

## ASEAN Region – Press Review May 2026

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- Indonesia to maintain coal use amid energy security concerns ([link here](#))
- How a China-backed highway may turn landlocked Laos into a trade gateway ([link here](#))
- Women leaders want more than a quota ([link here](#))
- Philippine fishing and Indigenous communities wary of clean energy boom in Marcos stronghold ([link here](#))
- IAEA experts to start assessing in 2027 Singapore's nuclear infrastructure readiness: PM Wong ([link here](#))
- Thailand seizes on Hormuz fears to push land bridge dream ([link here](#))
- Japan's Takaichi pledges deeper energy cooperation with Vietnam ([link here](#))
- ASEAN, EU Leaders Meet in Cebu to Push Sustainable Growth ([link here](#))
- Myanmar remains ASEAN's elephant in the room ([link here](#))
- Timor-Leste to chair ASEAN in 2029 ([link here](#))



## ASEAN and Southeast Asia Region

### ASEAN

[Asean may be forced to choose between economic growth and climate if both are not decoupled: Ravi Menon](#) – Janice Lim | The Business Times

[Why Methane Emission Reduction Matters for ASEAN](#) – Shivenes Shammugam and Jihyun Kang | Fulcrum

[ASEAN's Collective Resilience Agenda: Can It Deliver Under Pressure?](#) – Joanne Lin, Kristina Fong Siew Leng and Melinda Martinus | Fulcrum

[Asean, China can no longer delay South China Sea Code of Conduct, experts say](#) | The Star/Bernama

[The Asean guide to data centre development for region's sustainable digital development](#) – Chelsea Lee Jia Shi | The Edge Malaysia

[Myanmar remains ASEAN's elephant in the room](#) – Sharon See | The Straits Times

[Energy crisis front and center as ASEAN leaders prepare for summit](#) – Mikhail Flores and Karen Lema | The Japan Times

[Asean leaders seek to bring regional trade pact into force this year amid Middle East pressures](#) – Tessa Oh | The Business Times

[ASEAN Summit 2026 welcomes Timor-Leste as full-fledged member](#) – Jervis Manahan | ABS-CBN

[Laos Steps Up ASEAN Diplomacy Ahead of Regional Summit](#) – Namfon Chanthavong | The Laotian Times

[ASEAN's rules-of-origin problem](#) – Henry Storey | The Interpreter

[How ASEAN Can Reduce Its Heavy Dependence on Imported Agricultural Inputs](#) – Paul Teng | Fulcrum

[Asean shares crude oil supply concerns with Japan, China, South Korea](#) | Bangkok Post/Kyodo News

### Southeast Asia

[Grid reforms vital to powering South-east Asia's green growth: Report](#) – David Fogarty | The Business Times

[Beijing profits from US drift in Southeast Asia](#) – Chhay Lim | East Asia Forum

[Nuclear Energy Renaissance in Southeast Asia: A Role for China?](#) – Zha Daojiong | Fulcrum

[Middle East conflict could spur South-east Asia's nuclear energy ambitions](#) – Chin Hui Shan | The Straits Times

[Is Russian oil becoming a lifeline for Southeast Asia?](#) – David Hutt | DW

['Godzilla El Niño': Southeast Asia warned of possible fires, haze](#) | Inquirer/The Straits Times/Asian News Network

[Nickel associations of Indonesia, Philippines sign agreement on nickel cooperation](#) | BusinessWorld/Reuters

[Mekong body strengthens river regulation through partnership with Singapore](#) | Vientiane Times  
[From Jakarta to Klang Valley, why is it so hard for Southeast Asia to fight this invasive catfish?](#) – Nivell Rayda and Aqil Haziq Mahmud | CNA  
[Philippines, Singapore sign carbon trading deal to boost emission cuts and climate investment](#) – Nestor Corrales | The Star/Reuters



## Brunei

[Brunei's biodiversity celebrated through art](#) | The Star/ Borneo Bulletin/ANN  
[China seeks new level of cooperation with Brunei](#) – Mo Jingxi | China Daily  
[From oil to solar: China-Brunei cooperation powers a sustainable industrial future](#) | GCTN  
[Brunei Sultan to attend 48th ASEAN Summit in Philippines](#) | ANN/Borneo Bulletin



