

ASEAN Region – Press Review JANUARY 2026

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- Timor-Leste's governance dilemma: Fear, accountability, and risk ([link here](#))
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ASEAN and Southeast Asia Region

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[ASEAN will not certify Myanmar election or send observers, Malaysia says](#) | CNA/Reuters

[Decarbonising Food Systems: Opportunities for a Concerned ASEAN](#) – Paul Teng | Fulcrum

[Commentary: Myanmar's flawed election is also a test of ASEAN credibility](#) – Tan See Seng | CNA

[Non-interference in Venezuela crisis the way to go for Asean](#) – Phar Kim Beng | Free Malaysia Today

[ASEAN Power Grid: Gleaning Best Practices From Worst Cases – Analysis](#) – Mirza Sadaqat Huda | Eurasia Review

[NESDC warns Asia and ASEAN may slow in 2026 as trade and geopolitical risks mount](#) | The Nation

Southeast Asia

[US trade with Southeast Asia and Taiwan surging despite Trump tariffs](#) – Erin Hale | Al Jazeera

[From Megatrends to Action: Rethinking Industrial Policy in Southeast Asia](#) – Marco Kamiya | Fulcrum

[RedNote's Success and Beijing's Soft Power in Southeast Asia](#) – Wang Zheng | Fulcrum

[Implications of the Venezuela Case for Southeast Asia: Parallels and Limits](#) – Hoang Thi Ha and Aries A. Arugay | Fulcrum

[Southeast Asian countries call for peaceful resolution of conflict in Venezuela, pledge to ensure citizens' safety](#) | CAN

[Japan's Economic Security Strategy: A View from Southeast Asia](#) – Aaron Jed Rabena | Kyoto Review

[10 questions on what 2026 holds for Asia](#) – Arlina Arshad, Bhagyashree Garekar, Clement Tan, Hariz Baharudin, Kalicharan Veera Singam, Mara Cepeda, Nirmala Ganapathy, Walter Sim, Wendy Teo and Yew Lun Tian | Asia News Network

[Southeast Asian countries brace for elections, test of public trust and economic uncertainties in 2026](#) – Jack Board, Rashvinjeet S Bedi and Nivell Rayda | CNA



Brunei

[Partnership to bolster Brunei's digital government, talent ecosystem](#) | Borneo Bulletin
[Small nation, big vision: Brunei consolidates its way to digital resilience](#) – Malavika Bharath Vasudevan | DCD
[Brunei launches national digital identity system](#) | New Straits Times/Bernama
[Brunei Ruler reaffirms commitment to economic resilience, national well-being](#) | The Star/ANN/ Borneo Bulletin



Cambodia

[Over 800 Forest Fires Recorded in A Week, Strict Call to Stop Open Burning to Protect Air Quality](#) – Khuon Narim | CamboJa News
[Environment minister signs waste management MoU with China's Mizuda Group](#) – Post Staff | The Phnom Penh Post
[Continued scam crackdowns sweep Cambodia](#) | The Star/ The Phnom Penh Post/ANN
[National power grid capacity to rise by 450MW by end of 2026](#) – Hin Pisei | The Phnom Penh Post
[Environment Ministry launches 2026 'Year of Action with Tangible Results' to boost natural resource management](#) | Khmer Times



Indonesia

[Indonesia sues 6 companies over alleged links to deadly floods & landslides](#) – Hans Nicholas Jong | Mongabay
[Indonesia President Prabowo nominates nephew as central bank deputy governor](#) | CNA/Reuters
[Seats Without Sway: Women in Indonesia's Parliament](#) – Kamilatul Farikhah | Fulcrum
[Indonesia to Launch Waste-to-Energy Projects in 34 Cities](#) – Ahmad Baihaqi, Celvin Moniaga Sipahutar | Jakarta Globe.ID
[Indonesia may seize another 5 million hectares of palm oil plantations in 2026](#) | Reuters
[Freedom of expression under threat as more Indonesian activists face intimidation](#) | The Star/The Jakarta Post/ANN
[Indonesian media censorship on Sumatra floods raises press freedom alarms](#) – Ismi Damayanti and Rezha Hadyan | Nikkei Asia
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[New Indonesian FTA Opens Path to \\$2.56 Trillion Eurasian Trade Bloc](#) – Jayanty Nada Shofa | Jakarta Globe.ID
[Indonesia Officially Becomes UN Human Rights Council President](#) – Jayanty Nada Shofa | Jakarta Globe.ID
[Indonesia's new penal code takes effect, marking historic break with colonial law](#) – Niniek Karmini | AP



