

ASEAN Region – Press Review April 2026

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- El Nino climate pattern threatens water quality in Malaysia, experts warn ([link here](#))
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- Navigating Among Giants: Indonesia's Strategic Semiconductor Architecture and Global Hedging Diplomacy ([link here](#))
- Situation worsening for women journalists five years after coup, Myanmar Women in Media says ([link here](#))
- High fuel costs forcing Philippine farmers to abandon harvests ([link here](#))
- Malaysia joins growing number of Southeast Asian countries seeking to secure Russian oil ([link here](#))
- Middle East-linked energy supply shocks put Asean Power Grid back in focus ([link here](#))
- Cambodia parliament approves law to combat cybercrime scam rings ([link here](#))
- From Partnership Expansion to Strategic Coherence: Vietnam's Next Foreign Policy Challenge ([link here](#))
- Trust in EU grows in Southeast Asia, but challenges remain ([link here](#))



ASEAN and Southeast Asia Region

ASEAN

[Asean refineries shut units and cut output in fight for survival](#) | The Nation

[Philippines' Marcos urges ASEAN to activate fuel-sharing pact](#) | The Straits Times/Reuters

[A Test for Timor-Leste, and ASEAN, on Myanmar](#) – Elaine Pearson | The Diplomat

[Timor-Leste joins ASEAN talks on the situation in the Middle East](#) | Tatoli

[Middle East-linked energy supply shocks put Asean Power Grid back in focus](#) – Jamine Tran | The Business Times

[Building the ASEAN Power Grid means building institutions](#) – Renard Siew | East Asia Forum

[ADB-Led Funding Boosts ASEAN Power Grid As Region Faces Energy Insecurity](#) | Bernama

[Japan-ASEAN's vision for "Co-Creating" AI](#) – Angeline Tan and Kei Koga | Fulcrum

[ASEAN's Gulf ties put diversification to the test](#) – Jaideep Singh | East Asia Forum

[Asean banks face climate pressure](#) – Rachel Ho | Bangkok Post

[ASEAN's energy crisis is not about energy](#) – Aniello Iannone | The Interpreter

[ASEAN and the Middle East Crisis: Economic Vulnerability, Regionalism, and the Long History of External Energy Dependence](#) – Severo C. Madrona, Jr. | Australian Institute of International Affairs

Southeast Asia

[Thai and Vietnamese farmers may stop planting rice because of the Iran war. Here's why](#) – May Wong and Nga Pham | The Straits Times

[Malaysia joins growing number of Southeast Asian countries seeking to secure Russian oil](#) | CNA

[Inside Southeast Asia's scam compounds: A trafficked worker tells of fraud, coercion and torture](#) – Randall Hansen | The Conversation

[Turning Waste Into Wealth: Chinese Firms Are Expanding Into Southeast Asia](#) – Yichen Wang | Fulcrum

[Photos: How overfishing in Southeast Asia is an ecological and human crisis](#) – Nicole Tung | NPR

[Science Talk: There is climate value in S-E Asia's protected areas, but we're failing to use it](#) – Siti Maryam Yaakub | The Straits Times

[Vietnam remains among fastest-growing economies in Southeast Asia-6](#) | VietnamNet



Brunei

[Promoting sustainability with recycling bins donation in Brunei](#) – Daniel Lim | ANN/Borneo Bulletin
[Exhibition highlights Brunei-China diplomatic relations](#) – James Kon | Borneo Bulletin
[Brunei hosting FAO regional agriculture conference to address food security issues](#) | The Phnom Penh Post
[Brunei marks Earth Day 2026 with tree planting, beach cleanup](#) | Xinhua
[Meeting boosts regional economic cooperation](#) – James Kon | Borneo Bulletin
[Cross-sectoral cooperation boosts disaster readiness](#) | Borneo Bulletin



