

ASEAN Region – Press Review September 2026

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- 'The physical toll is visceral': How Indonesia's fire haze affects millions - visual guide ([link here](#))
- Between Interdependence and Diversification: Southeast Asia's Room for Manoeuvre in Critical Minerals ([link here](#))
- Why Brunei prefers 'quiet diplomacy' over confrontation in South China Sea ([link here](#))
- Laos calls for predictable int'l support for post-LDC transition, a self-reliant economy ([link here](#))
- UN refugee agency concerned by Malaysia returns to Myanmar ([link here](#))
- The Hidden Cycle of Myanmar's Forever Wars ([link here](#))
- Philippines fast-tracks critical minerals, raising Indigenous, environmental concerns ([link here](#))
- CNA Explains: How Singapore could reclaim more land in the future ([link here](#))
- Bridging BRICS And The Asia Pacific: Vietnam's Partner Role And The Future Of Multipolarity – Analysis ([link here](#))
- EU finally clinching trade deals with Southeast Asian states ([link here](#))



ASEAN and Southeast Asia Region

ASEAN

[Middle East energy shock puts greater ASEAN cooperation in focus](#) – Marcel Pereira | CNA

[Strengthening Subsea Cables Resilience in Southeast Asia: The Way Forward for ASEAN](#) – Su Wai Mon | FACTS Asia

[ASEAN 'compelling' for businesses looking for long-term growth amid tensions: Tan See Leng](#) – Annabelle Liang | The Straits Times

[Asean's challenge is to become resilient against global geopolitics: former Indonesia trade minister](#) – Chloe Lim | The Business Times

[Prabowo offers Indonesia as Russia's gateway to ASEAN](#) – Arlina Arshad | The Straits Times

[Malaysia wants tougher ASEAN action on haze, but bloc faces familiar obstacles](#) – Amir Yusof | CNA

[After the Gulf Crisis: Rethinking ASEAN Energy Security through Regional Grid Governance](#) – Kaho Yu and Jinseok Sung | Fulcrum

Southeast Asia

[Nuclear power is back on Southeast Asia's energy agenda](#) – David Hutt | DW

[India's role in Southeast Asia's BRICS bet](#) – Yanitha Meena Louis | The Interpreter

[Despite a drop in deforestation in 2025, forest losses pile up in the Mekong](#) – Gerald Flynn | Mongabay

[Between Interdependence and Diversification: Southeast Asia's Room for Manoeuvre in Critical Minerals](#) – Zha Daojong | Fulcrum

[Super El Nino could reshape daily life, threaten livelihoods in Southeast Asia with lingering heat](#) – Liew Zhi Xin | CNA

[Southeast Asia and AI adoption: The return of cold war strategies](#) – Tran Nguyen and Tobias Burgers | Eco-Business

[Explainer: How Laos' role as Southeast Asia's 'battery' is changing](#) – Tyler Roney | Dialogue Earth

[As smoke spreads across South-east Asia, Indonesia works with neighbours to tackle transboundary haze](#) | The Star/Bernama



Brunei

[Why Brunei prefers 'quiet diplomacy' over confrontation in South China Sea](#) – Maria Siow | South China Morning Post
['Peace is also a responsibility to be practised'](#) – James Kon | Borneo Bulletin
[Brunei strengthens public security cooperation](#) | Borneo Bulletin



Cambodia

[Plastic pollution costs Cambodia \\$2.5m annually; response launched](#) | The Phnom Penh Post
[Cambodia Pushes Building Energy Code as Cooling Demand and Construction Surge](#) – Rin Ousa | Cambodianess
[Bunong Families Accuse Eysan Eco Zone of Clearing Farms, Sacred Land](#) – Sovann Sreypich | CamboJa News
[Climate Shocks Put Cambodia's Farmers, Factories and Finances at risk](#) – Marissa Carruthers | Kiri Post
[Cambodia's floating schools hit by rising fuel costs](#) – Akanksha Saxena | DW
[Garment sector to remain Cambodia's biggest job generator](#) – Mom Kunthea | Khmer Times