Laos

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[Laos Eyes Hydrogen-Roasted Coffee to Lift Exports, Cut Emissions by 2027](#) – Phoudasack Vongsay | The Laotian Times
[Asian Development Bank Approves Funds for Forestry Restoration Project in Laos](#) – Phoudasack Vongsay | The Laotian Times
[Laos, Myanmar, Thailand join forces to battle transboundary air pollution](#) | Vientiane Times
[Laos Advances Preparations to Open Embassy in Timor-Leste, Deputy Minister Says](#) – Thongsavanh Souvannasane | The Laotian Times
[Laos to Export Electricity to Singapore Under Regional Power Agreement](#) – Phoudasack Vongsay | The Laotian Times
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[Security tightened in run up to 12th National Party Congress](#) | Vientiane Times
[Laos Prepares for February Vote Amid Regional Election Year](#) – Namfon Chanthavong | The Laotian Times



Malaysia

[Malaysia moves to curb underage social media use with July target](#) | Borneo Bulletin

[Malaysia eyes bigger role in rare earths, but industry players warn ambitions may outpace reality](#) – Melissa Goh and Calvin Yang | CNA

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[10-year, two-term limit for Malaysia PMs: Anwar announces reforms to win back votes ahead of next GE](#) – Lu Wei Hoong | The Straits Times

[Malaysia government's anti-corruption maze amid 1MDB scandal](#) – David Hutt | DW

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Myanmar

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[Myanmar to free thousands of prisoners in annual amnesty](#) – Midhat Fatimah | DW/AFP/Reuters/AP

[Why Military Parties Win Elections in Myanmar](#) | The Irrawaddy



Philippines

[Philippines tells Beijing it is alarmed over escalating verbal tussle in South China Sea dispute](#) – Jim Gomez | AP

[PH-UAE free trade deal hailed as 1st in Manila's Middle East ties](#) | Inquirer

[Philippines ramps up protection of undersea cables amid growing 'grey-zone' threats](#) – Jeffrey Maitem | South China Morning Post

[Inside the Philippines' stacked agenda to steer Asean's trillion-dollar economy](#) – Goh Ruoxue | The Business Times

[Japan, Philippines refine security pact with eye on China](#) – Jason Gutierrez | Asia Times

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[Group hits retention of questionable programmed funds in 2026 budget](#) – Zaccaria Sarao | Inquirer

[Philippine trails Southeast Asian neighbors in decarbonization investments](#) – Marco Luis Beech | Philstar



Singapore

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Thailand

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[Think-tank expects new Thai government by May](#) – Somruedi Banchongduang | Bangkok Post

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[Why Thailand's deadly construction accidents are sparking outrage and scrutiny](#) | CNA

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[Election Commission urged to streamline votes](#) | Bangkok Post

[Charter referendum registration period 'final'](#) | Bangkok Post

[Thailand's 2026 election heats up in high-stakes power fight](#) | The Nation



Timor-Leste

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[Timor-Leste's governance dilemma: Fear, accountability, and risk](#) – João Boavida and Milena Pires | The Interpreter

[Timor-Leste and Indonesia deepen cooperation in higher education](#) | Asean All

[ABCID's journalism training program reaches rural Timor-Leste](#) – Mary-Louise Vince | ABC

[Timor-Leste's Maubere Front condemns aggression against Venezuela](#) | Plenglish



Vietnam

[UNESCO provides USD740K to protect Vietnam's cultural heritage](#) | Borneo Bulletin/Bernama/VNA

[Vietnam bets big on To Lam's power and growth strategy](#) – David Hutt | DW

[To Lam wins second term to rule Vietnam through 2030](#) | Free Malaysia Today/Reuters

[Vietnam's Khanh Hoa to invest over \\$22mn in Nha Trang flood control lake](#) | Tuoi Tre

[Vietnam's To Lam vows to fight corruption, pledges 10% economic growth](#) | Al Jazeera

[Yes, Vietnam really is winning the trade wars](#) – Roland Rajah | The Interpreter

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[The 'four' behind Vietnam: Can 2026 political reset deliver the growth it promises?](#) – Jamille Tran | The Business Times



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[EU Signals Trade Pact Talks with ASEAN to Begin After 2027](#) – Jayanty Nada Shofa | Jakarta Globe.ID

[Commission announces €1.9 billion humanitarian aid budget for 2026](#) | European Commission

[Laos Partners with European Union for New Forest Conservation Project](#) – Phoudasack Vongsay | The Laotian Times

[New Laos-Germany Agreement Boosts Support for Forest, Biodiversity Protection](#) | Laotian Times

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