Cambodia

[Cambodia Breaks Ground on \\$1B Hydropower Mega Project in Koh Kong](#) – Mon Sokeo | Kiri Post
[Second Section of Funan Techo Canal Breaks Ground as First Section Compensation Remains Unresolved](#) – Seoung Nimol | CamboJa News
[Cambodia's First Wind Projects Stir Tensions in Indigenous Communities](#) – Sovann Sreypich and Coby Hobbs | CamboJa News
[Heat, Fuel Costs Force Farmers to Abandon Crops](#) – Chhum Chantha | Cambodianess
[Cambodia parliament approves law to combat cybercrime scam rings](#) | Al Jazeera/AFP/Reuters



Indonesia

[Acid attacks highlight growing danger for Indonesian activists](#) | The Straits Times/AFP
[Fossil fuel subsidies and high costs stall energy transition across rural Indonesia](#) – Luh De Suriyani | Mongabay
[Indonesia Declines Multi-Billion-Dollar Loan Offers from IMF and World Bank](#) – Arnoldus Kristianus | Jakarta Globe.ID
[Indonesia to stop diesel imports, shift to palm oil fuel](#) | Antara
[From farms to labs, Indonesia bets on better seeds to boost food security](#) – Chandni Vatvani | CNA
[As Indonesia eyes electric conversion of 120 million motorcycles in 4 years, experts warn of potential bumps ahead](#) – Nivell Rayda | CNA
[Indonesia eyes Russian crude as Middle East tensions deepen import gap, subsidy strain](#) – Elisa Valenta | The Business Times
[Indonesian president Prabowo to meet Putin in Russia for oil talks](#) | CNA/AFP
[Popularity, Platforms and Potential Power: The Political Rise of Indonesian Governors](#) – Burhanuddin Muhtadi | Fulcrum
[Indonesia's Prabowo calls for criminal charges against firms resisting forest crackdown](#) | CNA/Reuters
[Indonesia Finalizes Restructuring Plan for China Train Debt](#) – Ricki Putra Harahap | Jakarta Globe.ID
[Energy crisis caused by Iran war reveals a tale of two Indonesias](#) – Wahyudi Soeriaatmadja | The Straits Times
[Indonesia believes in cheap fuel](#) – Hilman Palaon | The Interpreter
[Navigating Among Giants: Indonesia's Strategic Semiconductor Architecture and Global Hedging Diplomacy](#) – Akhmad Hanan | Australian Institute of International Affairs



Laos

[Laos Exports Hit USD 2.77 Billion in Early 2026 as Fuel Costs Weigh on Trade](#) – Phoudasack Vongsay | The Laotian Times
[Laos advocates use of EV trucks to counter soaring fuel price](#) | Vientiane Times
[Laos' potash boom expands amid lingering sinkhole risks](#) – Nelamit Savanxay | Mekong Eye
[Laos-China Railway Trade Reaches USD 11.7 Billion as Railway Expands](#) – Phoudasack Vongsay | The Laotian Times
[Laos-Vietnam railway set to accelerate massive logistics boost following Concessional Green light](#) | Vientiane Times
[Southern Laos Joins Vietnam, Thailand to Push East-West Economic Corridor Forward](#) | The Laotian Times



Malaysia

[Delicate extraction: Malaysia offers rare earths alternative to China](#) | The Straits Times/AFP
[Malaysia pushes electricity market reforms to accelerate renewable energy adoption](#) – Simon Khoo | The Star
[Malaysia pushes rooftop solar to cushion impact of global energy crisis](#) – Jean MacKillop | The Edge Malaysia
[El Nino climate pattern threatens water quality in Malaysia, experts warn](#) | The Straits Times/The Star/Asia News Network
[Malaysian youths file landmark climate lawsuit against govt over forest cover pledge and deforestation](#) – Brandon Pang | The Edge Malaysia
[Chang: Nuclear energy seen as potential component of Malaysia's energy mix](#) | The Edge Malaysia/Bernama
[Data centre projects still viable in Malaysia despite surging energy prices, analysts say](#) – Justin Cheng | The Edge Malaysia
[Malaysia leads Asean in Islamic finance growth](#) | The Star



