

ASEAN Region – Press Review July 2026

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- Warming world could push Southeast Asia forests toward thermal limits, new study ([link here](#))
- Cambodia Braces for El Niño as Heat, Drought Threaten Farms and Water ([link here](#))
- Indonesia Plans Anti-LGBTQ Lessons in Religious Schools, Universities ([link here](#))
- Laos wants more control of its gold – by building the bullion market it never had ([link here](#))
- Malaysia's rare earths are prized by Washington – but at what cost to Putrajaya's Palestine stance? ([link here](#))
- Myanmar's Civil War Is Threatening A Major Peatland Discovery ([link here](#))
- Impeachment trial of Philippine VP Sara Duterte to open in divided Senate ([link here](#))
- Thailand's energy crisis demands more than short-term remedies ([link here](#))
- Timor-Leste scam centre compounds uncovered as police arrest Chinese, Indonesians, Cambodians ([link here](#))
- Vietnam looks at more coal power plants as Iran war complicates LNG plans ([link here](#))



ASEAN and Southeast Asia Region

ASEAN

[ASEAN's AI race is officially underway](#) – Chris Taylor | Asia Times

[ASEAN must strike a balanced AI relationship with China](#) – Kelly Forbes and Cass Maughan | East Asia Forum

[Both sides to ensure smooth transition when S'pore takes over from Philippines as ASEAN chair: PM Wong](#)

– Anjali Raguraman | The Straits Times

[Whither ASEAN? A decade of silence on the South China Sea](#) – John Hemmings | Asia Times

[Asean and South Korea discuss ways to advance their strategic partnership and promote regional peace](#) |

The Star/Bernama/Yonhap

[Asean's risks by re-engaging Myanmar](#) – Thitinan Pongsudhirak | Bangkok Post

[What the Myanmar regime is signalling to ASEAN by rejecting access to Aung San Suu Kyi](#) – May Wong | The Straits Times

[ASEAN urged to gear up for a digital pact](#) – Prime Sarmiento and Leonardus Jegho | China Daily

[Recalibrating ASEAN's economic security in a fractured world](#) – Denis Hew | East Asia Forum

[El Nino may pile pressure on Asean food prices as dry weather meets fuel and fertiliser shock](#) – Evan See | The Business Times

Southeast Asia

[Southeast Asia's top diplomats hold security talks in Manila as US-Iran fighting rages](#) – Jim Gomez | AP

[Warming world could push Southeast Asia forests toward thermal limits, new study](#) – Carolyn Cowan |

Mongabay

[Singapore, Malaysia reaffirm need to 'deepen cooperation' in areas including food security and energy](#) –

Daphne Yow | CNA

[Southeast Asian mangroves shift from historic decline to net growth](#) – Naina Rao | Mongabay

[Gender is everywhere in Southeast Asian aid, but not where it counts](#) – Dyah (Prita) Pritadrajati | The Interpreter

[In Southeast Asia, peer-support network boosts women's well-being in conservation](#) – Carolyn Cowan |

Mongabay

[The US-China AI Chip War: Southeast Asia's Compliance Dilemma](#) – Gerald Mako | Fulcrum

[Indonesia and Singapore sign agreement on cross-border electricity project](#) | Reuters

[Malaysia, Laos reaffirm commitment to expand trade, investment, connectivity](#) | The Star/Bernama

[World Bank raises Vietnam, Philippines to upper-middle income status](#) | The Business Times/Bloomberg

[Illegal timber imports from Cambodia, Laos skirt Vietnam safeguards, report reveals](#) – Carolyn Cowan | Mongabay



Brunei

[Brunei to coordinate occupational health and safety in Asean region in 2027](#) | The Star/Borneo Bulletin/ANN
[Youth exchange boosts Brunei-Korea ties](#) | Borneo Bulletin
[Brunei's digital success hinges on seamless connectivity, says minister](#) – Sim Y.H. | ANN/Borneo Bulletin



Cambodia

[Korean Investors Eye Cambodia as Bilateral Trade Surges 37%](#) – Rin Ousa | Cambodianess
[Cambodia, Japan discuss developing SEZ project](#) – Chi Lymeng | Khmer Times
[Cambodia Backs UN Resolution on Decriminalizing Homosexuality, Same-Sex Marriage Still Unrecognized](#) – Sovann Sreypich | CamboJa News
[China-funded highway expansion expected to boost regional trade, tourism in Cambodia](#) | The Star/Xinhua
[Cambodia Braces for El Niño as Heat, Drought Threaten Farms and Water Supply](#) – Sovann Sreypich | CamboJa News
[Cambodia's five-year Environmental Diplomacy Strategy aims to tackle climate change, ecosystem decline](#) | The Star/The Phnom Penh Post/ANN
[Cambodia's Green Transition: Bridging the Gap Between Climate Ambition and Industrial Reality](#) – David Van | Kiri Post
[Cambodia's grid has reached people who can't connect to it](#) – Eung Sea | Dialogue Earth



