/Bernama  
[Anwar in no rush to shake up Cabinet](#) – Muguntan Vanar, Tarrence Tan, Gerard Gimino, Rahimy Rahim and Martin Carvalho | The Star  
[As Anwar's govt reaches its halfway mark, a look at key reforms shaping Malaysia's future](#) – Kenneth Tee | The Star  
[Malaysia's Rare Earth Transition](#) – Sribala Subramanian | The Diplomat



## Myanmar

[The Election — Another Political Trick by Myanmar's Generals](#) – Kyaw Zwa Moe | The Irrawaddy  
[China, Quad and the rare earths mineral competition in Myanmar](#) – Rahul Mishra and Shashank Khandwe | Asia Times  
[World Bank sees Myanmar's economy shrinking on conflict, quake](#) | Bangkok Post/Bloomberg  
[Myanmar: Drug production booming amid civil war](#) – Zsombor Peter | DW  
[Obstacles To Climate Finance For Local CSOs In Post-2021 Myanmar – Analysis](#) – Shwetaungthagathu Reform Initiative Centre | Eurasia Review  
[Overseas Myanmar Voters Spurn Election Despite Junta Intimidation](#) | The Irrawaddy



## Philippines

[Flood Control in the Philippines: When Corruption Bedevils Climate Change Mitigation](#) – JC Punongbayan | Fulcrum  
[The Philippines tests ‘transition credits’ to cut coal use in novel experiment](#) – Anton L. Delgado | AP  
[Corruption and political survival](#) – Joel Ruiz Butuyan | Inquirer  
[ADB approves \\$400 million loan to make it easier to do business in the Philippines](#) | Reuters  
[ADB chief pledges support to Marcos for ASEAN 2026 chairmanship](#) | Bilyonaryo  
[Ralliers sidestep junta, ouster moves vs Marcos](#) – Dempsey Reyes, Dexter Cabalza, John Eric Mendoza | Inquirer



## Singapore

[Singapore's founding leaders could not be intimidated into compromising its interests, successors have not forgotten lesson: SM Lee](#) – Justin Ong Guang-Xi | CNA  
[S'pore and rest of world worse off after US tariffs; ties within ASEAN must stay on track: SM Lee](#) | The Straits Times  
[Singapore to invest S\\$37 billion in research, innovation and enterprise over next 5 years: NRF](#) – Ang Hwee Min | CNA  
[Singapore firms power Batam's tech and manufacturing boom](#) – Claudia Lim and Marcel Pereira | CNA



## Thailand

[Thailand's general election date set for February 8](#) | Thai PBS  
[Thailand set for early elections as King endorses PM Anutin's move to dissolve parliament](#) | The Straits Times/Reuters  
[Feature Report – Three's A Crowd: Predictions for the Next Thai General Election](#) – Manassinee Moottatarn | Stratsea  
[Govt makes pivotal step toward OECD membership](#) | Bangkok Post  
[KKP Warns Thailand Risks Falling to Fifth in ASEAN as Deindustrialisation Accelerates](#) | The Nation  
[Cabinet Approves EV Policy Shift to Halt Price Wars and Prevent Oversupply](#) | The Nation  
[Carbon taxes part of new Thai climate law](#) | Bangkok Post/Bloomberg  
[Panel puts flood income loss at B30bn this month](#) – Somruedi Banchongduang | Bangkok Post



## Timor-Leste

[Q&A: East Timor's President Ramos-Horta on diplomacy, Gaza, and the West](#) – Ali MC | Al Jazeera  
[Unregulated tourism risks disrupting Timor-Leste's whale migration](#) – Robin Hicks | Mongabay  
[Timor-Leste remembers Indonesian invasion 50 years after military assault](#) – Vonia Vieira and Doug Dingwall | ABC  
[Regulatory Reform in Timor-Leste: Strengthening Regional \(ASEAN\) and Global \(WTO\) Market Access Opportunities](#) | MCAE



## Vietnam

[Vietnam sets legal framework for artificial intelligence with new national AI law](#) | Borneo Bulletin  
[Russia, Vietnam affirm defence ties as pillar of strategic partnership](#) | Voice of Vietnam  
[Japan pulls out of Vietnam nuclear project, complicating Hanoi's power plans](#) – Francesco Guarascio and Phuong Nguyen | Reuters  
[Ho Chi Minh City seeks 'super policy' to attract global-scale investors](#) | Vietnam Net  
[Vietnam considers special policies for \\$67B North-South high-speed railway](#) | Vietnam Net  
[Digital technology application enhances forest management, protection](#) | Vietnam Plus

  	<b>ASEAN/ Southeast Asia Region and Germany/ EU</b>
<p> <a href="#">ASEAN and Germany Committed to Strengthen Cooperation</a>   Asean All  <a href="#">Germany pledges EUR185.5 million for Vietnam development projects</a>   Voice of Vietnam  <a href="#">Indonesia, Germany cooperate on technology mobilization to finance</a>   Antara  <a href="#">The Philippines and Germany Enter a New Era of Defence Cooperation</a> – Frances Mangosing   Fulcrum  <a href="#">A New Dawn in EU-ASEAN Relations: Brussels Event Unlocks Synergy</a> – Ibrahimjan Abdimutalipjan and Derya Soysal   EU Reflect </p>	