Myanmar

[Rare earth mining puts people at risk \(video\)](#) – Christiane Justus | DW
[UN Warns of Worsening Hunger as Myanmar Runs Low On Fertilizer, Fuel](#) – Phoe Tar | The Irrawaddy
[Myanmar president seeks peace talks within 100 days, rebels reject offer](#) | Reuters
[Myanmar cuts ex-leader Aung San Suu Kyi's sentence, frees former president](#) | CNA/Reuters
[Myanmar explores plan to import Russian LNG for regional re-export](#) | Eleven Myanmar
[Power cuts disrupt water supply in Yangon Region; Thailand urged to assist Myanmar Rohingya refugees](#) | DVB
[Situation worsening for women journalists five years after coup, Myanmar Women in Media says](#) | Burma News International/Mizzima
[The Energy Crisis is Hitting Myanmar Hard](#) – Jared Bissinger | Fulcrum
[Myanmar's Min Aung Hlaing appoints new cabinet, military still dominates](#) | Reuters
[Myanmar's new president sees challenges ahead, eyes ASEAN détente](#) | Reuters
[Telenor faces lawsuit for giving Myanmar junta customer data](#) – Mark Hallam | DW/Reuters/AFP
[Myanmar's new president Min Aung Hlaing faces genocide complaint in Indonesia](#) | The Star/Reuters
[Myanmar Junta Chief Unveils EV Trade-In Plan for Market Led by His Children](#) | The Irrawaddy
[Junta Charged With Human Rights Violations in Push for Myitsone Dam](#) – Phoe Tar | The Irrawaddy
[Junta chief elected as vice-president](#) | The Star



Philippines

[ICC confirms crimes against humanity trial of ex-Philippine leader Duterte](#) – Alex Milan Durie | Al Jazeera/AFP/AP/Reuters
[US, Australia and Philippines hold second joint drills in South China Sea in 2026](#) | The Straits Times/Reuters
[Philippines says any energy deals with China must respect its sovereignty](#) | The Straits Times/Reuters
[Philippine central bank warns of oil spike 'spillover effects' as inflation breaches target](#) – Mikhail Flores and Nestor Corrales | Reuters
[Philippines unveils new coast guard command in disputed South China Sea](#) | The Straits Times/AFP
[High fuel costs forcing Philippine farmers to abandon harvests](#) – Adrian Portugal and Karen Lema | Reuters
[Philippines' V-P Sara Duterte asks court to halt impeachment case](#) | The Straits Times/Bloomberg
[The Philippines Puts Its Budget on Blockchain: Will This Beat Corruption?](#) – David Lam | Fulcrum
[The perils of a Philippines-China energy deal in disputed waters](#) – Don McLain Gill | The Interpreter
[Dutch-based lawyer challenges PH maritime laws](#) – Kathleen de Villa | Inquirer



Singapore

[Singapore signs new five-year IAEA framework to strengthen nuclear capabilities](#) | The Straits Times

[Singapore to invest over S\\$100 million in maritime research and development over next five years](#) – Darcel AI Anthony | CNA
[Much harder for government to deliver prosperity and progress in challenging environment: SM Lee](#) – Ang Hwee Min | CNA
[Local food manufacturers concerned about fallout from Middle East energy crisis](#) – Grace Leong | The Straits Times
[With energy costs rising, here's how Singaporeans are changing their lifestyles and choices to adapt](#) – Loraine Lee and Nikki Yeo | CNA
[Recent conflicts show how warfare is evolving; important for S'pore to build capabilities: PM Wong](#) – Samuel Devaraj | The Straits Times
[Singapore and Cambodia sign rice trade agreement for food security](#) – Shabana Begum | The Straits Times
[Singapore and Japan's role in a changing Indo-Pacific](#) – Derek Grossman | Business Times