## Cambodia

[Middle East Tensions Squeeze Cambodian Rice Farmers, Raise Food Security Fears](#) – Khuon Narim | CamboJa News  
[Cambodia Tops Global Natural Environment Ranking Despite Environmental Challenges](#) – Seoung Nimol | CamboJa News  
[Pride Siem Reap Returns with City's First-Ever Pride Walk](#) – Marissa Carruthers | Kiri Post  
[NGOs Push for Stronger Oversight of Chinese-Backed Projects](#) – Seoung Nimol | CamboJa News  
[Cambodia tested waters amid pollution claims; months later, still no public results](#) – Andy Ball, Gerald Flynn and Phoung Vantha | Mongabay



## Indonesia

[Indonesia's non-alignment in an age of rivalry](#) – Alfin Febrian Basundoro | East Asia Forum  
[Indonesia targets year-end start for US\\$30 billion clean power exports to Singapore](#) – Elisa Valenta | The Business Times  
[In eastern Indonesia, communities revive customary systems to protect the seas](#) – Hans Nicholas Jong | Mongabay  
[Indonesia launches first Asia-Pacific cross-border undersea cable to Papua New Guinea](#) | The Star/Bernama  
[Indonesia's debt wall hits an economy running on borrowed time](#) – Ronny P Sasmita | Asia Times  
[Indonesia's Sumatra flood victims file lawsuit as reconstruction work stalls](#) | The Straits Times/Reuters  
[Indonesian govt grants social forestry access to women in NTT](#) | Antara  
[Indonesia to maintain coal use amid energy security concerns](#) | Antara  
[Indonesia's foreign policy has a consultation problem](#) – Radityo Dharmaputra | East Asia Forum  
[Indonesia: Democracy without collapse](#) – Cecep Hidayat and Sondang Grace Sirait | The Interpreter



## Laos

[Laos Halts Fossil Fuel Vehicle Imports, Sets Price Controls for Electric Cars](#) – Namfon Chanthavong | The Laotian Times  
[Laos Targets Nearly 10 Million Trees in Nationwide Reforestation Plan](#) – Phoudasack Vongsay | The Laotian Times  
[Russia Considers First Fuel Shipment to Laos](#) – Thongsavanh Souvannasane | The Laotian Times  
[How a China-backed highway may turn landlocked Laos into a trade gateway](#) – Ralph Jennings | South China Morning Post  
[While Exports Flow, Low-income Families Bear the Heat of an Uneven Grid](#) – Beatrice Siviero and Thongsavanh Souvannasane | The Laotian Times  
[Laos Signs Deal for Industrial Estate Near Vientiane](#) – Phoudasack Vongsay | The Laotian Times  
[Lao electricity exports to Vietnam hit record high on renewable boom](#) | The Star/The Laotian Times

[Laos needs a fiscal reset that protects social spending](#) – Chanhsy Samavong and Latdavanh Songvilay | East Asia Forum



## Malaysia

[Women leaders want more than a quota](#) – Zakiah Koya | The Star  
[Malaysia's palm oil paradox](#) – Wahyu Wulandari and Eko Bagus Sholihin | East Asia Forum  
[Snap polls in Malaysia possible if unity government fractures, says PM Anwar](#) | The Straits Times/The Star/ANN  
[Malaysia PM Anwar's staunchest critic Rafizi finds a new party – and a new fight](#) – Lu Wei Hoong | The Straits Times  
[Malaysia must build long-term energy resilience, says economist](#) – Kirthana Arumugam | Free Malaysia Today  
[Govt looking to incentivise EV truck to reduce diesel subsidy costs, says Loke](#) | Free Malaysia Today/Bernama  
[Pahang govt identifies new areas for permanent forest reserves](#) | Free Malaysia Today/Bernama  
[Malaysia plans cloud seeding for drought-hit 'rice bowl'](#) | The Straits Times/AFP  
[Malaysia ramps up biodiesel use amid soaring energy bills](#) | CNA



