

# THE HABIBIE CENTER

## ASEAN ROUND-UP



Regional news round-up for the week ending : 06 April 2015

### [Asean Officials Keen On Regional TIN](#)

*Philippine Daily Inquirer - March 30, 2015*

Top finance and central bank officials of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations support moves to come up with a regional tax identification number (TIN) in line with plans to harmonise taxation policies as well as strengthen compliance monitoring across member-states.

### [RI, Malaysia Compete Over Joint Office For Haze](#)

*The Jakarta Post, Jakarta - March 31, 2015*

Indonesia is in a race with Malaysia for leadership of the upcoming ASEAN secretariat that will coordinate efforts to reduce transboundary air pollution caused by land and forest fires in the region. "We are competing with Malaysia over this center. We want it to be here instead of in Kuala Lumpur," Environment and Forestry Minister Siti Nurbaya Bakar told the House of Representatives Commission IV on Monday.

### [China's Plan For ASEAN-China Maritime Cooperation](#)

*The diplomat.com - April 1, 2015*

While much attention at the 2015 Boao Forum for Asia this weekend was lavished on China's 21st Century Maritime Silk Road and other grand proposals, Beijing also held a ceremony on the sidelines of the forum to officially launch the Year of ASEAN-China Maritime Cooperation.

### [Southeast Asia's Borrowers Wince As Deflation Looms](#)

*Bangkok Post - April 1, 2015*

Loans to businesses and households in Southeast Asia are growing at their slowest pace in five years, but the region's most indebted economies aren't becoming any less leveraged. Because of deflation, borrowers are at risk of shouldering heavier debt burdens.

### [Indonesia Banks On \\$63 Billion From China](#)

*The Wall Street Journal - April 1, 2015*

Indonesia has its eyes on more than \$60 billion in possible investment and financing from China, raising the curtain on what President Joko Widodo hopes will be a new era in economic relations with the world's No. 2 economy.

### [Southeast Asia Seen Facing Increasingly Intense Climate Events](#)

*The Jakarta Globe - April 2, 2015*

Densely populated Southeast Asian island states such as Taiwan, Hong Kong, Japan and the Philippines are likely to face more intense climate events in future, analysts said on Thursday. These islands are especially vulnerable because of their large populations and because much of their land is exposed to storm surges and sea-level rises, according to research published by risk analysis group Verisk Maplecroft.

### [Negotiating A New Regional Order For Economics And Politics](#)

*The Jakarta Post - April 2, 2015*

As the first quarter of 2015 comes to a close, ambitions for regional economic integration are running high in Asia. Three major frameworks for economic integration are slated for completion this year. The ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) is expected to be in place by December 2015. While substantive negotiations over the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) are expected to conclude by the end of the year, the US-led Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) is expected to be completed within 2015.

### [Thailand Needs A Democratic, Just Society](#)

*Bangkokpost.com - April 2, 2015*

Thailand needs a democratic, just society Over the past year, several foreign governments have exhorted Thailand to "bring back democracy" and "hold elections". As Americans who between us have resided in Thailand for over a century, we regard these well-intentioned exhortations as counter-productive and simplistic, revealing inadequate understanding of the cultural, social, and political challenges that Thailand must deal with if it is to develop sustainable democratic governance.

### [13 Localities of Vietnam, Laos, Thailand Pledge To Step Up Cooperation](#)

*Tuoitrenews.vn - April 3, 2015*

Representatives from eight Vietnamese localities, including Kon Tum, Gia Lai, Dak Lak, Dak Nong, Binh Dinh, Quang Ngai, Da Nang, and Hanoi; three Lao provinces, namely Champasak, Attapeu, and Sekong; and two Thai provinces, Ubon Ratchathani and Sisaket, attended the meeting in the Central Highlands province of Kon Tum on Thursday, according to the Vietnam News Agency.

### [Arms Control in Asia: Back to the Future?](#)

*The diplomat.com - April 6, 2015*

Nuclear reductions and disarmament are not necessarily smart ideas. Even with the successful elimination of nuclear weapons, the tasks of strategy – deterrence, extended deterrence, and arms control – do not go away. Instead, they become even more difficult to manage. This is especially true for conventional arms control which, throughout history, has received very little attention in Asia.

*ASEAN Studies Program of The Habibie Center conduct monthly discussion and bi-monthly policy brief on ASEAN and its current development.*

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