Indonesia

[When the Indonesian Middle Class Takes to the Streets](#) – Muhamad Chatib Basri, Maria Monica Wihardja and Abror Tegar Pradana | Fulcrum
[Why Indonesia's economy is under pressure](#) – Nik Martin | DW
[Indonesia promotes mangrove restoration to heal environment](#) | Antara
[Indonesia Plans Anti-LGBTQ Lessons in Religious Schools, Universities](#) | Jakarta Globe.ID/Antara
[Indonesia Layoffs Top 23,000 in 2026 as Economists Warn of Economic Slowdown](#) – Akmalal Hamdhi and Hendro D Situmorang | Jakarta Globe.ID
[Indonesia's free meals corruption probe extends to police, military officers](#) | South China Morning Post/Bloomberg
[Indonesia's ratification of fishing labor reforms will also boost conservation \(commentary\)](#) – Muhamad Nour | Mongabay
[Indonesia's Archipelagic Power and How Best to Sustain It](#) – Jefferson Ng, Aristyo Rizka Darmawan | RSIS
[Why coal-rich Indonesia can't keep the lights on](#) – Ronny P Sasmita | Asia Times



Laos

[Laos wants more control of its gold – by building the bullion market it never had](#) – Goh Ruoxue | The Business Times
[Laos formally becomes Shanghai Cooperation Organisation dialogue partner](#) | Vientiane Times
[Laos's illegal wildlife shops keep growing despite enforcement, investigators find](#) – Gerald Flynn | Mongabay
[Weapons of long-ago conflicts still haunt people of Laos](#) – Julian Ryall | DW
[Lao National Assembly makes rural development a top priority](#) | The Star/Vientiane Times/ANN
[Govt, NA mull priorities in poverty reduction, clean energy and mineral development](#) | Vientiane Times
[Lao agriculture ministry to replenish fish stocks in rivers, lakes](#) | The Star/ Vientiane Times/ANN
[China-Laos Low-Carbon Project Expected to Cut Emissions by More Than 1,200 Tons Annually](#) – Phoudasack Vongsay | The Laotian Times



Malaysia

[Malaysia's rare earths are prized by Washington – but at what cost to Putrajaya's Palestine stance?](#) – Hadi Azmi | The Straits Times

[Malaysian PM Anwar plays down need for snap poll after Johor election defeat](#) | The Straits Times/Bloomberg

[Reshaping Malaysia's political DNA](#) – A. Kathirasan | Free Malaysia Today

[Malaysian lawmakers to hold hearing on Lynas-U.S. rare earths deal](#) | Reuters

[Neutrality by Sector: Malaysia's Geoeconomic Alignment under Anwar](#) – Amalina Anuar | Fulcrum

[Malaysians throw away vast amounts of food waste, further straining landfills](#) – Hannah Chan | The Edge Malaysia

[Malaysia to turn retiring coal plants into renewable energy hubs](#) | Free Malaysia Today/Bernama

[Malaysia to maintain independent, non-aligned foreign policy — Anwar](#) | The Edge Malaysia/Bernama

[Malaysia's low unemployment masks deeper crisis of underemployed graduates](#) – Hadi Azmi and Muzliza Mustafa | The Straits Times

[Cover Story: How secure is Malaysia's food supply?](#) – Jose Barrock, Esther Lee and Syafiqah Salim | The Edge Malaysia



Myanmar

[Myanmar's Civil War Is Threatening A Major Peatland Discovery](#) – OpEd – Ben Shread-Hewitt | Eurasia Review

[Searching for Aung San Suu Kyi in Myanmar's capital of confusion](#) | The Straits Times/AFP

[Myanmar set to restart contentious \\$4.6 billion dam project backed by China](#) | The Straits Times/Reuters

[Min Aung Hlaing to visit Laos in first ASEAN member state visit](#) | DVB/Reuters



Philippines

[How overestimated rice demand distorted Philippine policy](#) – Teodoro C. Mendoza | Inquirer

[Biodiversity fears as human-bred hybrid fish integrate into Philippines lake](#) – Vandy Widyalandara | The Guardian

[A decade after historic ruling, Philippine fishermen say driven away from disputed shoal by China](#) – Adrian Portugal and Karen Lema | Reuters

[Philippines commemorates 2016 South China Sea ruling rejected by Beijing](#) – Jim Gomez | AP

[Philippines' impeachment showdown: why removing VP Sara could be uphill battle](#) – Raissa Robles | South China Morning Post

[Impeachment trial of Philippine VP Sara Duterte to open in divided Senate](#) – Karen Lema | Reuters

[In Asia, PH 'most vulnerable' to severe El Niño–ANZ study](#) – Ian Nicolas P. Cigara | Inquirer



Singapore

[Singapore warns technology becoming 'actor in its own right' as AI reshapes military operations](#) – Daphne Yow | CNA

[Singapore to invest S\\$800 million in transport research under RIE2030](#) – Koh Wan Ting | CNA