Indonesia

[A plan to save Bali's lost fireflies \(Video\)](#) – Sam Lee and Rizky Maulana Yanuar | Mongabay
['The physical toll is visceral': How Indonesia's fire haze affects millions - visual guide](#) – Kate Lamb | The Guardian
[Indonesia's geothermal push runs into local fears at Mount Ungaran](#) – Triyo Handoko | Mongabay
[Indonesia passes agrarian reform law amid concerns over land protections](#) – Hans Nicholas Jong | Mongabay
[Indonesia's Strategic Defense Partnership – OpEd](#) – Simon Hutagalung | Eurasia Review
[Indonesia prepares for EV battery waste peak expected in 2040](#) | Antara
[Indonesia needs to grow more rice, corn and sugar. Can its forests survive?](#) – Wahyudi Soeriaatmadja, David Fogarty, Amanda Shendruk, Carlos Marin, Winnie Tan and Xaquín G.v. | The Straits Times
[Wildfires on doorstep of Indonesia's new capital as environmental and health crisis flares](#) – Niken D. Sitoningrum | Mongabay
[Marine conservation collides with mining in Indonesia's biodiversity-rich Moramo Bay](#) – La Ode Risman Hermawan | Mongabay
[Around 2,000 fall ill in Indonesia after eating free school meals](#) – Florence Freeman | BBC
[Indonesia's balancing act: Navigating dynamics of OECD and BRICS](#) – Djoko Subinarto | Antara



Laos

[Laos calls for predictable int'l support for post-LDC transition, a self-reliant economy](#) | Vientiane Times
[New partnership to build climate-resilient livelihoods and a better future for children in Champassak](#) | Vientiane Times
[Lao, Chinese Energy Firms to Study Battery Storage System for Laos Power Grid](#) – Phoudasack Vongsay | The Laotian Times
[Vietnam-Backed Bauxite Project in Laos Moves Toward 2028 Production](#) – Phoudasack Vongsay | The Laotian Times



Malaysia

[UN refugee agency concerned by Malaysia returns to Myanmar](#) – Olivia Le Poidevin | Reuters
[Commentary: Malaysia needs to restore foreign investors' trust amid EV, data centre policy uncertainty](#) – Leslie Lopez | CNA
[Malaysia likely to retain control of nuclear plant](#) | The Star
[Malaysian PM Offers to Host Myanmar's President in Refugee Repatriation Push](#) – Sebastian Strangio | The Diplomat
[Malaysian farmers feel the heat as vegetables and fruits wilt](#) | The Straits Times/The Star/Asia News Network



Myanmar

[Myanmar's junta finds a second patron in Moscow](#) – Adam Simpson | The Interpreter
[The Hidden Cycle of Myanmar's Forever Wars](#) – David Scott Mathieson | The Irrawaddy
[Myanmar seeks closer foreign ties amid global isolation](#) – Zsombor Peter | DW
[Myanmar leader visits Vietnam on diplomatic comeback tour](#) | The Straits Times/AFP



Philippines

[Philippines is the deadliest country in Asia for environmental defenders, report finds](#) – Naina Rao | Mongabay
[Filipino fishers count the cost of South China Sea dispute](#) – Sam Beltran | South China Morning Post
[Planned US tech hub in Philippines hit over environmental and Indigenous land concerns](#) – Michael Beltran | Mongabay
[Pax Silica could boost Taiwan-Philippines tech ties, Taiwan trade chief says](#) – Rosette Adel | Philstar
[Marcos, lawmakers agree anti-dynasty law a priority](#) – Kristina Maralit, Javier Joe Ismael and Philippine News Agency | The Manila Times
[Election in Philippines' Bangsamoro region ends in hung parliament](#) – Barnaby Lo | Al Jazeera
[Sara Duterte posts bail: 'I don't trust the court'](#) – Holly Kylie Merian C. Bacay and Kathleen de Villa | Inquirer
[Bribery rap vs VP Sara Duterte may be dropped to speed up trial](#) – Gabriel Pabico Lalu | Inquirer
[Philippines fast-tracks critical minerals, raising Indigenous, environmental concerns](#) – Keith Anthony Fabro | Mongabay



