

# THE HABIBIE CENTER

## ASEAN ROUND-UP



### [This satellite firm wants to be the 'budget airline' of the internet game in rural Indonesia](#)

*Techinasia.com - May 25, 2015*

Satellite broadband is an option for people who live in rural areas where traditional fixed-line internet services aren't available. It uses a satellite dish to provide two-way access, and connectivity speeds, which used to be lower, have improved. Download speeds via satellite hookup can now even reach up to 20 megabytes per second. In the US, people who live on farms, or well outside major cities, sometimes resort to satellite internet because fixed-line options don't make sense.

### [Firms urged to make Asean focal point of growth plan](#)

*Nationmultimedia.com - May 26, 2015*

The private sector should take the lead in pursuing an Asean growth strategy to become true Asean multinationals, said Maybank Kim Eng Group chief executive officer John Chong. "The policy makers have put the building blocks and framework in place. The call goes out now to companies to make the region a focal point of their growth plan and pursue an Asean-centric strategy," Chong said at Maybank's inaugural Invest Asean Vietnam conference.

### [India and Vietnam Push Ahead with Strategic Security Cooperation](#)

*TheDiplomat.com - May 26, 2015*

Vietnamese Defense Minister Phùng Quang Thanh is in India for a three-day visit this week. On Monday, Thanh met with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Defense Minister Manohar Parrikar. Thanh's visit to India is intended to bolster strategic ties between India and Vietnam and comes at a time of rising tensions in the South China Sea—where Vietnam disputes the sovereignty of various islands and reefs with China. Additionally, the Indian government has framed its approach toward Vietnam in terms of its proactive "Act East" policy. Parallel to Thanh's visit to New Delhi, Indian and Vietnamese senior diplomats held their seventh deputy ministerial-level political consultation in Hanoi.

### [Robust Singapore Q1 GDP surprises, but headwinds loom](#)

*Reuters.com - May 26, 2015*

Singapore's economy grew faster than estimated in the first quarter, boding well for the city-state's growth outlook this year, but some signs of drag from uneven global growth are emerging. The surprisingly strong first quarter data bolsters the case for the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) to hold off from additional monetary easing later this year, economists said.

### [Thailand, Japan sign bullet-train deal](#)

*Bangkokpost.com - May 27, 2015*

Thailand and Japan on Wednesday signed a memorandum of understanding to cooperate on the possible introduction of Japan's shinkansen bullet-train technology into the kingdom. Transport Minister Prajin Juntong and his Japanese counterpart Akihiro Ota

Regional news round-up for the week ending : 1 June 2015

signed the pact during talks in Tokyo. The agreement will enable the two countries to begin a feasibility study and evaluate demand and the profitability of a roughly 660-kilometre high-speed railway project linking Bangkok and Chiang Mai.

### [Philippine, Vietnam troops play sports on disputed island](#)

*Bangkokpost.com - May 28, 2015*

Filipino and Vietnamese troops played football and tug-of-war on a disputed South China Sea island on Wednesday, officials said, closing ranks as their rival China ramps up construction of artificial islands. The games took place on Philippine-held Northeast Cay, just 2.7 kilometres from Southwest Cay which is controlled by Vietnam, where a similar contest was held last year.

### [Does AEC need Indonesia more than Indonesia needs AEC?](#)

*Establishmentpost.com - May 28, 2015*

Is Indonesia being lukewarm towards Asean economic integration? The republic's commitment to the Asean Economic Community (AEC) has been questioned numerous times before but this time it is a Malaysian banker who is asking. Datuk Seri Nazir Razak, chairman of the fifth largest banking group in Asean CIMB Group Holdings Bhd and the Malaysian prime minister's brother, was quoted as saying: "Indonesia's commitment towards the AEC has been ambiguous (under the current leadership) ... we are waiting for Jokowi to officially state his stand on the AEC."

### [China, Japan keen to invest in Indonesia](#)

*The Jakarta Post - May 28, 2015*

Business leaders from China and Japan separately told President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo on Wednesday that they remained committed to their investments in Indonesia and would follow through on their investment plans. President Jokowi held a courtesy call meeting with Chinese Vice Premier Liu Yandong on Wednesday afternoon at the Merdeka Palace, later followed by a meeting with former Japanese prime minister Yasuo Fukuda, also president of the Japan Indonesia Association (Japinda). State Secretary Pratikno said that during the meeting Jokowi underlined his desire for Chinese-backed investment projects to be realized.

*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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