

ASEAN Region – Press Review FEBRUARY 2026

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ASEAN and Southeast Asia Region

ASEAN

[PH chairship of ASEAN kicks off in Makati](#) – Jekki Pascual | ABS-CBN News

[An analysis of the Philippines' ASEAN Chairmanship in 2026](#) – ANN/The Phnom Penh Post

[Aligning Climate and Food Security Policies in ASEAN](#) – Paul Teng | Fulcrum

['ASEAN' races to seal U.S. tariff deals; Thailand lags 'Indonesia-Vietnam'](#) | The Nation

[Thailand hopes to be 'bridge' for Myanmar and ASEAN, foreign minister says](#) – Panarat Thepgumpanat and Chayut Setboonsang | Reuters

[Tension between Myanmar and Timor Leste escalates](#) | Vietnam Plus

[Timor-Leste Didn't Break ASEAN, Myanmar Exposed It](#) – Khoo Ying Hooi | Tatoli

[Beyond non-recognition: Myanmar's elections leave ASEAN in a bind](#) – Sharon Seah | Asialink

[ASEAN At A South China Sea Crossroads – OpEd](#) – Simon Hutagalung | Eurasia Review

[How Asean regains its place on the global stage](#) – Phar Kim Beng | Free Malaysia Today

Southeast Asia

[Natural Gas in the Philippines: A Test Case for Southeast Asia's Energy Transition](#) – JC Punongbayan | Fulcrum

[Why Indonesia is getting an aircraft carrier, and how Southeast Asian countries could respond](#) – Nivell Rayda | CNA

[Japan to support Southeast Asian nations in fight against cross-border crimes](#) | NHK

[Can Southeast Asia extend its AI data centre advantage into Space?](#) – Karryl Kim Sagun Trajano and luna Tsyulneva | The Interpreter

[Southeast Asia's domestic political turmoil hobbles ASEAN's global role](#) – EAF editors | East Asia Forum

[Choking cities: Overpopulation strains South-East Asia's urban environment](#) | The Star/Bernama

[American Firms See Vietnam, Indonesia, Philippines as SE Asia's 'VIP Club'](#) – Jayanty Nada Shofa | Jakarta Globe.ID

[As energy demand surges, Southeast Asia faces an uncomfortable nuclear question](#) – Husni Nassir-Deen | Eco-Business

[Trump and Southeast Asia: When Transactionalism Undermines Trust](#) – Derek Grossman | Fulcrum

[Subsea power cables as catalysts for the energy transition in Southeast Asia](#) – Mirza Sadaqat Huda | Eco-Business



Brunei

[Brunei confronts the limits of its growth model](#) – Anthony Tan and Poh Lynn Ng | East Asia Forum
[Brunei prioritizes logistics development under national blueprint, says minister](#) | Xinhua
[Japan backs 'best mix' approach to Brunei's economic diversification](#) | The Star/ Borneo Bulletin/ANN
[Brunei, Indonesia ink first anti-drug MoU](#) | ANN/Borneo Bulletin
[Brunei monitors bottled water prices amid supply disruption](#) | The Star/Borneo Bulletin/ANN
[Brunei joins Jakarta meeting to tackle transnational crime](#) | The Star/Borneo Bulletin/ANN



Cambodia

[Northeast Investment Plans Revive Land Grab Fears for Indigenous Community](#) – Seoung Nimol | CamboJa News
[Cambodia's canal mega-project threatens coastal communities and marine life](#) – Gerald Flynn and Phoung Vantha | Mongabay
[Grand Scale Public Park in Phnom Penh City? - Let's Start One Small Park at A Time](#) – Socheata Chey | Cambodianess
[Mines, dams move in as protection slips in a Cambodian wildlife sanctuary](#) – Coby Hobbs and Eung Sea | Mongabay
[Laos Route to Boost Agricultural Exports to China](#) | Cambodianess
[Cambodia set to strengthen role in regional party diplomacy through trilateral summit with Vietnam and Laos](#) – Hong Raksmeay | ANN/The Phnom Penh Post
[Cambodia arrests over 2,000 foreigners in latest raid on online scams](#) | The Star/Xinhua



Indonesia

[Indonesia coal plant closure U-turn sows energy transition doubts](#) | The Straits Times/AFP
[IN FOCUS: Is Prabowo seeking to push Indonesia as a middle power, and why does it matter?](#) – Nivell Rayda | CNA
[Indonesia prepares to send up to 8,000 troops to Gaza as part of Trump plan](#) – Julian Borger | The Guardian
[Indonesia: Breaking barriers as a female Vespa mechanic \(video\)](#) – Yusuf Pamuncak and Algadri Muhammad | DW
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[Illegal Used Clothing Imports Squeeze Indonesia's Textile Industry](#) – Akmalal Hamdhi | Jakarta Globe.ID
[Foreign Minister Says Indonesia May Withdraw from Board of Peace](#) – Sultan Abdurrahman | Tempo
[The fair costs for forest rehabilitation in Indonesia \(commentary\)](#) – Aida Greenbury | Mongabay
[Indonesia lets Elon Musk's Grok resume, lifting ban over sexualised images](#) | Reuters