## Myanmar

[Myanmar military steps up fight for rare earth area and border routes](#) | Reuters  
[New Myanmar Regime Tightens Forcible Conscription Covering 13 Million Citizens](#) – Myo Pyae | The Irrawaddy  
[Karenni human rights group warns of impending famine amid systematic attacks on food supplies](#) | Mizzima  
[Myanmar: the soft underbelly of China's rare earth dominance](#) – Eugene Quah | Asialink  
[Myanmar junta's forced remittance rules pull in \\$7.1b](#) | The Straits Times/Bloomberg  
[Myanmar Regime Bans Six Media Outlets in First Month of 'Civilian' Rule](#) – Myo Pyae | The Irrawaddy  
[Myanmar's political makeover unmasked by revolutionary reality](#) – Nyein Chan Aye | Asia Times  
[War Crimes Case Against Myanmar Dictator Moves Forward in Timor-Leste, says MAP](#) | Mizzima  
[Is Myanmar's military winning the civil war?](#) – Zsombor Peter | DW



## Philippines

[Philippine fishing and Indigenous communities wary of clean energy boom in Marcos stronghold](#) – Michael Beltran | Mongabay  
[Philippines rejects special US status for planned Luzon industrial hub](#) – Mara Cepeda | The Straits Times  
[Philippines to repay its biggest-ever World Bank loan for agriculture until 2044](#) – Ben Arnold de Vera | Manila Bulletin  
[Philippines moves closer to launching EV incentive programme](#) | Vietnam Plus  
[Philippines launches VP Duterte impeachment trial amid political division](#) | Al Jazeera/Reuters  
[Philippine senator flees ICC arrest over role in Duterte's drug war](#) – Heba Habib | Al Jazeera/AFP/Reuters  
[Philippines urges Myanmar to grant ASEAN envoy access to Aung San Suu Kyi](#) | Reuters  
[Sino-Philippine Energy Cooperation in the South China Sea: A Chimera](#) – Ian Storey | Fulcrum  
[Middle East conflict may derail Philippines upper middle-income bid](#) – Louella Desiderio | The Philippine Star  
['Reset' or 'calculated stabilisation'? Why ties between China and the Philippines appear to be warming](#) | CNA  
[China, Philippines trade accusations over South China Sea](#) | CNA/Reuters



## Singapore

[Farmland south of Lim Chu Kang to be zoned for defence, land further north to be used for agriculture](#) – Shabana Begum | The Straits Times  
[IAEA experts to start assessing in 2027 Singapore's nuclear infrastructure readiness: PM Wong](#) – Koh Wan Ting | CNA

[Singapore's green paradox: Planting trees while losing forest cover \(podcast\)](#) – David Fogarty and Audrey Tan | The Straits Times  
[Singapore urges SMEs to adopt climate solutions to curb rising electricity bills](#) – Robin Hicks | Eco-Business  
[Economic Strategy Review committees release final recommendations to set direction of Singapore's future growth](#) – Abigail Ng | CNA  
[Singapore is pragmatic, focused on outcomes in approach to human rights protection: Rahayu](#) – Anjali Raguraman | The Straits Times  
[International law a matter of national interest for small countries like Singapore: PM Wong](#) | The Star/The Straits Times/ANN  
[Parliament unanimously backs motion affirming that Singapore must not have jobless growth amid AI transition](#) – Abigail Ng, Erin Liam and Davina Tham | CNA  
[Singapore Exchange unit denies Swiss trader's allegations over inaccurate Middle East oil shipping costs](#) | The Star/The Straits Times/ANN

## Thailand

[Thailand revives bill to clear the air of toxic smog](#) – David Hutt | DW  
[Forest amnesty bill faces stiff opposition](#) | Bangkok Post  
[Thailand Urges New Global Order as BRICS Meets Under Shadow of Iran Conflict](#) | The Nation  
[Thailand may face dual water risks from El Nino impact from May to July](#) | The Straits Times/The Nation/Asia News Network  
[Dangerous arsenic levels detected in Thailand's Mekong mainstream for first time](#) – Gerald Flynn | Mongabay  
[More than half of farmers' loans unlikely to be repaid](#) – Somruedi Banchongduang | Bangkok Post  
[Sugar volatility looms as Indonesia import cuts test Thai exports](#) | The Nation  
[Middle East conflict hits Thailand as factories shut and layoffs rise](#) | The Nation  
[Senate Divided Over Land Bridge Project Amid Concerns Over Costs, Laws and Foreign Influence](#) – Erich Parpart | Thai Enquirer  
[Senator questions Land Bridge push](#) | Bangkok Post  
[Thailand seizes on Hormuz fears to push land bridge dream](#) – Richard S. Ehrlich | Asia Times

