

ASEAN Region – Press Review January 2019

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Myanmar is considering options on Chinese-funded Myitsone Dam which was suspended in 2011 (Radio Free Asia, South China Morning Post)

https://www.rfa.org/english/news/myanmar/myanmar-mulls-options-01302019174902.html

https://www.scmp.com/news/asia/southeast-asia/article/2184106/myanmars-china-backed-myitsone-dam-projectmay-be-scaled

Aung Suu Kyi encourages foreign investors to put their money into Myanmar (Reuters, Newsweek)

https://www.reuters.com/article/us-myanmar-investment/suu-kyi-to-investors-myanmar-is-open-for-business-idUSKCN1PM0AM

https://www.newsweek.com/aung-san-suu-kyi-ignores-genocide-says-myanmar-open-business-major-investment-1307571

Myanmar's first ever LGBT pride on flotillas over Yangon River (The Straits Times) https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/se-asia/myanmars-first-lgbt-pride-boat-parade-sets-sail

🔣 Cambodia

China expands the trade volume between Cambodia and China to \$10 billion by 2023 (VOA Khmer, Khmer Times)

https://www.voacambodia.com/a/china-pledges-10-billion-in-support-to-cambodia-as-relations-with-westdeteriorate/4755548.html

https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50573816/hun-sen-meets-chinese-minister-in-peace-palace/

Cambodia seeks the arrest of Sam Rainsy while facing threat of sanctions from the EU over Human Rights issues (VOA News)

https://www.voanews.com/a/cambodia-seeks-opposition-leader-s-arrest-amid-eu-sanctions-threat/4762490.html

PM Hun Sen called on military to "destroy" opponents if the government comes under threat (The Straits Times, Phnom Penh Post)

https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/se-asia/hun-sen-calls-on-military-to-destroy-opponents https://www.phnompenhpost.com/national-politics/hun-sen-no-coup-will-succeed-while-im-pm



Brunei must take economic growth strategy within ASEAN (The Scoop)

https://thescoop.co/2019/01/01/hm-this-new-year-seize-opportunities-and-do-not-be-lazy/

Brunei and China forge stronger relations on trade and economics (Borneo Bulletin) https://borneobulletin.com.bn/strong-brunei-china-ties-highlighted/

Indonesia

Election: Indonesian younger generation's or the millennials is seen as the key, however their general disinterest in politics is a challenge (The Straits Times, The Jakarta Post)

https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/se-asia/indonesias-millennials-could-be-key-to-election-if-they-vote http://www.atimes.com/article/a-millennial-glimpse-into-indonesias-political-future

Election: Indonesian President Joko Widodo and his challenger Prabowo Subianto had the first televised presidential debates building up to the upcoming election in April (The Straits Times, The Sydney Morning Herald)

https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/se-asia/first-indonesian-presidential-debate-between-iokowi-and-prabowo-kicksoff

https://www.smh.com.au/world/asia/jokowi-vs-prabowo-indonesian-presidential-debate-robotic-risk-averse-20190117-p50s2r.html

Former Governor of Jakarta, Basuki "Ahok" Tjahaja Purnama, is free after sentenced for 2 years in prison for blasphemy (The Jakarta Post, The Guardian)

https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2019/01/24/ahok-is-free.html

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/ian/24/ahok-iakartas-former-governor-released-after-iail-term-forblasphemy

Floods, landslides and a tornado in Sulawesi claimed 68 people lives (The New York Times, The Jakarta Post)

https://www.nytimes.com/2019/01/27/world/asia/indonesia-flood-landslide-sulawesi.html https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2019/01/27/in-south-sulawesi-floods-landslides-displace-more-than-6700people-kill-68.html

LGBT pageant in Bali held its crowning ceremony in secret (The Jakarta Post)

https://www.thejakartapost.com/life/2019/01/23/crowned-in-secret-balis-lgbt-pageant-avoids-limelight-amid-publicprejudice.html

http://instinctmagazine.com/post/indonesian-mayor-believes-lgbt-people-are-possessed



Dam break aftermath: The victims of Xe Pian-Xe Namnoy dam break in Laos still have uncertainty on their future (The Nation)

http://www.nationmultimedia.com/detail/big read/30362597 https://th.boell.org/en/2019/01/31/laos-dammed-information

Lao villagers in Vang Vieng region are blocking the plan against China-invested SEZ (Radio Free Asia, The ASEAN Post)

https://www.rfa.org/english/news/laos/plans-01042019144956.html https://theaseanpost.com/article/concerns-lao-lessons-sihanoukville

Malaysia

The new Malaysian king ascended the throne (Channel News Asia, South China Morning Post) https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asia/sultan-of-pahang-ascends-the-throne-as-new-malaysian-king-11188432

https://www.scmp.com/news/asia/southeast-asia/article/2184409/watch-sultan-pahang-gets-sworn-malaysiasnew-king

Updates on 1MDB probe and anti-corruption plan (Bloomberg, The Straits Times)

https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-01-29/malaysia-plans-anti-corruption-drive-as-1mdb-probeintensifies

https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/se-asia/malaysia-launches-first-national-anti-corruption-plan

The burning question in Malaysian politics: Will Anwar succeed Mahathir? (South China Morning Post, Nikkei Asian Review)

https://www.scmp.com/week-asia/politics/article/2181422/will-anwar-actually-succeed-mahathir-malaysias-next-prime

https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/Malaysia-in-transition/Malaysia-s-Anwar-denies-leadership-conflict-with-Mahathir