Laos

[Laos Holds 2026 National Elections, Electing New Assembly, Provincial Councils Members](#) – Thongsavanh Souvannasane | The Laotian Times
[Electricité du Laos Signs Deal to Establish Cyber Security Operations Center](#) – Phoudasack Vongsay | The Laotian Times
[Govt, UAE firms ink deal on ASEAN AI centre](#) | Vientiane Times
[Japan backs use of satellite imagery in Lao rice cultivation](#) | The Star/Vientiane Times/ANN
[Vietnam-Backed Aluminum Project in Sekong Advances Toward 2028 Launch](#) – Thongsavanh Souvannasane | The Laotian Times
[Laos-China 500 kV Power Line Fully Connected, Operations to Begin in April](#) | The Laotian Times
[Russia-Funded Rehabilitation of Mittaphab Hospital Reaches 53 Percent Completion](#) – Thongsavanh Souvannasane | The Laotian Times
[Laos Records 4.8 Percent Growth in 2025, Sets Higher Economic Targets for 2026](#) – Phoudasack Vongsay | The Laotian Times

[Laos Breaks Ground on 230 kV Transmission Line Project in Northern Laos](#) – Thongsavanh Souvannasane | The Laotian Times



Malaysia

[Rethinking Malaysia's Path to Net Zero](#) – Renard Siew | Fulcrum
[The ART of Rescuing an Unintended Trade Deal While Safeguarding Malaysia's Multilateralism](#) – Jayant Menon | Fulcrum
[The Limits of Malaysia's Anti-Corruption Efforts](#) – Amalina Anuar | Fulcrum
[Malaysia's Opposition: The Need to Close Ranks](#) – Adib Zalkapli | Fulcrum
[Malaysia enters election mode in 2026](#) – James Chin | East Asia Forum
[Govt To Set Up Crackdown On Illegal Gambling - PM Anwar](#) | Bernama
[India and Malaysia pledge to bolster trade, defence collaborations](#) | Al Jazeera
[The rise and fall of local government elections](#) – Ainun Jariah | Free Malaysia Today
[Malaysia seizes \\$129.9 million in crude oil from tankers suspected of illegally transferring oil](#) | Reuters



Myanmar

[Junta Ramps Up Promises to Locals Over Myitsone Hydropower Project](#) | The Irrawaddy
[Myanmar expels Timor-Leste's representative over war crimes probe](#) | The Straits Times/AFP
[Myanmar Will Always Be Burma To The US Congress – OpEd](#) – Adam Dick | Eurasia Review
[Exclusive: Leader of Myanmar armed group says world is ignoring junta's deadly airstrikes](#) – Poppy McPherson | Reuters
[Myanmar junta plans 'super-body' to tighten grip on military, new government](#) | Reuters
[Myanmar Junta 'Selling LNG Power to Factories at Extortionate Rates'](#) – Myo Pyae | The Irrawaddy
[With international law at a 'breaking point', a tiny country goes after Myanmar's junta on its own](#) – Emma Palmer | The Conversation
[Myanmar elections draw attention to its digital surveillance record](#) – Masha Borak | Biometric Update
[Why Myanmar Remains Poor and Persecuted \(Part III\)](#) – Nicholas Kong | Mizzima
[Inside Myanmar's five-year armed resistance – a photo essay](#) – Robin Tutenges | The Guardian



Philippines

[Philippine senator calls out China in visit to disputed island](#) | CNA/AFP
[Philippine Vice-President Sara Duterte announces 2028 presidential run](#) | The Straits Times/AFP
[Wealth, power, and the Filipino future](#) – Manny Ilao | Inquirer
[Two Philippine senators named 'co-perpetrators' in Duterte ICC case](#) | Al Jazeera
[Philippine top court says same-sex couples can co-own property](#) – Joel Guinto and Virma Simonette | BBC
[Exclusive | Manila 'will consider' joining Trump's 'Board of Peace': Philippine envoy to US](#) – Raissa Robles | South China Morning Post
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[Renewable energy contracts for sale fuel Philippines crackdown](#) – Cliff Venzon & Manolo Serapio Jr | The Edge Malaysia/Bloomberg
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[Marcos signs P6.793-trillion 2026 budget](#) | Rappler
[Sara Duterte impeachment bids revived as one-year reprieve ends](#) – Manolo Serapio Jr | The Edge Malaysia/Bloomberg
[The unseen front in the Philippines' China challenge](#) – Haroro J. Ingram | The Interpreter
[Philippine economy to rebound in 2026 with at least 5% growth, says minister](#) | Reuters
[Philippines: Are terror laws being used to silence critics?](#) – Chantal Eco | DW



Singapore

[Singapore PM Wong, Malaysia's Anwar pledge to strengthen ties, resolve outstanding issues after 'buka puasa'](#) | CNA

[Budget 2026: 6 ways S'pore will invest in building its AI strengths](#) – Zhaki Abdullah | The Straits Times

[Singapore's climate strategy 'playbook' remains the same in a fragmented world: Janil Puthuchery](#) – Koh Wan Ting | CNA

