

ASEAN Region – Press Review August 2026

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- Nickel expansion puts Indonesia's biodiversity goals under pressure, study finds ([link here](#))
- Laos Moves to Update Electricity Law for Energy Sector Shift ([link here](#))
- Palm oil to cool data centres? Malaysia explores option as water demand surges ([link here](#))
- When Manila's politics shift, so could the US alliance ([link here](#))
- Singapore, China sign pact on peaceful nuclear technology cooperation ([link here](#))
- Thailand tightens data centre rules as AI boom strains power grid ([link here](#))
- Timor green pigeon nears extinction after decades of inaction, study warns ([link here](#))
- Việt Nam approves carbon credit pact with Singapore under Paris Agreement ([link here](#))
- European firms back Malaysia-EU FTA push, seek stronger investment conditions in talks with Johari and Akmal ([link here](#))



ASEAN and Southeast Asia Region

ASEAN

[UN supports Timor-Leste in advancing human rights and development through ASEAN](#) | Tatoli

[How Do ASEAN Countries Fare in Managing Global Economic Shocks?](#) – Julia Goh, Syetarn Hansakul, Azril Bin Rosli, Siwage Dharma Negara, Nguyen Khac Giang and Julia Tijaja | Fulcrum

[NDR 2026: S'pore to strengthen S-E Asian unity as ASEAN chair in 2027, build resilience to face crisis](#) – Benjamin Lim | The Straits Times

[How do we enhance climate investments into the Asean?](#) – John Leo Algo | Eco-Business

[Reclaiming the Backyard: ASEAN's Realpolitik Push on Myanmar](#) – William J. Jones | The Diplomat

[Myanmar pushes back on ASEAN envoy and call to free Suu Kyi](#) | The Straits Times/Reuters

[ASEAN members closing ranks as cyberscam threat escalates](#) – David Hutt | DW

[\[ANN EXCLUSIVE\] Assessing ASEAN-Russia relations: The question of principled, pragmatic non-alignment](#)

– Dania Kamal Aryf, Digital sub-editor and Reporter | ANN

[\[ANN EXCLUSIVE\] The future of ASEAN-Russia relations amid growing geopolitical volatility](#) – Dania Kamal Aryf, Digital sub-editor and Reporter | ANN

[The Quad needs ASEAN more than ASEAN needs the Quad](#) – Shameek Godara | The Interpreter

[ASEAN's e-waste economy reshapes US-Japan resource diplomacy](#) – Christian Cerné | East Asia Forum

Southeast Asia

[AI threatens nearly a quarter of Southeast Asia's workforce but not all is lost](#) – Sam Beltran | South China Morning Post

[Southeast Asia's costly AI bargain with US tech giants](#) – Govand Khalid Azeez | East Asia Forum

[Southeast Asia remains 'a clear priority' despite concerns over Trump tariffs: US envoy to ASEAN](#) – Melissa Goh and Calvin Yang | CNA

[Laos-China Railway picks up steam, but S-E Asian country struggles to capture gains](#) – Peter Janssen | The Business Times

['Never encountered this before': What an extreme El Nino means for Southeast Asia](#) – Jack Board | CNA

[Carbon markets alone won't keep Southeast Asia's forests standing, study says](#) – Carolyn Cowan | Mongabay



Brunei

[Brunei-Malaysia chambers set sights on stronger trade, investment](#) – Lyna Mohamad | ANN/Borneo Bulletin
[Brunei records eight days of excessive hot weather](#) | The Star/Borneo Bulletin/ANN
[‘Our shared future is best built together’: HM on ASEAN’s 59th birthday](#) – HM Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah | The Scoop



Cambodia

[In Cambodia, shifting waters threaten school dreams \(Photos\)](#) – Ayse Tasci-Steinebach | DW/AP
[Cambodia’s banned sand trade with Singapore appears to be back](#) – Andy Ball | Mongabay
[‘No Authority Ever Paid Attention’: Mekong Villagers Confront Sand Dredgers, Distrust Lingers](#) – Phon Sothyroth | CamboJa News
[Clock ticking down on Cambodia’s growth momentum](#) – Lam Duc Vu | Asia Times
[Cambodia Launches Tonle Sap Management Master Plan](#) – Danielle Keeton-Olsen | Kiri Post