## Timor-Leste

['We've come so far': Timor-Leste marks its 24th Restoration of Independence Day \(radio\)](#) | ABC  
[Timor-Leste's National Teachers Forum Charts a New Path for the Teaching Profession](#) | UNESCO  
[Timor-Leste to chair ASEAN in 2029](#) | Thai PBS  
[Timor-Leste launches three major events for 2026](#) – Camilio de Sousa | Tatoli  
[Timor-Leste President Reaffirms Ties with the Holy See, Appeals for Global Compassion and Debt Relief](#) | Asean All

## Vietnam

[Vietnam's top leader to make state visit to Singapore](#) | Vietnam Net  
[Vietnam's Nuclear Revival: Diversifying Partners Beyond China](#) – Chen Heyi | China Global South Project  
[Vietnam's chip bet – and America is all in](#) – Anupama Vijayakumar | The Interpreter  
[Biofuel ready for nationwide rollout](#) | Vietnam Plus  
[70,000 tonnes of rice granted "Low-emission Green Vietnamese Rice" label](#) | Vietnam Plus  
[Vietnam burns red tape but growth may be harder to rekindle](#) – Aidan Jones | South China Morning Post  
[Vietnam turns to Laos for electricity to prevent power shortage](#) | Vientiane Times  
[Japan's Takaichi pledges deeper energy cooperation with Vietnam](#) | Al Jazeera/AFP/Reuters  
[Japanese investment in Vietnam expands beyond manufacturing into consumer market](#) – Tieu Bac - Nghi Vu | Truotire  
[In Vietnam, Japan PM vows more effort to keep Asia 'free and open'](#) | The Straits Times/AFP



## ASEAN/ Southeast Asia Region and Germany/ EU

[PM urges Europe envoys to hasten EU trade talks](#) | Bangkok Post  
[European Film Festival brings groundbreaking initiatives to Laos](#) | Vientiane Times  
[European Union Sanctions Lao Bank JDB Over Alleged Russia Ties](#) – Thongsavanh Souvannasane | The Laotian Times  
[France-Philippines New Defence Agreement: A Pivotal Step?](#) – Matteo Piasentini | Fulcrum  
[EU Adopts 'Visa Cascade' Scheme for Thai Passport Holders](#) | The Nation  
[Germany Eyes Johor As ASEAN Gateway, 70 Business Delegates To Explore JS-SEZ Opportunities](#) | Bernama  
[EU, PH start study of critical minerals](#) – Logan Kal-El M. Zapanta | Inquirer  
[German turns to the Indo-Pacific: From Strengthening Bilateral Partnerships to Balancing China in Asia and Deterring Russia in Europe](#) – Prannavan Surendran | ICDS  
[Ten years of partnership: Germany and ASEAN](#) – Andreas Pfaffernoschke | Philstar  
[EU envoy: Asean climate goals need stronger financing support](#) – Isabelle Pechay | Inquirer  
[Europe ramps up Indo-Pacific presence, but poor coordination undermines impact](#) – Pietro Guastamacchia | Euractiv  
[Asean, EU must ramp up cooperation](#) – Kavi Chongkittavorn | Bangkok Post  
[ASEAN, EU Leaders Meet in Cebu to Push Sustainable Growth](#) | Bernama  
[Việt Nam seeks stronger foothold in Germany's premium coffee market](#) | Viet Nam News  
[Malaysia ends defence procurement from Norway over missile licence row](#) – Zahratulhayat Mat Arif | New Straits Times  
[Malaysia to seek compensation from Norway over scrapped defence deal](#) – Danial Azhar and Rozanna Latiff | Reuters  
[Malaysia seeks clarification from Norway after export control halts missile supply](#) | CNA/Reuters  
[Norway eyes Mindanao for green investments](#) – Ralph Lawrence G. Llemmit | Sun Star  
[Italy's Parliament backs donation of aircraft carrier to Indonesia](#) | The Straits Times/Reuters