

CARI CAPTURES



01 JAPAN AFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO ASEAN SERVICES INDUSTRY



A Growing Labour Force in ASEAN

	Compound Average Annual Labour Force Growth Rate (%)		Unemployment Rate (%)									
	2010-14	2015-20	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	
Brunei	1.88	1.46	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.5	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.7	
Cambodia	2.03	1.67	1.3	0.8	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.3	
Indonesia	1.48	1.24	11.2	10.3	9.1	8.4	7.9	7.1	6.6	6.1	6.0	
Laos	2.48	1.97	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	
Malaysia	2.01	1.85	3.5	3.3	3.2	3.3	3.7	3.4	3.1	3.0	3.2	
Myanmar	1.38	0.97	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.5	
Philippines	2.46	2.31	7.7	8.0	7.4	7.3	7.5	7.3	7.0	7.0	7.3	
Singapore	1.44	0.91	4.1	3.6	3.0	3.2	4.3	3.1	2.9	2.8	3.1	
Thailand	0.83	0.48	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.5	1.0	0.7	0.7	0.8	
Vietnam	1.56	0.86	2.1	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.0	1.8	1.9	

[International Labor Organization](#)

Hideyuki Oashi, a deputy director general at the Japan Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, recently affirmed the nation's commitment to ASEAN's growing services industry at the Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO) international symposium on October the 24th.

▶ The director stated that Japan's involvement in the growth and development of ASEAN's service industry would be mutually beneficial; with Japanese firms capitalising on the region's high level of growth and abundant human capital, whilst ASEAN industries benefit from Japanese expertise

▶ Ohashi noted, however, that Japanese service firms need to customise their business plans according to local needs and market trends despite similar cultures; Japanese businesses such as convenience stores, restaurants, educational institutions and retail establishments are expected to lead the charge into the region

▶ JETRO chairman Hiroyuki Ishige said there are high expectations for ASEAN as a consumer market, and that manufacturing and services industries are "inseparable forces" for an economy

[Rappler \(25 October 2014\)](#)

02 UNION OF FOOD INDUSTRY STAKEHOLDERS IS CRUCIAL IN BOOSTING PHILIPPINES COMPETITIVENESS FOR AEC 2015



During the Philippine Food Safety Forum 2014, Presidential Communication and Operations Office (PCOO) Secretary, Herminio Sonny Coloma enjoined food industry stakeholders for a united front in ensuring the global competitiveness of Philippine food products.

- ▶ Colomo urged the participants of food industry to share the responsibility of improving the food safety and security to internationally accepted standards by adapting to globally compliant operations
- ▶ “The government through the leadership of President Benigno Aquino III is continuously instituting program and projects to immediately address food security issues by always being in the forefront of several undertakings to ensure food safety.” Colomo said
- ▶ In addition, public-private partnership is critical in ensuring food security and food safety, as well as in boosting the food industry’s global competitiveness
- ▶ He also pointed out the importance of the forum which provides constructive platforms for sharing information and knowledge-sharing for the strengthening of food quality and enhancing global competitiveness in the food industry to move toward the ASEAN Integration 2015.

[Philippine Information Agency \(28 October 2014\)](#)

03 STRONGER INDIA-VIETNAM RELATIONS BY SIGNING CRITICAL AGREEMENTS



India and Vietnam have agreed to enhance bilateral trade to US\$15 billion by 2020 during the visit of the Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung to India from 27 to 28 October

- ▶ In spite of Chinese objections, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Vietnamese counterpart Nguyen Tan Dung held comprehensive talks on important bilateral and regional issues and pitched for freedom of navigation and commerce, and peaceful settlement of maritime disputes in the region.
- ▶ The upcoming pacts will include expansion of training programmes, joint exercises and cooperation in defence equipment. The government of India will quickly operationalise US\$100 million line of credit that will enable Vietnam to acquire new naval vessels from India
- ▶ “Today, our partnership is important for promoting our nations’ prosperity and essential for advancing peace and stability in our shared neighbourhood. We have shared interest in maritime security, including freedom of navigation and commerce and peaceful settlement of maritime disputes in accordance with international law,” Modi said.

[The Hindu Business Line \(28 October 2014\)](#)

04 WIDODO APPOINTS FIRST FEMALE FOREIGN MINISTER



Joko Widodo appointed Retno Maraudi as Indonesia’s first female foreign minister, whilst filling his cabinet with allies close to Megawati Sukarnoputri, the head of his political party.

