

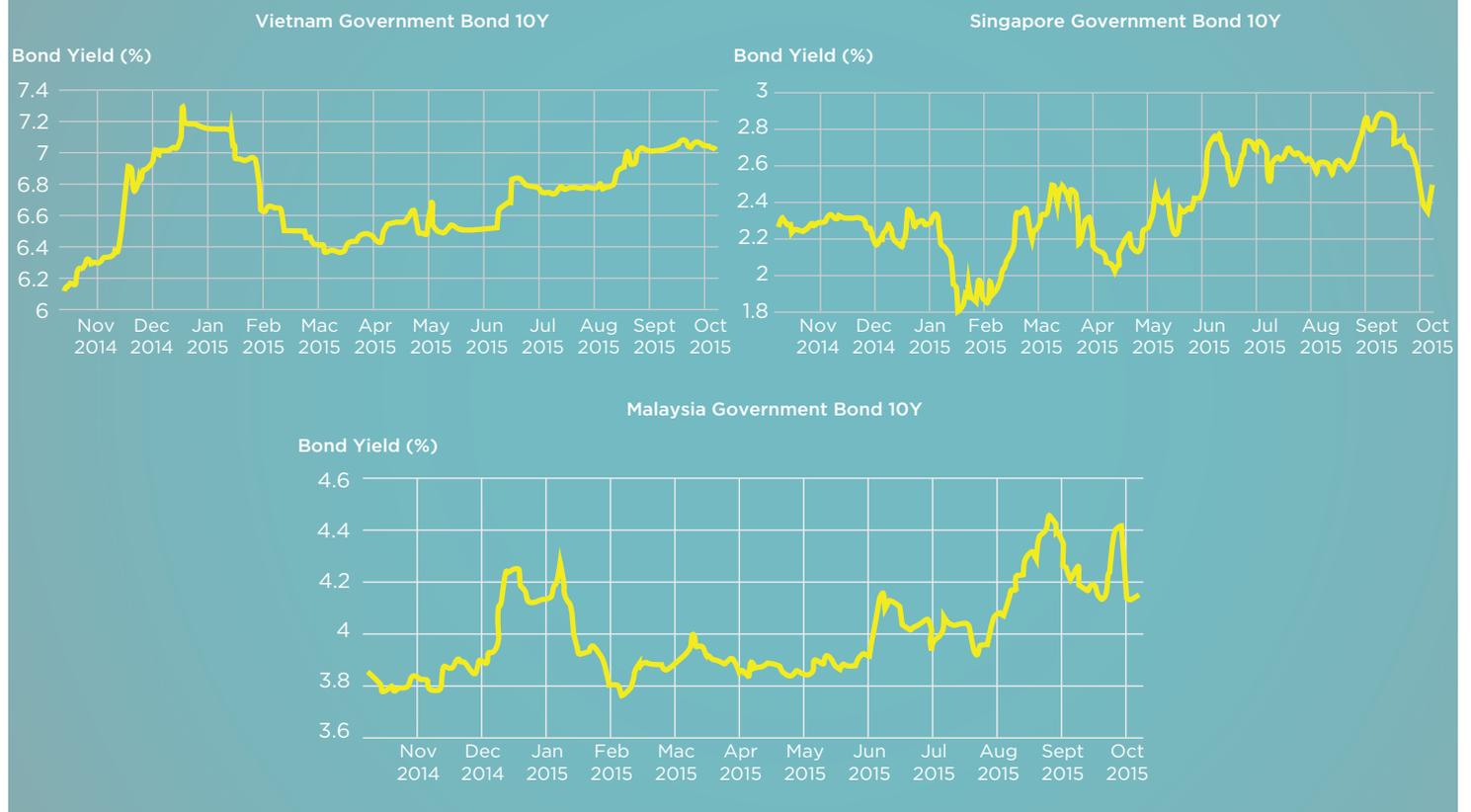
CARI CAPTURES



01 TPP SEES BONDS OF SIGNATORIES BOOSTED

 SINGAPORE  VIETNAM  MALAYSIA

Trans-Pacific Partnership Bond



[Trading Economics](#)

Several Asian sovereign bonds received a boost on 6 October following the signing of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPPA).

