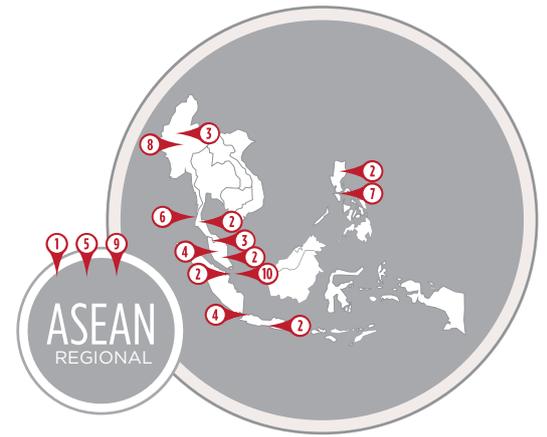


CARI CAPTURES



01 FLIGHT MH370: POSSIBLE MID-AIR DISINTEGRATION, UNCONFIRMED OBJECT 'SPOTTED' IN SEA



LAST KNOWN POSITION OF FLIGHT MH370



AIRCRAFT TYPE:
BOEING 777-200

Departed Kuala Lumpur
At 12:41am

KUALA LUMPUR
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
(KLIA)

065515 North (longitude)
and 1033443 East (latitude)

NEWS

239 PASSENGERS

227 Passengers
(Including 2 Infants)

12 Crew Members

	TAIWAN	154 (1 Infants)
	CHINA	
	MALAYSIA	38
	INDONESIA	7
	AUSTRALIA	6
	INDIA	5

	FRANCE	4
	USA	3 (1 Infants)
	NEW ZEALAND	2
	UKRAINE	2
	CANADA	2
	RUSSIA	1
	ITALY	1
	NETHERLANDS	1
	AUSTRIA	1



Source: The Malaysian Insider

Malaysia Airlines lost contact with flight MH 370 which departed from Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) en route to Beijing in the early hours of Saturday, 8th of March.

- ▶ Initially, search and rescue efforts were directed to the South China Sea, off the coast of Kota Bharu in Malaysia in search of the missing aircraft
- ▶ The last radar signal from MH 370 was at 1.30am, 50 minutes after the aircraft left the port of departure
- ▶ However, recent reports by Chinese and American satellite imaging states that the aircraft diverted from its original course and headed across Western Malaysia to an unknown location in the Andaman Sea in the Indian Ocean
- ▶ The Royal Malaysian Police have identified four areas which are

being investigated to identify what happened to the missing plane. The four areas are Hijacking, Sabotage, Psychological Problems and Personal Problems

- ▶ At present, the aircraft has still not been located. The pilot and co-pilot as well as all 239 people on board the aircraft are being investigated.
- ▶ Numerous neighbouring countries are now assisting in this search which covers an area of 2.24 million square nautical miles
- ▶ By gathering and analyzing whatever available radar and satellite data, the investigators hope to narrow down the search areas soon.
- ▶ The Director General of the Malaysian Department of Civil Aviation, Azharuddin Abdul Rahman said no possible causes of the aircraft's disappearance are being ruled out, and an investigation is still ongoing

02 SOUTHEAST ASIA RECEIVES MORE FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT (FDI) THAN CHINA, WHICH IS NOW THE WORLD'S THIRD-LARGEST FOREIGN INVESTOR

THAILAND INDONESIA MALAYSIA SINGAPORE PHILIPPINES



In 2013, foreign direct investment (FDI) into Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, known as ASEAN 5, outstripped FDI into China for the first time, and a big chunk of the investment those Southeast Asian countries received came from China, now the third-largest foreign investor in the world.

- ▶ In 2013, foreign direct investment (FDI) into Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand outstripped FDI into China for the first time ever
- ▶ A major portion of the FDI injected into these Southeast Asian nations, known as the ASEAN-5, came from China itself
- ▶ From a research note conducted by Bank of America Merrill Lynch,

these countries boast the biggest economies in Southeast Asia and received US\$ 128.4 billion in foreign investment, a 7 percent increase from US\$ 120 billion in 2012

- ▶ The research paper notes that the main reason for this shift in investment is the favourable demographics in ASEAN compared to far lower wages in China and a rapidly ageing population caused by decades of planned birth policies
- ▶ The reality however, is that China is steadily becoming richer as time goes by and will soon assume the role of principal investor in the region

[IB Times \(5 Mar 2014\)](#)

03 TRAFFICKING ABUSE OF MYANMAR ROHINGYA SPREADS TO MALAYSIA

MALAYSIA MYANMAR

Human traffickers have kept hundreds of Rohingya Muslims captive in houses in northern Malaysia, beating them, depriving them of food, and demanding a ransom from their families, according to detailed accounts by the victims.