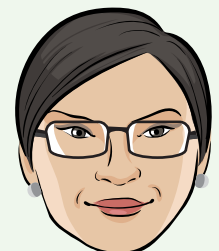
- ▶ Whilst analysts approved of Widodo’s sounds political appointments, criticisms regarding Widodo’s lack of professionals within the cabinet were cited as early concerns that may impede the passing of promised reforms representing the hallmarks of Widodo’s campaign platform

- ▶ Amongst key appointments to the newly appointed administration are Bambang Brodjonegoro as Indonesia’s finance minister, Sofyan Djalil as the Chief economics minister, both of which are seasoned experts which will hopefully be able to invigorate Indonesia’s slowing economy
- ▶ For the first time in 15 years of Indonesia’s democratically elected government, President Widodo also appointed Indonesia’s army general as the minister of defence; said appointment continues to affirm Widodo’s strong ties to the military and his military filled cabinet

[The Guardian \(27 October 2014\)](#)

Joko Widodo Indonesia’s Key Cabinet Officials

Portfolio	Name	Party	Most Recent Occupation
Political, Legal & Security Affairs	Tedjo Edhy Purdijatno	NasDem	Chief of Navy 2008-09
Economic Affairs	Sofyan Djalil	None	Minister of state enterprises 2007-09
Maritime Affairs	Indroyono Susilo	None	FAO Executive
Human Development & Culture	Puan Maharani	PDI-P	Politician
Home Affairs	Tjahjo Kumolo	PDI-P	Politician
Foreign Affairs	Retno Maraudi	None	Indonesian Ambassador to Netherlands
Defence	Ryamizard Ryacudu	None	Army Chief Staff 2002-04
Finance	Bambang Brodjonegoro	None	Deputy Minister Finance
Energy & Mineral Resources	Soedirman Said	None	Chairman PT Pindad
Trade	Rahmat Gobel	None	Chairman PT Gobel International
Agricultural	Amran Sulaiman	None	Professor of Hasanuddin University
Transport	Ignasius Jonan	None	CEO of PT Kereta Api
Manpower	Hanif Dhakiri	PKB	Politician
Health	Nila H. Moelek	None	Indonesian Representative for Millennium Development Gas



Retno Maraudi
First Female Foreign Minister



05 THAILAND IS CONFIDENT TO RETRIEVE TOP RICE EXPORTER STATUS IN 2015



Thailand lost its world's No.1 rice exporter status in 2012 to India while Vietnam was in second place. Prime Minister of Thailand, Prayut Chan-o-cha said on October 27 that Thailand will reclaim its status as the world's largest rice exporter next year. He also suggested that small paddy fields should be combined into large fields and machinery and equipment should be pooled and shared as small farmers naturally bear higher costs.

- ▶ According to industry analyst, Thailand lost its crown was due to the previous government's failed rice pledging scheme, which attempted to manipulate the international rice market by withholding stocks to drive up prices. Competing nations took steps to boost supply at lower prices.

- ▶ The prime minister stressed that if the government want to sustain the rice export amount next year, it must not implement any subsidy projects to push up prices. He also believed the current price for paddy at 8,500 baht per tonne is competitive for exports.
- ▶ Rawee Rungruang, Chairman of the Thai Farmers Network expressed his support for the move to reclaim Thailand's global top rice exporter status. He said the government should tackle the rice woes as a national priority and set up a committee comprising farmers, rice milling operators, exporters, and consumers in order to provide information of which rice strains they should grow for sale.

[The Phuket News \(28 October 2014\)](#)

06 GOOD PROGRESS FOR SINGAPORE-TURKEY FTA NEGOTIATIONS DESPITE SERVICE SECTOR CONCERNS



Negotiations for the Singapore-Turkey Free Trade Agreement (FTA) are "making good progress" and are near finalization, said Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong during his official visit to Turkey in October. The PM was speaking at a lunch meeting focused on strengthening trade and business ties between the two countries from which over 70 officials and business leaders were in attendance.

- ▶ "The goods part is more or less negotiated. The services part always will be more difficult, but that is where there will be greater dividend. If we

can overcome these difficulties, we will be able to do more together." Singaporean Prime Minister, Lee Hsien Loong said

- ▶ Singaporean Trade and Industry Minister, Lim Hng Kiang pointed out that lowered tariffs and liberalization of a wide variety of sectors will benefit all of the sectors in both countries
- ▶ Although both economies have a combined size of US\$ one trillion, total bilateral trade between the two stood at a modest US\$1.12 billion in 2013. Both countries have agreed there is much scope for greater cooperation