- ▶ The TPP, which covers 40% of the global economy is expected to open up opportunities for signatories through the implementation of free trade agreements as well as intellectual property rights guarantees; whilst Singapore, Malaysia, and Vietnam benefit as signatories to the TPP, it should be noted that their preferred trade status as members to the agreement adversely affect other nations within the region
- ▶ All three ASEAN nations saw bumps to their sovereign bonds,

with Vietnam’s bonds which are due in 2024 tightening by 19 basis points (bp), Malaysia’s 2025 Sukuk bonds narrowing by 4bp, and Singapore’s 2023 bonds closing by 2bp

- ▶ The improving sovereign bonds in said nations reflects the preferred trade status of TPP signatories, which will in turn benefit their economies; furthermore, the Singapore Business Federation wholeheartedly expects small and medium sized businesses to enter the global supply chain as a direct result of lowered barriers to entry and trade introduced by the TPP

[Today Online \(6 October 2015\)](#)

02 SINGAPORE-MALAYSIAN HIGH SPEED RAIL CONTINUES DEVELOPMENT



A joint Request for Information (RFI) for the High Speed Rail (HSR) connecting both nations was issued, marking an important milestone in the development of the project.

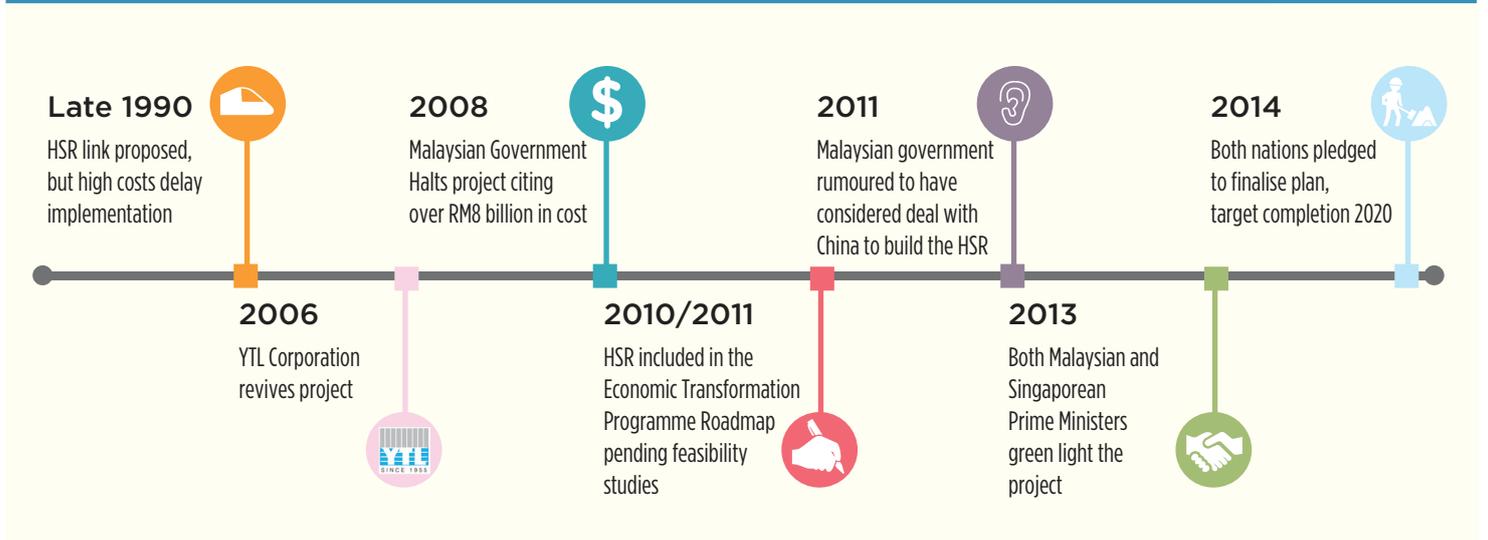
- ▶ Amidst a lack of progress since the project's initial announcement in 2013, the bi-lateral fact finding mission hopes to gauge market interest as well as gather industry opinions on the commercial and technological viability of the project
- ▶ The HSR is expected to link Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia to Singapore's

