

THE HABIBIE CENTER ASEAN ROUND-UP



Regional news round-up for the week ending : 04 May 2015

[Asean Stops Short of Harder Line on China](#)

The Wall Street Journal - April 27, 2015

A meeting of Southeast Asian leaders stopped short of taking a harder line against Chinese territorial claims in the South China Sea Monday, despite warnings by the Philippines that a “worsening situation” in the disputed region will have global reverberations. Host Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak, in closing two days of meetings at a summit of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations, noted the growing attention toward China’s moves to reclaim land around semi-submerged islets in the disputed waters.

[What Did the 26th ASEAN Summit Achieve?](#)

The Diplomat.com - April 28, 2015

With the conclusion of the 26th ASEAN Summit chaired by Malaysia, what did this series of meetings achieve? When evaluating ASEAN summits, it is useful to consider not only measures actually adopted – whether in the form of documents, housekeeping items, or proposals being forwarded on to other bodies – but also established ideas put off until future meetings and newer ones tabled for discussion in order to get the full picture. Since the ten-member grouping operates by consensus and rotating chairmanships, there are usually different speeds at which it moves depending on the issue in question and the extent of agreement or disagreement therein.

[It's Time ASEAN Took a Good Look at Its Gallows](#)

The Diplomat.com - April 30, 2015

The blowback over Indonesia’s latest decision to execute foreigners – including a four Nigerians, two Australians, and a Brazilian – will taint the presidency of Joko Widodo and cast a dim light over his factional rival Megawati Sukarnoputri, chair of the ruling PDI-P.

[Asean bourses face China bull threat](#)

The Rakyatpost.com - April 30, 2015

Initial public offerings have slowed to a trickle in parts of Southeast Asia as the absence of mega deals and volatile currencies sapped sentiment. The smaller pool of offerings may push investors to bull markets such as China, fund managers say. In Singapore, initial public offer (IPO) proceeds total US\$12.5 million (RM44.35 million) so far this year, suggesting a big gap with 2014 when US\$2.56 billion was raised during the year. Singapore’s allure has waned as liquidity declined after a penny stocks scandal in 2013. In Malaysia, the hottest Asia-Pacific IPO destination in 2012, IPO proceeds total US\$10.9 million, just 1% of what was raised in 2014.

[Overt religious persecution in eight of 10 Asean states, study finds](#)

The Malay Mail Online.com - May 01, 2015

Blurring lines between religion and nationalism, weak rule of law

and the politicisation of religion are primary factors fuelling religious persecution in member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and across the region, concluded a study commissioned by the Human Rights Resource Centre for Asean.

[Nuclear weapons state should accede to SEANWFZ treaty: Malaysia](#)

The Sunday - May 01, 2015

The Nuclear Weapons States should accede to the Protocol to the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone (SEANWFZ) Treaty without reservation, the United Nations (UN) was told. Malaysia Permanent Representative to UN Ramlan Ibrahim in making the call at the General Debate of the 2015 Review Conference on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in New York, yesterday said Malaysia believed in the strengthening of existing nuclear weapon-free zones, and the establishment of new nuclear weapon free zones represented a positive step towards attaining the objective of global nuclear disarmament.

[ASEAN Economics seen growing by 4.9%](#)

Philippine Daily Inquirer - May 01, 2015

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations is seen to grow by 4.9 percent this year, surpassing the global growth projection of 3.5 percent, as the region remains an attractive investment destination. Last year, the Asean economy grew by 4.4 percent despite challenges in the global economy, the heads of the 10 Asean member states said in a joint statement issued following the 26th Asean Summit held in Malaysia earlier this week.

[Time to include Asean into History syllabus](#)

The Star.com - May 03, 2015

A SECTION on Asean should be incorporated into the school History syllabus of all its member nations. Learning about the beginnings of the grouping and the region’s history would be a good start, said Tunku Zain Al-Abidin Ibni Tuanku Muhriz (pic), the founding president of Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs (Ideas), a Malaysian think tank. At a dialogue session in Kuala Lumpur recently, he suggested that students ask their schools and governments to have a module on Asean as part of their history lessons.

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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