Indonesia

[‘It is tough’: Indonesia battles wildfires, bracing itself for worse to come](#) | The Straits Times/AFP
[Indonesia’s Green Industrialisation Plans Have a Brown Problem](#) – Peh Ko Hsu and Siwage Dharma Negara | Fulcrum
[Indonesia’s monetary policy under the shadow of Prabowo’s heavy hand](#) | East Asia Forum
[Nickel expansion puts Indonesia’s biodiversity goals under pressure, study finds](#) – Hans Nicholas Jong | Mongabay
[China-Indonesia Naval Exercise Raises Tensions – OpEd](#) – Simon Hutagalung | Eurasia Review
[If diplomacy has value, Prabowo needs to show the numbers](#) – Muhammad Zulfikar Rakhmat | The Interpreter
[Indonesia’s wrong AI race risks leaving women behind](#) – Dyah (Prita) Pritadrajati | The Interpreter



Laos

[UNDP pledges continued support for Laos’ LDC transition](#) | Vientiane Times
[Laos Moves to Update Electricity Law for Energy Sector Shift](#) – Namfon Chanthavong | The Laotian Times
[Laos Formalizes Shanghai Cooperation Organization Dialogue Partner Status](#) – Phoudasack Vongsay | The Laotian Times
[Laos-China railway gets closer to regional link as Thailand advances high-speed rail expansion](#) | Vientiane Times



Malaysia

[Malaysia targets first ‘made by Malaysia’ chips using Arm Limited technology by 2030, says economy minister](#) – Soo Wern Jun | Malay Mail
[Haze triggers a surge of asthma cases in Malaysia](#) | The Straits Times/ The Star/Asia News Network
[Renewables must lead Malaysia’s coal phase-out to avoid gas lock-in: WEF](#) – Siva Selan | Eco-Business
[Should Malaysia Become a Global Education Hub?](#) – Koh Sin Yee | Fulcrum
[Palm oil to cool data centres? Malaysia explores option as water demand surges](#) – Ushar Daniele | South China Morning Post
[Watch Malaysia for a preview of Asia’s coming AI power crunch](#) – Nigel Green | Asia Times
[Building one Malaysian production economy](#) – Samirul Ariff Othman | New Straits Times
[Malaysia’s execution sprint to the general election](#) – Loh Chee Seng | ALIRAN



Myanmar

[Rare Earth Mining, Toxic Rivers Expose Gaps in Bangkok's Cross-Border Pollution Pact](#) – SHAN | Shan Herald Agency for News
[Myanmar military offensive targets land for Russia-backed port project](#) | Free Malaysia Today/Reuters
[Min Aung Hlaing Vows to Serve Russia's Interests in SE Asia](#) – Maung Kavi | The Irrawaddy
[Myanmar's Min Aung Hlaing heads to Russia to deepen strategic ties with Moscow](#) | AP
[Myanmar's junta wants to cancel the diplomatic test it can't pass](#) – James Shwe | Asia Times
[Myanmar-Thailand discuss signing of Memorandum of Understanding \(MoU\) on cooperation in electricity and energy sectors soon](#) | Eleven Myanmar
[Min Aung Hlaing pitches own vision of 'land bridge' to Thai investors](#) | Thai PBS
[Myanmar military intensified air attacks and abuses before election, UN investigators say](#) | DVB/Reuters
[Leaking jade mining pits inundate over 100 homes in Kachin State's Hpakant](#) | DVB
[Mission Impossible: Controlling destructive rare earth mining in Myanmar a tough call](#) | Mizzima