Jurong West in a 90 minute commute; the RFI is an open invitation to companies and consortiums interested in participating in the project in all aspects to achieve this goal

- ▶ Information gathered will then be used to solidify bilateral discussions and move the formal tender process along
- ▶ It should be noted that the RFI was issued shortly after the inauguration of Singapore's newest coordinating transport minister Khaw Boon Wan, who acknowledged the challenges faced by the project and the actions needed to be undertaken

[Straits Times \(7 October 2015\)](#)

Timeline of High Speed Rail Project



[HighBeam](#)

03 RUSSIA-INDONESIA PARTNERSHIP TO BUILD FUTURE OF INDONESIAN NUCLEAR SECTOR



A Russian representative has welcomed the opportunity to develop the peaceful use of nuclear power in Indonesia after a number of Russian companies signed on to a flagship project which is hoped to be the future of Indonesia's nuclear program.

- ▶ In June 2015, Indonesia's National Nuclear Energy Agency (BATAN) signed a deal with Rosatom — Russia's State Nuclear Energy Corporation at the Atomexpo international conference and exhibition in Moscow to develop nuclear energy
- ▶ The agency now operates three research nuclear reactors, Serpong in Banten, Bandung in West Java and a third location at Yogyakarta in Central Java
- ▶ Under the deal, both parties will cooperate on both the scientific and development aspects as well as promote the use of nuclear energy in Indonesia while increasing community awareness about modern nuclear energy technologies

[Jakarta Globe \(6 October 2015\)](#)

04 PHILIPPINES SEES BIG GROWTH IN OUTSOURCED MEDICAL SERVICES



Leaders of the Philippine services outsourcing industry say they expect a big increase in business as the result of a new, highly detailed diagnosis coding system adopted by the U.S. for insurance claims.

- ▶ The Philippines is the world's leader in international call centre services. Its information technology and outsourced services industry is expected to employ 1.3 million people by 2016, when annual earnings are seen to reach \$25 billion
- ▶ Dan Reyes, chairman of the IT & Business Process Association of the Philippines, said Monday the new U.S. coding system will open up more processing jobs and the Philippines stands to gain because of its large pool of graduates in medical-related fields
- ▶ Currently, his group says earnings have jumped 30 percent for Philippine companies providing medical billing services

[ABC News \(5 October 2015\)](#)



05 LAOS, THAI, MALAYSIA & SINGAPORE POWER DEAL DELAYED



The signing of the Laos, Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore (LTMS) Power Integration Project deal has been delayed for another six months due to reservations by Singapore.

- ▶ According to the Energy, Green Technology and Water Minister Datuk Seri Dr Maximus Ongkili, Singapore needed some time to go through the agreement, which involves a direct award or direct absorption which bypasses the normal competitive bidding process

- ▶ He added this PIP pilot project is carried out in two phases, where under phase one Laos, Thailand and Malaysia can embark on this project with Malaysia buying the proposed 100 megawatts from Laos and Thailand

[New Straits Times \(7 October 2015\)](#)