- ▶ Human trafficking of the Rohingya people in Myanmar has now spread to Malaysia
- ▶ Human traffickers have kept hundreds of Rohingya Muslims captive in houses in northern Malaysia
- ▶ These refugees have been subjected to being beaten up, deprivation of food and ransom demands from their families, according to first-hand accounts by some of the victims
- ▶ The personal accounts given to Reuters suggest that the gangs involved in trafficking these Muslim asylum seekers who are fleeing persecution in Myanmar are shifting their operations into Malaysia as Thai authorities begin a crack-down on jungle camps near the border where these asylum seekers are being held
- ▶ Police in the northern Malaysian states of Penang and Kedah have conducted several raids on certain houses in recent months, discovering four Rohingya men bound together with metal chains in one of the apartments

[Reuters \(5 Mar 2014\)](#)

04 HAZE AMID DROUGHT STOKES WORRY OF REPEAT CHOKING: SOUTHEAST ASIA

INDONESIA MALAYSIA

Forest fires brought on by drought in Malaysia and Indonesia fouled air quality to unhealthy levels in parts of Southeast Asia, stoking concerns of a repeat of the haze that engulfed the region in June.

- ▶ Forest fires brought on by drought in Malaysia and Indonesia made air quality reach unhealthy levels in part of Southeast Asia
- ▶ Malaysia's air pollutant index climbed as high as 137 in Port Klang on March 3, with parts of Kuala Lumpur and the states of Selangor and Negri Sembilan recording levels above 100, classified as unhealthy.
- ▶ The haze has been regularly affecting the region, caused by periodic smog caused by ash drifting from Sumatera
- ▶ In an effort to combat this haze pollution, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations approved a joint haze monitoring system in October to identify fires that would lead to hazardous pollution levels in the region. The system involves sharing digitized land-use maps and concession maps of fire-prone areas that cause haze
- ▶ Singapore's Foreign Affairs Minister stated that the progress on this front has not been up to scratch and more could be done to prevent continued air pollution

[Business Week \(5 Mar 2014\)](#)

05 ASEAN MILITARY LEADERS SUPPORT SOUTHCHINA SEA CODE



Military chiefs from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASEAN, have renewed their group's call for an early conclusion to talks over a Code of Conduct in the disputed South China Sea.

- ▶ The ongoing dispute in the South China Sea has led military leaders from ASEAN to renew their call for an early conclusion to talks over a Code of Conduct
- ▶ Laos' Army Leader, General Min Aung Hlaing stated that the Code of Conduct on the territorial dispute to the South China Sea is critical for regional stability and security issues in the oceans within the region
- ▶ Stating that his own army's position is more in line with China's view, General Min went on to say that these maritime disputes with China over the South China Sea must be peacefully solved between all nations that are connected to this territorial dispute
- ▶ The ASEAN Secretariat have also indicated that they would assist to find a solution on the abovementioned dispute

[VOA News \(5 Mar 2014\)](#)

06 THAILAND MAY EXTEND STATE OF EMERGENCY DESPITE SCALED-BACK PROTEST



A state of emergency in Bangkok could be extended until anti-government protests end completely, Thailand's foreign minister said on Tuesday, adding that he feared more violence even though calm has returned to the capital in the past few days.

- ▶ The current state of emergency in Bangkok could be extended until anti-government protests end completely, Thailand's foreign minister said on Tuesday
- ▶ He added that he predicted more violence in the capital even though a certain level of calm has returned to the capital in the past few days
- ▶ These protests, aimed at overthrowing Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra are in their fifth consecutive month but the intensity has reduced with the remaining activists closing down several big protest sites and moving to a more central post in a Bangkok park.
- ▶ "If Suthep continues with his protest and there are more violent incidents, including grenades thrown, shootings and acts of violence by provocateurs, the emergency law will have to stay until the situation improves," Foreign Minister Surapong Tovichakchaikul said

[Reuters \(4 Mar 2014\)](#)

07 AS WORLD FACES SUPPLY GLUT, PHILIPPINES UNDER PRESSURE OVER HIGH RICE PRICES



WEEKLY WHOLESALE PRICES OF WELL MILLED RICE PHILIPPINES, 2012-2013



Philippines increase rice imports from Vietnam and Thailand as a measure to stabilise markets and curb inflation

- ▶ The price of rice in the Philippines has been steadily growing over the last six weeks, piling pressure on the local government to import more of the national staple to stabilise markets and curb inflation which has already been at a two year high
- ▶ By increasing rice purchases, the Philippines, one of the largest rice buyers would assist in easing global oversupply and also allowing

countries such as Vietnam and Thailand to bid aggressively for any new trade relationship with their Southeast Asian neighbour

