

THE HABIBIE CENTER

ASEAN ROUND-UP



Regional news round-up for the week ending : 13 April 2015

[Banking On Southeast Asia's E-Commerce Future](#)

Techcrunch.com - April 2, 2015

China's e-commerce, m-commerce and payments lead the world. It is the largest e-commerce market (KPMG), and is home to Alibaba, with its US\$25 billion IPO, the largest in history. Alipay, China's answer to PayPal, is the world's largest online payment service.

[Indonesia Frees 300 Men Found Enslaved on Island](#)

Nytimes.com - April 4, 2015

More than 300 migrant fishermen who had been enslaved on trawlers for years rode those same vessels to freedom on Saturday after a daring rescue from a remote Indonesian island where they had lived in fear of being beaten or killed by their captors.

[Trillion-Dollar Philippine Economic Goldmine Emerging From Murky Pit](#)

Forbes.com - April 5, 2015

The Philippines holds the world's second largest gold reserves, and applications from foreign mining firms are piling up to tap that plus a list of other metals that basically just sit under the ground now.

[AmCham: JIS Verdicts Could Deter Foreign Investment in Indonesia](#)

The Jakarta Globe - April 6, 2015

The American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) in Indonesia has expressed its concern about the conviction of two staffers of an elite international school in a high-profile sexual abuse case, saying the verdicts could have a "negative impact on the foreign investment environment."

[Cambodia Inaugurates Japan-Funded Bridge Across Mekong River](#)

Japantimes.co.jp - April 6, 2015

Cambodia on Monday inaugurated the Japan-funded Tsubasa Bridge across the Mekong River. During the opening ceremony in Neak Loeung, about 60 km east of Phnom Penh, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen thanked Japan for its assistance. "Long live the friendship between Cambodia and Japan," he said.

[Cabinet That's All Show and No Go Fuels Dissatisfaction](#)

The Jakarta Globe, April 6, 2015

President Joko Widodo's popularity has taken a steep tumble following a slew of controversial policy initiatives, prompting a call for a cabinet reshuffle to boost his administration's performance.

[Asean's Next Decade](#)

Bangkokpost.com - April 6, 2015

Development gaps are being narrowed gradually in Asean as the group's emerging economies expand at a faster rate than their more advanced peers. However, narrowing disparities and improving connectivity will remain essential for the region to enjoy stable

growth in the years to come, says the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

[Singapore Tweaks Timetable for Curbs On Unsecured Credit](#)

Reuters.com - April 6, 2015

Singapore will implement curbs on credit card and other unsecured loans that banks can extend to individuals in stages, to give borrowers more time to reduce their debts, its central bank said on Monday.

[Myanmar Farmers Dream Of Resurrecting Asia's Rice Bowl](#)

Bangkokpost.com - April 9, 2015

Dressed in Chelsea football shorts and a wide-brimmed hat, Than Tun toils away in his paddy field on the outskirts of Yangon, sweat pouring down his sinewy arms. Gruelling work that once helped Myanmar become the world's largest rice exporter is today a Herculean and often lonely job for farmers striving to return the impoverished nation to its former grain prowess.

[HK To Promote Trade Ties With RI, Other ASEAN Members](#)

The Jakarta Post - April 9, 2015

Hong Kong will further strengthen its economic relations with Indonesia and other members of ASEAN, which will establish a common market at the end of this year. Fong Ngai, the director of the Singapore-based Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office for the ASEAN region, said in Jakarta on Wednesday that Hong Kong, the world's 10th largest trading economy, had the technology and resources to promote its economic relations, especially in the service sector.

[Malaysia Strengthens Sedition Act](#)

The Diplomat.com - April 13, 2015

Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak has made two contrasting pledges with regard to the Sedition Act of 1948. First, during the election period in 2012, he vowed to repeal the archaic law. Then, two years later, he announced that the law would be strengthened to preserve domestic harmony. Last Friday, Najib's allies in parliament upheld the latter when they passed a bill that made several amendments to the Sedition Act.

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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