Malaysia threatens to freeze out EU over palm oil ban (Nikkei Asian Review) https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/Malaysia-in-transition/Malaysia-threatens-to-freeze-out-EU-over-palm-oil-ban

The Philippines

Church bombing: ISIL claims responsibility for bombing at a Roman Catholic cathedral on the southern Philippine island of Jolo (Al Jazeera)

https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/01/bombs-target-church-philippines-jolo-island-190127050818906.html

Attack on Southern Philippine Mosque (The New York Times) https://www.nytimes.com/2019/01/30/world/asia/philippines-mosque-attack.html

Midterm elections analyses: Duterte's end of rule, hint of resigning, and the prospect of Ferdinand Marcos Jr. (The Independent, East Asia Forum)

http://theindependent.sg/will-mays-midterm-elections-signal-the-beginning-of-the-end-for-philippine-strongmanrodrigo-duterte/

http://www.eastasiaforum.org/2019/01/16/the-beginning-of-the-end-for-duterte/

Duterte is pushing to lower the age of criminal responsibility to 9 year old, arguing juveniles are used by drug pushers (South China Morning Post, The New York Times)

https://www.scmp.com/news/asia/southeast-asia/article/2183272/philippines-dutertes-drug-war-finds-new-target-9-year-olds

https://www.nytimes.com/2019/01/22/world/asia/philippines-juvenile-justice-law.html

Singapore

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Lee versus Lee: The first family feud is now back on, after the Singapore's highest court reserved judgment on PM's nephew (Asia Times, South China Morning Post)

http://www.atimes.com/article/lee-versus-lee-gets-political-in-singapore/

https://www.scmp.com/week-asia/politics/article/2183999/poll-finds-singapore-divided-over-prospect-third-generation

Lee Hsien Yang, the younger brother of Singaporean PM has declared his support for Tan Cheng Bock (Nikkei Asian Review, Bloomberg)

https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/Singapore-prime-minister-s-brother-backs-an-opposition-heavyweight https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-01-18/singapore-politician-who-wanted-to-be-president-tochallenge-lee

Civil Rights Activist Jolovan Wham found guilty by court of organizing public assembly without permit and refused to sign police report (Channel News Asia, The Online Citizen)

https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/singapore/jolovan-wham-guilty-organising-public-assembly-withoutpermit-11082764

https://www.theonlinecitizen.com/2019/01/28/eu-parliamentarians-asks-singapore-for-a-gesture-of-goodwillregarding-jolovan-whams-case-singapore-says-no/

New Report: Foreign domestic maids in Singapore are subjected to being victims of forced labour (South China Morning Post, Reuters)

https://www.scmp.com/news/asia/southeast-asia/article/2182233/singapores-foreign-domestic-workersvulnerable-forced

https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-singapore-rights-migrant/singapore-urged-to-fix-rules-on-hiring-domestic-workersto-stop-forced-labour-idUKKCN1P90WK

Thailand

Thai election is confirmed on Mar 24 (Channel News Asia, The Guardian)

https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asia/thailand-election-commission-march-24-vote-11157840 https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/jan/23/thailand-marks-stilted-return-to-democracy-with-march-election

The question on fair election in Thailand: Simple majority scenario in the upcoming elections could see Prayut elected as PM (The ASEAN Post, Nikkei Asian Review)

https://theaseanpost.com/article/will-thai-elections-be-fair

https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/Turbulent-Thailand/Thai-pro-junta-party-invites-Prayuth-to-run-as-premier

Toxic haze: Bangkok pollution went bad, the authorities shut down schools (Bloomberg, The Straits Times)

https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-01-30/bangkok-shuts-hundreds-of-schools-as-air-pollutionchokes-city

https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/se-asia/researchers-find-bangkok-air-full-of-toxic-heavy-metals-that-come-fromvehicles-body



Vietnam

Vietnam's cyber-security law is enacted. It entails removing content that the authorities deem to be against the state (The Straits Times, The Vietnamese)

https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/vietnams-cyber-security-law-takes-effect-amid-criticism https://www.thevietnamese.org/2019/01/vietnam-the-vietnamese-communist-party-declared-internet-a-battlefield/

State of human rights in Vietnam debated at UN Human Rights Council in Geneva (Radio Free Asia)

https://www.rfa.org/english/news/vietnam/un-review-01232019171025.html

The General Secretary of the Communist Party, President Nguyen Phu Trong, acknowledges the importance of overseas Vietnamese to Nation (Vietnam News)

https://vietnamnews.vn/politics-laws/484595/overseas-vietnamese-an-inseparable-part-of-the-nation-partyleader.html#gyz2Oolp3pEcgyOU.97



ASEAN

Waiting for a more proactive ASEAN in 2019 by Kavi Chongkitavorn (Bangkok Post) https://www.bangkokpost.com/opinion/1607222/waiting-for-a-more-proactive-asean

Southeast Asia comprises of Maritime and Mainland: Analysis on ASEAN Role in Mekong Subregion (The Diplomat)

https://thediplomat.com/2019/01/can-asean-play-a-greater-role-in-the-mekong-subregion/

ASEAN Foreign Ministers' idle stance on Rakhine and South China Sea after Meeting in Chiang Mai (Myanmar Times)

https://www.mmtimes.com/news/asean-meet-rocks-no-boats-rakhine-south-china-sea.html