[CNA Explains: What's driving Singapore's exceptional economic growth, and can it last?](#) – Abigail Ng | CNA

[Wealth inequality higher than income inequality in S'pore, says Finance Ministry paper](#) – Tham Yuen-C | The Straits Times

[SIT launches energy efficiency training centre to support Singapore's decarbonization](#) – Letitia Chen | The Straits Times

[Has Singapore made itself indispensable as a gateway for Chinese AI?](#) – Aylon Berger | Interpreter

[Singapore to set up national space agency on April 1 to develop and run space capabilities](#) – Lee Nian Tjoe | The Straits Times

Thailand

[Thailand Launches Economic Diplomacy Strategy to Navigate 'Reglobalisation', Foreign Minister Says](#) | The Nation

[Arsenic exceeds safety limit in Kok, Sai rivers](#) | Bangkok Post

[Thailand moves to recognize community role in Lower Songkhram Basin](#) – Thitipan Pattanamongkol | Mekong Eye

[Demonstrators demand nationwide vote recount, election commissioners' resignation](#) | Bangkok Post

[Bhumjaithai rolls out "10 Plus" to revive confidence, economy](#) | The Nation

[Thailand reconsiders its foreign policy](#) – Kavi Chongkittavorn | Bangkok Post

[Indigenous firefighters protect Chiang Mai's forests](#) – Nanta Benjasilarak | Mekong Eye

[Thailand appointed chair of UN space science subcommittee](#) | Khaosod English

[Thailand is wracked by floods and quakes. But what's holding it back is far harder to tackle](#) – Philip Wen (The Straits Times) & May Wong | The Straits Times

[Fears grow after early vote](#) – Chairith Yonpiam and Mongkol Bangprapa | Bangkok Post

[Election seen as turning point for Thailand's economy](#) | The Nation

Timor-Leste

[A 'ghost airport' and sinkhole highway as Timor-Leste gambles on oil and gas with Greater Sunrise project](#) – Nick Sas and Vonia Vieira | ABC

[Timor Leste Opens War Crimes Proceedings Against Myanmar Junta](#) | The Irrawaddy

[Timor-Leste as ASEAN member-state](#) – Atty. Josephus B. Jimenez | Philstar

Vietnam

[Vietnam to introduce two initiatives at UNHRC's 61st session](#) | Vietnam Plus

[Infrastructure as Strategy: How Vietnam Rewires Indochina through Ports and Roads](#) – Hoang Thi Ha | Fulcrum

[Việt Nam seeks deeper energy, industrial, aviation ties with US](#) | Viet Nam News

[Can Moscow and Seoul Help Vietnam Achieve its Nuclear Energy Ambitions?](#) – Ian Storey | Fulcrum

[Vietnam to impose temporary anti-dumping tariffs on colourless float glass from Indonesia, Malaysia](#) | Reuters

[Vietnamese Party chief's Laos visit to reaffirm special solidarity: ambassador](#) | Viet Nam News

ASEAN/ Southeast Asia Region and Germany/ EU

[A French Company Is Considering a \\$1.2 Billion Hydropower Project in Cambodia](#) – Meng Seavmey | Cambodianess

[EU Adds Vietnam to its List of Non-Cooperative Jurisdictions: Tax and Compliance Implications](#) – Giulia Interesse | Vietnam Briefing

[Austria eyes intensifying cooperation with PH on healthcare, AI](#) – Andy Peñafuerte III | VBL, GMA Integrated News

[Philippines, Italy sign defense cooperation agreement to enhance relations](#) – Joviland Rita | GMA Integrated News

[European businesses push ASEAN, Philippines to crack down on illicit trade](#) – Dexter Barro II | Manila Bulletin

[Sweden and PH launch grant to elevate public transport standards](#) | Manila Bulletin

[Green CUP project meeting sets path for sustainable coffee and tea sector in Laos](#) | Vientiane Times

[Germany's PNE Loses Key Vietnam Wind Project](#) | Modern Diplomacy

[Vietnam boosts EU partnership to match ties to China, US](#) – David Hutt | DW

[Việt Nam to complete forest database by 2026 to adapt to EU's deforestation rules](#) | Viet Nam News

[How Philippines' schools embraced German language](#) – Stanley Gajete | DW

[Spanish tech firm Molecor eyes Cambodian plant to tackle water loss](#) | Khmer Times

[Laos, Hungary deepen strategic partnership](#) | Vientiane Times

[Indonesia and Slovakia Pledge Closer Cooperation in Trade, Education, and Nuclear Expertise](#) – Akmalal Hamdhi | Jakarta Globe.ID

[EU-Việt Nam Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Sparks Promise of Defense Technology Cooperation](#) | The Vietnamese Magazine

[German foreign minister wraps up Pacific tour in Brunei and Australia](#) | The Star

[Germany's Foreign Minister Dr Johann Wadephul Makes Official Visit To Singapore](#) | IN Diplomacy

[Germany, Singapore Reaffirm Commitment to Rules-Based Global Cooperation](#) | Qatar News Agency

[Shaping the future through partnerships: Foreign Minister Wadephul travels to the Indo-Pacific](#) | Federal Foreign Office