Thailand

[Thai Government to Reform Foreign Business Act to Combat "Proxy" Investment](#) | The Nation
[OECD bid looks far off](#) | Bangkok Post
[Thai farmers pin hopes on microbes to end annual burning crisis](#) | The Star/AFP
[Academic backs solar push but urges aid for poor](#) – Apinya Wipatayotin | Bangkok Post
[PM vows to turn all policies into actions](#) – Aekarach Sattaburuth | Bangkok Post
[Thailand could become as hot as the Sahara by 2070, research shows](#) | The Straits Times/The Nation/ANN
[2m tonnes of chemical fertiliser eyed from Russia](#) | Bangkok Post
[Thailand targets major investment reform](#) – Wichit Chantanusornsiri | Bangkok Post
[Q&A: As Thailand bets on EVs, what will happen to the spent batteries?](#) – Tyler Roney | Dialogue Earth
[AI infrastructure growth threatens water-stressed Thai regions](#) | Mongabay
[Yodchanan lays out AI-led education reform to tackle inequality](#) | The Nation
[EEC eyes global hub status despite delays](#) – Jutamas Tadthiemrom | Bangkok Post
[Contested Clean Air Bill 'still worth a go'](#) – Apinya Wipatayotin | Bangkok Post
[Super El Niño raises water risk in Thailand's eastern growth zone](#) | The Nation
[Why Thailand's Constitutional Reform May Stall](#) – Purawich Watanasukh | Fulcrum
[Urgent push for fair climate finance](#) – Sarinee Achavanuntakul | Bangkok Post
[Thailand's economic recovery depends on opening up](#) – Ahmed Albayrak | East Asia Forum/Lowy Institute
[Microsoft commits \\$1 billion to Thailand AI infrastructure and workforce training](#) – Emma Thompson | ETIH

Timor-Leste

[Timor-Leste is vulnerable to 'infiltration by foreign organized crime', president José Ramos-Horta says](#) – Ariel Bogle and Kate Lamb | The Guardian
[Private jets, deserted shores and an unbuilt resort: alleged links to sanctioned 'scam' empire revealed in Timor-Leste](#) – Kate Lamb and Ariel Bogle | The Guardian
[Timor-Leste parliament questions president over proposed resort's links to 'scam' empire](#) - Kate Lamb and Ariel Bogle | The Guardian
[Central Java Police foils smuggling of illegal vehicles to Timor Leste](#) | Antara

Vietnam

[Vietnam targets US\\$38.2 billion in ODA, concessional loans](#) | The Saigon Times
[From Partnership Expansion to Strategic Coherence: Vietnam's Next Foreign Policy Challenge](#) – Nguyen Chi Thanh | Fulcrum
[Vietnam, China issue joint statement on deepening Comprehensive Strategic Cooperative Partnership in new era](#) | Vietnam Plus
[El Niño could cause extreme heat, water shortages in Vietnam later this year](#) – Gia Chinh | VN Express
[Vietnam's rice fields need better incentives](#) – Thang Nam Do | East Asia Forum

[To Lam's Consolidation of Power: Implications for Vietnam's Political and Economic Prospects](#) – Le Hong Hiep | Fulcrum
[Vietnam's To Lam plans China visit next week after winning presidency, sources say](#) | The Straits Times/Reuters
[Iran conflict highlights Vietnam's energy security and foreign policy vulnerabilities](#) – Le Hong Hiep | Eco-Business
[Politburo reshapes leadership across five key national institutions](#) – Tran Thuong | VietnamNet



ASEAN/ Southeast Asia Region and Germany/ EU

[EU's top diplomat calls on Southeast Asian countries to seek alternatives to Russian oil](#) | Reuters
[Vietnam Night connects businesses at Hannover Messe 2026 in Germany](#) | Vietnam Plus
[Thailand banks on EU trade deal](#) – Somhatai Mosika | Bangkok Post
[EU to disburse 20 million euros for culture and justice in PALOP countries and East Timor – AIM report](#) | Club of Mozambique
[New chapter for France-Laos relations across investment, logistics and education in Savannakhet](#) | Vientiane Times
[Indonesia, France agree to boost defence industry ties](#) | The Straits Times/AFP
[Go seeks deeper ASEAN-EU ties to widen funding access for small firms](#) – Derco Rosal | Manila Bulletin
[Indonesia promotes human rights through EU dialogue](#) | Antara
[Estonia Offers Indonesians Early Access to EU Market](#) – Faisal Maliki Baskoro | Jakarta Globe.ID
[Trust in EU grows in Southeast Asia, but challenges remain](#) – David Hutt | DW
[German Geo-Economic Strategy And Malaysia: Partnership Or Dependency? – OpEd](#) – Carolyn Khor | Eurasia Review