- ▶ The Philippines have instead made efforts to curb price gains by doubling the amount of rice it has released into markets from stockpiles, according to National Food Authority spokesman Rex Estoperez. "Private traders are running out of stocks, that's why we have released (more) rice into the market from our warehouses," he said

[Reuters \(4 Mar 2014\)](#)



08 MYANMAR MONITOR

POLITICS

▶ The international medical NGO Medecins Sans Frontieres has been banned from operating in Myanmar's strife-torn Rakhine State, following official accusations the aid organisation is biased towards the Rohingya minority. The NGO has operated for 22 years in Myanmar and provides essential healthcare to tens of thousands of people.

[CNN \(4 March 2014\)](#)

▶ Myanmar's parliament has adopted the country's first laws granting media freedom but the government continues to retain the power to withhold or revoke publishing licenses unilaterally. Under the new laws, all media enterprises are to register with the government or risk fines. The bills also ban the publication of material that "insults" religion, displays nudity, undermines the "rule of law" or harms ethnic unity.

[Radio Free Asia \(5 March 2014\)](#)

ECONOMY

▶ Foreign investment in Myanmar's timber industry reached US\$51 million in 2013 and India was the largest investor with US\$26.04 million, followed by Singapore with US\$24.26 million. The increase in timber processing is partly due to the upcoming log export ban, which forces businesses to process the wood inside Myanmar.

[The Irrawaddy \(5 March 2014\)](#)

BUSINESS AND INVESTMENT

▶ Singapore-based consortium Creative Professional Group (CPG) has won a tender to act as consultant for the Kyaukphyu Special Economic Zone. CPG was among 17 companies which tendered for the consultancy out of 31 that expressed interest in the project. The cost of building the special economic zone is estimated at US\$227 million.

[Mizzima \(4 March 2014\)](#)

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

▶ A report to the US Congress released 5 March says that Myanmar is one of the core recipient countries of North Korean arms but adds that Myanmar has begun to distance itself from North Korea. Myanmar denies violating UN sanctions that prohibit such weapons purchases.

[Bangkok Post \(6 March 2014\)](#)

▶ Leaders from nations in the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) pledged to tackle terrorism and improve trade ties, during their talks held in Myanmar. The BIMSTEC group consists of India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan and Nepal, which together account for over 20% of the world population and a GDP of over US\$2.5 trillion.

[Channel NewsAsia \(5 March 2014\)](#)

09 ASEAN STOCKS FIRMER ON EASING UKRAINE TENSION



All Southeast Asian markets rose as relief over the Ukraine tension after Russian President remarks boost appetite for risky assets with Philippines and Indonesia leading the gains

- ▶ Most Southeast Asian markets rose on Wednesday as Russian President Vladimir Putin's comments regarding the ongoing tension in Ukraine signified relief for the Asian region
- ▶ Putin's assurance that another cold war was not on the horizon and the fact that Russia is not preparing itself for another aggressive engagement with other countries helped boost an appetite in Asia for risky assets, with Philippines and Indonesia leading the gains
- ▶ The Philippines share index gained 1.3 per cent by mid-day, while the Jakarta Composite Index was up 1.1 per cent, at its highest since February 24, led by financials. "We are not seeing the beginning of another cold war and Russia is not getting ready for another war. So that helped boost sentiment in the absence of no other bad news," said Song Seng Wun, a Singapore-based CIMB economist

[New Straits Times \(4 Mar 2014\)](#)

10 SINGAPORE-THE MOST EXPENSIVE CITY



Singapore has overtaken Tokyo to become the world's most expensive city driven by the high cost of car ownership and proliferation of glitzy shopping malls catering to Asia's newly wealthy.

- ▶ Singapore has been voted the most expensive city to live in according to the recent Worldwide Cost of Living report released by The Economist Intelligence Unit, surpassing Tokyo which dropped from top spot last year to sixth position
- ▶ Based on 131 cities worldwide, this report is intended to provide guidance for human resource managers to calculate compensation packages for expatriates and business travellers by comparing more than 400 prices of goods and services
- ▶ The report suggests the main reason for this is the appreciation of the Singapore Dollar and weaker European and Japanese currencies in recent history
- ▶ Singapore also has one of the most expensive private transport costs and utility costs, almost triple the costs in New York City
- ▶ Despite the high cost of living, Singapore still remains attractive for foreign businesses and expatriates due to its robust infrastructure and the high quality of its workforce

[Financial Times \(4 Mar 2014\)](#)