HEINRICH BÖLL STIFTUNG
SOUTHEAST ASIA

ASEAN Region – Press Review October 2026

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For our readers in a rush, our editors recommend the following 11 news articles:

- Southeast Asia's energy security at a crossroads as power demand surges, IEA warns (link here)
- Indonesia secures its fuel supply at the cost of its food and forests (link here)
- Laos, Vietnam Restart USD 492M Potash Project in Khammouane (link here)
- The Race for Malaysia's Rare Earths: An Indo-Pacific Strategy (link here)
- Myanmar's Rare Earths and the Geopolitics of the Stilwell Road (link here)
- Pax Silica Needs A 'Follow The Money' Reality Check – OpEd (link here)
- Singapore vows tougher legal action against companies linked to haze (link here)
- Thailand Unveils Integrated Infrastructure Master Plan to Become Regional Logistics Hub (link here)
- Timor-Leste president says country to sign Greater Sunrise gas agreements within months (link here)
- Việt Nam, EU strengthen coordination in implementing Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (link here)
- Middle Powers Building Strategic Space in the Indo-Pacific: Lessons for Europe (link here)

ASEAN and Southeast Asia Region

ASEAN

PH leads push for Asean-wide abolition of death penalty – Kathleen de Villa | Inquirer
ASEAN's overlooked methane challenge | Borneo Bulletin
Labor group urges Asean to reject Myanmar junta-linked groups – Chelsy Claire Perez | Inquirer
Timor-Leste: Watching the transition of ASEAN's newest star – Anna Thomas | RNZ
Singapore outlines priorities for 2027 ASEAN Chairmanship | Vietnam Plus
Middle East war sharpens focus on ASEAN energy security plans | CNA/Reuters

Southeast Asia

IMF chief warns of debt, energy and AI risks before Bangkok talks | The Nation
Southeast Asia's energy security at a crossroads as power demand surges, IEA warns – Amanda Oon | CNA
Haze Chokes Plants Too: Air Quality as a Food Security Issue – Paul Teng | Fulcrum
Breaking Southeast Asia's fire and haze cycle through certification and coordinated action – Aryo Gustomo | Eco-Business
Southeast Asia's haze crisis: Have lessons been learned? – David Hutt | DW
Southeast Asia Needs AI Exit Options, Not AI Independence – Zenobia Chan | Fulcrum
Southeast Asia's data centre boom is built on borrowed time – Debomita Dasgupta | Asialink

Brunei

Brunei reaffirms commitment to combat transnational crime | Borneo Bulletin
Brunei hosts Asean meetings to strengthen MSME development | The Star/Xinhua
Brunei reaffirms regional energy commitment | The Star/Borneo Bulletin/ANN
Brunei to deploy officers to the Philippines – James Kon | Borneo Bulletin

Cambodia

Climate Project Puts Farmers' Livelihoods and Participation in Focus – Sovann Sreypich | CamboJa News
El Niño is Putting Over 1.3 Million Children in Cambodia at Risk, UNICEF Reports – Eung Sea | CamboJa News

Cambodia Provided $170 Million for Agriculture Financing over Three Years | Cambodianess
Cambodia Subsidizes Nearly 500 Mln USD to Curb Rising Fuel, Power Costs: PM | Cambodianess

Indonesia

'Utter destruction ': Indonesia fires have burned nearly two million hectares: monitor | The Star/AFP
Indonesia Races with ASEAN Neighbors for Investments – Jayanty Nada Shofa | Jakarta Globe.ID
Indonesia says will halt forest destruction for rice paddies | CNA/AFP
Indonesia secures its fuel supply at the cost of its food and forests – Trisha Indraswari | East Asia Forum
Indonesia's new peatland agency to get greater powers, but more work needed to stop forest fires – Nivell Rayda | CNA
What Prabowo's biggest Cabinet reshuffle to date signals as he nears 2 years in office – Kiki Siregar | CNA

Laos

Bolikhamxay Signs Deals for Three Solar Plants as Larger Project Advances – Thongsavanh Souvannasane | The Laotian Times
Laos Joins Asian Regional Security, Cooperation Forum | The Laotian Times
Vietnamese energy company plans US$10–15bil investment in Laos, seeks special incentives | The Star/ Vientiane Times/ANN
Civil society perspectives to support the government of Laos ahead of COP31 | Vientiane Times
Laos, Vietnam Restart USD 492M Potash Project in Khammouane – Phoudasack Vongsay | The Laotian Times
Govt targets 5.8 percent growth in 2027 | Vientiane Times
Malaysia, Laos explore economic opportunities in Muslim-friendly tourism, digital economy | Vientiane Times

Malaysia

The Race for Malaysia's Rare Earths: An Indo-Pacific Strategy – Meredith Schwartz | CSIS
Malaysia unveils six homegrown chips worth RM300m as it shifts from making to designing semiconductors – Muhammad Yusry | Malay Mail
Malaysia's Myanmar outreach reflects shift in regional engagement but shouldn't come at expense of compliance: Analysts – Samuel Ng | CNA
Malaysia PM Anwar's 2027 budget spreads the goodies, but will it win over voters? – Amir Yusof | CNA
Opinion: Beyond self-sufficiency: Building a food-secure Malaysia – Karina Yong and Theivanai Armathalingam | The Edge Malaysia
Commentary: Malaysia has diplomatic leverage in tackling transboundary haze – Oh Ei Sun | CNA