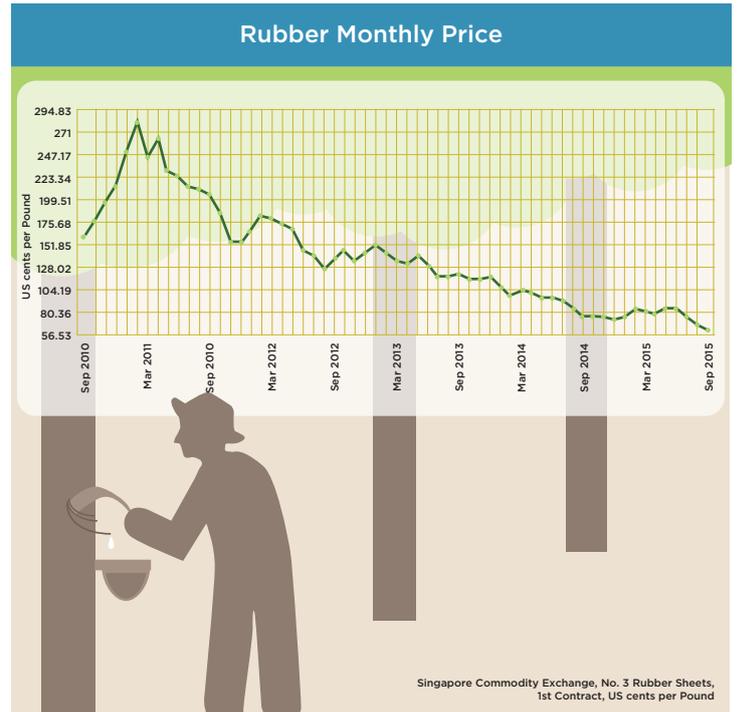
06 CAMBODIA DECLINES RUBBER CARTEL MEMBERSHIP



Cambodia declined an invitation from the world largest rubber production group, the International Tripartite Rubber Council (ITRC).

- ▶ The decision came as Cambodian officials found little benefit in joining with the cartel, citing the fact that the country's rubber industry was still in its infancy, with no need for further imports; furthermore, as the nation's rubber production was dwarfed by other ITRC member nations, its membership would wield little to no influence within the ITRC
- ▶ Meanwhile however, Agriculture Ministry Secretary of State Ly Phalla affirmed the nation's continued cooperation with the ITRC, stating that the Cambodia would participate through the use of observers within the ITRC meetings
- ▶ The invitation comes following the declining price of rubber which has been falling steadily since 2011, with the ITRC inviting Myanmar, Vietnam, and Cambodia to stabilise regional prices; membership would have enabled the purchase of rubber stock from major rubber producers, which included Thailand, Indonesia, and Malaysia, for domestic re-sale

[Khmer Times \(6 October 2015\)](#)



[Index Mundi](#)

07 MERS CASE SUSPECTED IN THAILAND



A Thai woman suspected of having contracted Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) virus has been hospitalised after returning from her pilgrimage to Makkah, Saudi Arabia.

- ▶ The 59-year-old woman who lives in Muang district, the southern Thai province of Yala, was admitted with the flu-like symptoms of high fever, cough and breathing difficulties, provincial health authorities said
- ▶ Most of the MERS cases have sourced from Middle East, especially Saudi Arabia. MERS Coronavirus belongs to the family of corona viruses which also includes SARS which haunted Asia in 2003

- ▶ It has a much higher fatality rate than SARS and there is no cure or vaccine
- ▶ Thailand confirmed its first case of MERS on 18 June, which saw A 75-year-old entrepreneur from Oman, who was tested positive for MERS, successfully treated in Bangkok

[Borneo Post \(7 October 2015\)](#)



08 MYANMAR MONITOR

POLITICS

▶ Shwe Mann, former chairman of Myanmar's ruling Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) has vowed to collaborate with the opposition if he wins a seat in parliament during next month's general election, though he acknowledged that the his party will likely struggle in the upcoming polls. "We pledged to one another that we will work together for our country and its citizens, even though we each will still try to win the election," he said referring to NLD leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

[Radio Free Asia \(26 October 2015\)](#)

▶ The upcoming election on 8 November will see many firsts, from the unprecedented number of more than 6,000 participating candidates, to the 93 political parties involved. The candidates are vying for 1,142 seats in the national, regional and state parliament and more than 30 million citizens are eligible to vote.