Philippines

[LIVE UPDATES: Sara Duterte impeachment trial](#) | Inquirer
[Philippines seeking to expand military drone capabilities, says defence chief](#) – Nestor Corrales | Reuters
[Philippines drug war victims seek justice through truth commission](#) – Barnaby Lo | Al Jazeera
[The Philippines leans into alliances to modernise its defence](#) – Abdul Rahman Yaacob | East Asia Forum
[Philippines eyes nonstop carbon free power but US\\$165 billion investment gap stands in the way: GRA](#) – Hannah Alcosoba Fernandez | Eco-Business
[When Manila's politics shift, so could the US alliance](#) – Maxine Nazaree Co | The Interpreter
[High bills, cheap panels drive a Philippine solar surge](#) – Cecil Morella and Chad Williams | ABS-CBN/AFP



Singapore

[Marine community fears loss of biodiversity hotspot to proposed western island development](#) – Fabian Koh | CNA
[NDR 2026: Undersea tunnels linking Pulau Tekong to mainland Singapore being studied](#) – Ng Keng Gene The Straits Times
[NDR 2026 gives S'poreans reasons to be confident in the future despite external uncertainty: Analysts](#) – Yap Wei Qiang, Samuel Devaraj, Nadine Chua and Esther Loi | The Straits Times
[Singapore, China sign pact on peaceful nuclear technology cooperation](#) – Bridget Tan | CNA
[Singapore could experience haze if fires in Sumatra and Kalimantan intensify: Met Service](#) | CNA



Thailand

[Thailand tightens data centre rules as AI boom strains power grid](#) – Taejun Kang | Eco-Business
[Thailand advances two regional rail routes into design](#) | The Nation/ Thansettakij
[Thailand rethinks data centre incentives over power and water](#) – Jarupong Krisanaraj | The Nation
[New body to oversee data centres](#) – Wichit Chantanusornsiri | Bangkok Post
[Thailand plans rooftop solar grants of 50,000 baht per household](#) | The Nation
[Thailand and Myanmar sign terms to address transboundary river pollution](#) | Thai PBS
[Concerns grow over changes to Thai-Myanmar transboundary river pollution agreement](#) | Transborder News



Timor-Leste

[World's top scientists gather in Timor-Leste for The Science for Development Summit 2026 \(Radio\)](#) – Michael Chow | ABC
[Pacific Partnership 2026 arrives in Dili, Timor-Leste](#) | PACOM
[Beyond the unemployment rate: Timor-Leste's real jobs challenge](#) – Tendency Gunawan | ILO/Tatoli

[Timor green pigeon nears extinction after decades of inaction, study warns](#) – Timothy Mihocik | Mongabay
[Timor-Leste approves plan to fight online scam networks](#) | UCAN News
[Timor-Leste Prepares for International Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications](#) | UNESCO



Vietnam

[In extreme weather, Viet Nam's hydropower dams create 'human-made floods'](#) – Kiêu Mai | Mekong Eye
[From Streamlining to Delivery: Vietnam's Second Administrative Test](#) – Nguyen Khac Giang | Fulcrum
[Việt Nam approves carbon credit pact with Singapore under Paris Agreement](#) | Viet Nam News
[Expert outlines roadmap for Vietnam to become maritime power](#) – Tu Giang - Lan Anh | Vietnam Net
[Can Vietnam build an industrial powerhouse of its own?](#) – Lee Chee Yang | ThinkChina
[Infrastructure must become a strategic economic sector: top leader](#) – Hà Lê | VN Economy



ASEAN/ Southeast Asia Region and Germany/ EU

[Germany revives South-east Asian tourism presence with Singapore office](#) – Karen Yue | TTG Asia
[The algorithm clause ASEAN's digital deal needs](#) – Sascha H Funk | East Asia Forum
[PH, as Asean chair, to lead climate security push](#) – environment execs – Andrea Gregorio | Inquirer
[China, the EU, and Singapore are pushing back against the White House's new 'Great Transshipment Scam' report](#) – Angelica Ang | Fortune
[Thai businesses see Vietnam as gateway to European market](#) | Vietnam Plus
[EU backs Southeast Asia's first Copernicus centre as Earth observation expands](#) | The Brussels Times
[European firms back Malaysia-EU FTA push, seek stronger investment conditions in talks with Johari and Akmal](#) | EU-ASEAN Business Council