[Singapore's Trade Agreements Show How Small States Shape Global Legal Norms](#) – Tristan Eng | Fulcrum

[PM Wong awarded Timor-Leste's top honour for Singapore's contributions in nation-building](#) – Justin Ong Guang-Xi | CNA

[Singapore to open selected sectors to Timor-Leste workers next year: PM Wong](#) – Justin Ong Guang-Xi | CNA

[Singapore's Trade Agreements Show How Small States Shape Global Legal Norms](#) – Tristan Eng | Fulcrum



Thailand

[Land Bridge project to be reviewed](#) | Bangkok Post

[The Grey Capital Malaise Infecting Thailand](#) – Gregory Raymond | Fulcrum

[Anutin needs to prepare for El Niño](#) – Veera Prateepchaikul | Bangkok Post
[Thailand deepens US defence ties](#) – Poramet Tangsathaporn | Bangkok Post
[Thailand's energy crisis demands more than short-term remedies](#) – Juthathip Jongwanich | East Asia Forum
[Power to the people](#) | Bangkok Post
[China calls for joint Thailand-Myanmar probe into Mekong pollution](#) | Thai PBS
[Energy reform 'must proceed'](#) – Mongkol Bangprapa | Bangkok Post
[Land Bridge faces commercial and legal reality check after SEC bill backlash](#) | The Nation



Timor-Leste

[Timor-Leste turns to Vietnam to boost food security and fisheries](#) | The Star/VNS/ANN
[Timor-Leste scam centre compounds uncovered as police arrest Chinese, Indonesians, Cambodians](#) – Vonia Vieira, Jordan Fennell and Nick Sas | ABC
[Govt establishes Interministerial Committee to oversee construction of Timor-Leste-China Friendship Hospital](#) | Tatoli
[Dozens of families face eviction in Timor-Leste airport expansion](#) (Radio) | ABC
[President Ramos-Horta receives NGO Move to discuss entrepreneurship and growth in Timor-Leste](#) | Tatoli
[Timor-Leste strengthens role in ASEAN – RoK cooperation](#) | Vietnam Plus



Vietnam

[Vietnam's coffee boom fueled by decades of deforestation, report finds](#) – Naina Rao | Mongabay
[Vietnam calls for stronger international cooperation to achieve SDGs](#) | Vietnam Plus
[Vietnam looks at more coal power plants as Iran war complicates LNG plans](#) | CNA/Reuters
[Vietnam's gas projects stall amid investor claims of unbankability and a renewables pivot](#) – Minh Tran | Dialogue Earth
[Vietnam's island megaproject races towards Apec deadline, but demand test looms](#) | The Business Times
[Vietnam inaugurates embassy office in Timor-Leste](#) | Vietnam Plus
[Vietnam, Timor-Leste promote cooperation in legal affairs, justice, digital transformation](#) | Vietnam Plus
[Fast-Tracking "National Rise": How Vietnam Is Learning from China](#) – Hoang Thi Ha and Pham Thi Phuong Thao | Fulcrum
[Vietnam's top leader charts bold vision for Ho Chi Minh City's next 50 years](#) | Vietnam Net



ASEAN/ Southeast Asia Region and Germany/ EU

[ASEAN can capture the EU's "carbon tariff" jobs](#) – Melinda Martinus | The Interpreter
[Agri concerns stall PH trade talks with EU, Chile](#) – Logan Kal-El M. Zapanta | Inquirer
[PH, Denmark ink pact on financial, development cooperation](#) | Philippines News Agency
[French firm Carester to build rare earths separation plant in Malaysia's Perak](#) | The Business Times/Reuters
[Europe's unfinished market and why it matters to Southeast Asia](#) | Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at NUS
[Exporters urged to bundle shipments as workaround to EU e-commerce rules](#) – Beatriz Marie D. Cruz | Business World
[EU deforestation rules put Vietnamese exporters on the clock](#) | Vietnam Plus
[Vietnam, EU partnership enters new era](#) | The Star/Viet Nam News/ANN
[EU keen on investment, seeks regulatory reforms](#) – Somhatai Mosika | Bangkok Post
[Thailand aims to finish EU free trade talks this year](#) – Mongkol Bangprapa | Bangkok Post
[Thai rubber smallholders race to meet new EU deforestation rules](#) | Mongabay
[France backs Thai OECD bid](#) – Apinya Wipatayotin | Bangkok Post
[EU's €3 parcel fee puts Thailand between export opening and import risk](#) | The Nation
[Indonesia, Germany partner to expedite low-carbon transition](#) | Antara
[Malaysia courts Italian, EU investors for high-quality JS-SEZ projects](#) – Aufa Mardhiah | The Malaysia Reserve
[M'sia, EU progress in trade talks](#) – Cy Lee | The Star

[Belgium Seeks To Collaborate With Malaysia On Offshore Energy - Belgian DPM](#) – Siti Radziah Hamzah | Bernama

[Norway's missile decision has not hurt Malaysia-EU ties, Anwar says](#) – Dhesegaan Bala Krishnan | Malay Mail