Singapore

[Singapore's plan to merge several islands could wipe out coral reefs](#) – Robin Hicks | Mongabay
[Solar investments saved Singapore \\$123.8m in higher fossil fuel import costs: Report](#) – Ang Qing | The Straits Times
[Singapore exploring Canada as potential energy source, anticipates further fuel disruptions from Middle East: Vivian Balakrishnan](#) – Vanessa Lim | CNA
[S'pore to map marine, coastal habitats, including those in the vicinity of new western island](#) – Ang Qing | The Straits Times
[CNA Explains: How Singapore could reclaim more land in the future](#) – Erin Liam | CNA



Thailand

[Bangkok floods wipe out 80% of restaurant sales amid cash-flow crisis](#) | The Star/The Nation/ANN
[Thousands huddle in Bangkok shelters as Thai flood damages seen at \\$320 mln](#) – Napat Wesshasartar and Panarat Thepgumpanat | Reuters
[Bangkok's flood disaster – in pictures](#) | The Guardian
[Thai household debt nears THB800,000, highest in 17 years](#) | The Nation
[Thailand freezes 49 data centres as resource fears escalate](#) | The Straits Times/Bloomberg
[Thailand's semiconductor plan has a Washington problem](#) – Robert Walker | The Interpreter



Timor-Leste

[Timor-Leste Signs UN Convention Against Cybercrime and Civil Rights Protocol](#) | In Diplomacy
[Timor-Leste seeks quality investment to enhance competitiveness](#) | Vietnam Plus
[East Timor postpones earliest production from Greater Sunrise gas project](#) – Helen Clark | Reuters
[Timor-Leste Moves to Join Cluster Munition Ban at Vientiane Conference](#) – Phoudasack Vongsay | The Lao Times



Vietnam

[Biodiversity corridor payments boost household incomes in Vietnam's Annamite mountains](#) – Carolyn Cowan | Mongabay
[Vietnam's data-centre investment rush faces reality check on power and site constraints](#) | The Business Times
[Beyond the QR code: Vietnam's push for traceable agricultural exports](#) – Thang Nam Do | The Interpreter
[Bridging BRICS And The Asia Pacific: Vietnam's Partner Role And The Future Of Multipolarity – Analysis](#) – Reena Marwah | Eurasia Review
[Vietnam, Myanmar agree to deepen defence ties during leader Min Aung Hlaing visit](#) | The Straits Times/Reuters
[From aspiration to capability: Vietnam's road to 2045](#) – To Van Truong | Vietnam Net



ASEAN/ Southeast Asia Region and Germany/ EU

[EU finally clinching trade deals with Southeast Asian states](#) – David Hutt | DW
[ASEAN and EU leaders to meet in Manila as trade and investment ties gain momentum](#) | EU-ASEAN Business Council
[Germany eyes broader economic ties with Indonesia amid global shifts](#) | Antara
[Cambodia's WTO Appeal Membership Boosts Rules-Based Trade: EU](#) – Sao Phal Niseiy
[Cambodia's trade with Asean, EU up in first eight months of 2026](#) | The Star/Xinhua
[S'pore and Luxembourg working to deepen ties in quantum tech, AI, space, satellite communications](#) – Anjali Raguraman | The Straits Times
[Critical Technologies Hold Key to EU-ASEAN Ties](#) – Rin Ousa | Cambodianess
[EU, ASEAN Discuss Cooperation on Health Emergency Preparedness](#) | The Diplomatic Insight
[EU landmark rules for ChatGPT give Singapore the blueprint to rein in AI harms: Experts](#) – Kenny Chee | The Straits Times