Myanmar

Responsible Business in Myanmar: A Rethink Could Benefit Workers – Jared Bissinger and Romain Caillaud | Fulcrum
US opens direct talks with Myanmar's generals, reversing years of isolation | CNA/Reuters
Myanmar's Rare Earths and the Geopolitics of the Stilwell Road – Augustine R K | Geopolitical Monitor
Critics See Political Motives Behind Anwar-Min Aung Hlaing Talks – Phoe Tar | The Irrawaddy
Malaysian Prime Minister says 10,000 Myanmar nationals repatriated since January | DVB
Chinese enterprises eye growing role in Myanmar's economic, social development | The Star/Xinhua
Myanmar's polluting mines selling to China through Thai companies – Gerald Flynn | Mongabay

Philippines

Pax Silica Needs A 'Follow The Money' Reality Check – OpEd – Dan Steinbock | Eurasia Review

Solar power booms in Philippines as war on Iran spikes energy costs – Barnaby Lo | Al Jazeera
Marcos: Pax Silica won't displace indigenous communities, burial sites – Luisa Cabato | Inquirer
Marcos makes 6th Singapore visit with investments, nuclear energy on agenda – Mara Cepeda | The Straits Times
Philippines ex-President Duterte fit to stand trial, ICC rules | Al Jazeera/AFP/AP/Reuters
China, Philippines trade accusations over South China Sea aircraft encounter | CNA/AFP
PH urged to adopt Southeast Asian models to curb fuel prices – Kurt Dela Peña | Inquirer



Singapore

Singapore vows tougher legal action against companies linked to haze | The Star/Bernama
S'pore collecting data on haze, will 'keep its options open' on taking legal action: Grace Fu – Shabana Begum | The Straits Times
Singapore to join international agreement on neutrality of the Panama Canal – Wong Yang | The Straits Times
S'pore mulls energy cluster on Tekong; including third LNG terminal and electricity import facilities – Shabana Begum | The Straits Times



Thailand

Thailand Unveils Integrated Infrastructure Master Plan to Become Regional Logistics Hub – Nongluck Ajanapanya | The Nation
Thailand and Switzerland push to unlock benefits of EFTA trade pact – Paul Rujopakarn | Thailand Now
The Trap That is Thailand's Legacy of Diplomatic Success – Pongkwan Sawasdipakdi | Fulcrum
Protest held against IMF-WB meetings in Bangkok – Chanapat Komlongharn | Thai PBS
War and high debt to dominate IMF-World Bank meetings in Bangkok | Al Jazeera/Reuters
Thailand, US writing 'final paragraph' of trade deal, says PM Anutin – Neo Chai Chin | CNA
Trump hopes to sign Thai tariff deal during November Asia visit | The Nation
Thailand Prepares to Host Timor-Leste PM for First Visit in 13 Years | The Nation



Timor-Leste

Timor-Leste president says country to sign Greater Sunrise gas agreements within months – Stephen Dziedzic and Lydia Feng | ABC
Timor-Leste, Thailand to open talks on rice trade deal, push for direct flights | The Star/Bernama/Xinhua
Timor-Leste Launches 2027–2030 National Medium-term Plan For Final PED Phase | IN Diplomacy
Indonesia, Timor-Leste uphold new economic potential | Vietnam Plus



Vietnam

Vietnam Tests the Limits of Ideological Persuasion – Nguyen Khac Giang and Dien Nguyen An Luong | Fulcrum
Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh City is learning to live with floods but climate change has raised the stakes – Thanh Hue and Aniruddha Ghosal | AP
Vietnam needs tens of thousands of workers for nuclear energy development | Vietnam Net
Vietnam's fishers face rising costs, declining catches and a contested sea – Minh L Tran | Mongabay



ASEAN/ Southeast Asia Region and Germany/ EU

Việt Nam, EU strengthen coordination in implementing Comprehensive Strategic Partnership | Viet Nam News
Vietnam - EU Comprehensive Strategic Partnership | Vietnam Plus
Vietnam Removed from EU Tax Blacklist: Implications for Businesses – Doan Thi Yen Luy | Vietnam Briefing
Vietnam signs free trade deal with four European nations | The Straits Times/AFP
European countries, Vietnam to sign free trade deal on Sunday, officials say | Reuters

Thailand-EU trade deal nears final stage, agreement expected by year-end | Thai PBS
Thailand looks to Europe as ASEAN race for investment heats up – Paul Rujopakarn | Thailand Now
Cambodia's Trade With ASEAN, EU Posts Double-Digit Growth During Jan-Sept | Bernama/Xinhua
Middle Powers Building Strategic Space in the Indo-Pacific: Lessons for Europe – Jari Vilén and Ari Heikkinen | Fulcrum
ASEAN-EU at 50: Turning Goodwill into Strategic Tech Cooperation – Matej Šimalčík and Filip Šebok | Fulcrum