[Channel News Asia \(26 October 2015\)](#)

▶ Critics fear that the arrest of NGO worker Patrick Kum Jaa Lee for commenting on a picture showing a foot standing on a photo of Commander-in-chief Min Aung Hlaing is a worrying backward step for Myanmar's regained freedom of expression. He could face up to three years in prison. His arrest is part of a wider crackdown on social media posts deemed offensive to the military and government in the run-up to the up-coming election.

[Strait Times \(23 October 2015\)](#)

▶ Myanmar's Ministry of Information is arranging one-month visa for foreign correspondents, who, after getting media accreditation cards, will be allowed to cover the election processes throughout the country. Meanwhile, there have been 10,789 local observers in 12 groups along with international observers, including those from the European Union.

[Xinhua \(26 October 2015\)](#)

ECONOMY

▶ Myanmar's jade trade, a secretive industry driving armed conflict and rampant drug abuse, was worth as much as US\$31 billion in 2014, almost half of the country's GDP, according to a report released earlier this month by Global Witness, an anticorruption organization based in London. The report shines new light on the web of corruption and stolen wealth undermining the country's transition to democracy.

[New York Times \(22 October 2015\)](#)

▶ Asia Green Development Bank is preparing to launch an initial public offering, or IPO, on the soon-to-open Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX), though profits are down substantially on last year. The bank's net profit was K112.6 million (US\$88,417) for the 2014-15 fiscal year, far lower than K9.6 billion (US\$7.54 billion) the previous year, officials said at the fifth annual meeting on 24 October.

[Myanmar Times \(26 October 2015\)](#)

09 BRUNEI HOLDS NATIONWIDE CRISIS HANDLING EXERCISE



Brunei's Prime Minister's Office (PMO) has warned that spreading false information to the public is an offence and will be prosecuted under the laws.

- ▶ The drill is aimed to exercise and improve the ability of relevant agencies as a whole in handling and tackling security risks and challenges
- ▶ In respect to this exercise, the PMO said in a press statement that the public is advised to refrain from spreading pictures related to the exercise which can cause a state of panic and anxiety
- ▶ Spreading false information to the public is an offence and may be prosecuted under the laws of Brunei Darussalam, and might face a sentence of up to three-year imprisonment and a fine of BND 3,000 (USD 2,096)

[Xinhua News Agency \(5 October 2015\)](#)

10 INDONESIA SEIZES ILLEGAL SHARK FINS



Indonesian authorities seized 3,000 fins from sharks to be flown to Hong Kong, which was worth up to US\$72,000 in Indonesia and many times that in Hong Kong.

- ▶ According to the World Wide Fund, an environmental group, more than 70 million sharks are killed each year, with a major portion of the harvested fins exported to Hong Kong and mainland China
- ▶ The illegal haul seized was from whitecap sharks caught off the waters around Java island, which are considered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to be an endangered species
- ▶ The problems faced with regards to the illegal trade have been exacerbated by weak law enforcement as well as a lack of alternatives offered to poor fishermen in terms of earning a living

[Bangkok Post \(7 October 2015\)](#)

Average Catch of Key Shark Catchers

Rank	Country	Average Catch (2000-2007)
1	Indonesia	110,528
2	India	70,758
3	Spain	57,685
4	Taiwan	48,493
5	Mexico	34,535
6	Pakistan	34,270
7	Argentina	33,639
8	USA	29,909
9	Japan	25,930
10	Malaysia	24,500
11	Thailand	24,156
12	France	22,328
13	Sri Lanka	22,029
14	Brazil	20,498
15	New Zealand	18,260
16	Portugal	15,137
17	UK	14,301

www.traffic.org