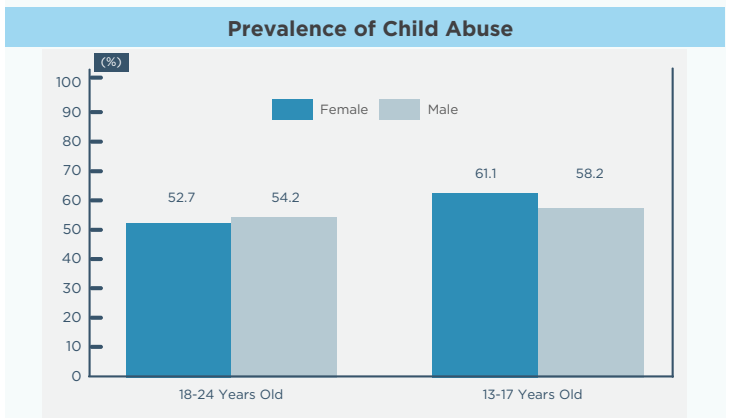
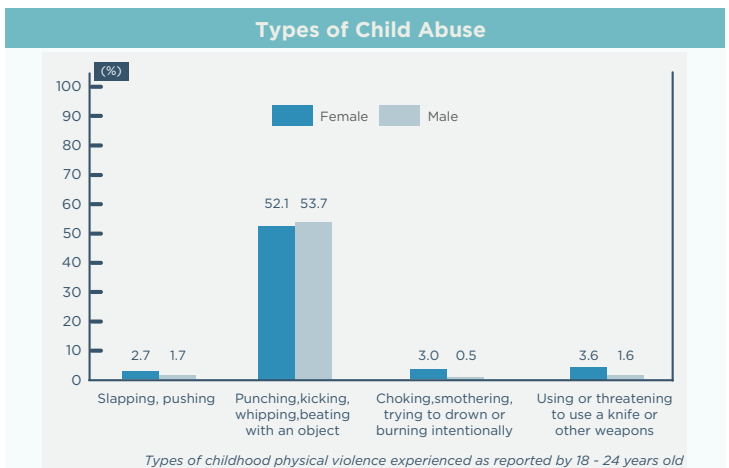
[Asean Briefing \(22 October 2014\)](#)

07 UN REPORT HIGHLIGHTS CAMBODIAN CHILD ABUSE



The report, entitled Cambodia's Violence Against Children Survey (CVACS), highlighted that over 50% of all Cambodian children have experienced at least one form of physical violence, whilst over 25% of children were found to have been emotionally abused.

- ▶ The CVACS surveyed a total of 2,376 children aged between 13 and 24, using government officials within Cambodia to ascertain the scope of violence and abuse; the report also found that the abused individuals were often victimised by friends and neighbours, as opposed to strangers
- ▶ Male teachers and mothers were highlighted to be likely perpetrators of physical violence in the country, which may deeply impact the quality of life of the abused children in the long term
- ▶ According to Marta Santos Pais, the UN Secretary-General's representative on violence against children, "The economic returns from investment in early child development are now well established, yet violence severely limits young children from reaching their full potential resulting in huge losses to society"



[UN News Center \(22 October 2014\)](#)

[Cambodia, Violence Against Children Survey \(VACS\) 2013](#)



08 MYANMAR MONITOR

ECONOMY

▶ Twelve foreign and domestic firms have been shortlisted by the special economic zone (SEZ) development committee for the development of factories, new housing and infrastructure in the SEZ around Kyaukphyu in Myanmar's Rakhine State. China and Singapore were the targets of recent roadshows seeking to attract investment in the Kyaukphyu SEZ.

[The Irrawaddy \(10 November 2014\)](#)

▶ The total foreign trade flow between 1 April and 31 October of the 2014-2015 fiscal year reached over US\$16 billion, or an average of more than US\$2.2 billion per month. If this trend continues, total foreign trade volume at the end of the 2014-2015 fiscal year will be higher than the forecasted US\$25.7 billion, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

[Eleven Myanmar \(7 November 2014\)](#)

▶ More local engineers ought to register with the ASEAN Engineer Registry, which aims to allow local engineers to take part in projects in other countries, according to officials from the Myanmar Engineers Society. About 90 engineers registered in the last year, and only 426 have register over the past 12 years.

[Myanmar Times \(10 November 2014\)](#)

POLITICS

▶ State security forces are profiting directly from the trafficking of stateless Rohingya Muslims, earning up to US\$7,000 per boatload in exchange for passage to sea, according to the Bangkok-based human rights group Fortify Rights. Police, navy and army officials have been working directly with transnational crime syndicates by escorting boats to international waters, providing rations or extorting bribes from passengers, according to the group.

[The Guardian \(7 November 2014\)](#)

▶ A permanent residency system of sorts will be introduced in Myanmar in December, according to the Ministry of Immigration and Population. Successful applications will be granted an initial five-year period of residency and possible extensions, with professionals, technicians, investors and former Myanmar citizens will be eligible for consideration.

[The Irrawaddy \(10 November 2014\)](#)

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

▶ Myanmar will need additional 2,500 megawatts of energy, equal to 500 million cubic feet of natural gas, in 2015, according to calculations by the Ministry of Electric Power. "Only 1,000MW would be required to be arranged if about 1,500MW can be gotten from the energy already sold to foreign countries," said Pyae Wa Htun, CEO of Parami Energy Group of Companies.

[The Nation \(28 October 2014\)](#)

▶ Leading generals in Myanmar's powerful military should be charged with war crimes and crimes against humanity, according to researchers at the International Human Rights Clinic at Harvard Law School, who claim to have accumulated enough evidence to mount a successful prosecution under international law. The team conducted a four-year investigation focused on an offensive in the eastern part Myanmar in 2005 and 2006, documenting soldiers firing mortars at villages, slaughtering fleeing villagers, destroying homes and food, laying land mines indiscriminately and forcing civilians to work without pay.

[The Irrawaddy \(27 October 2014\)](#)

09 US - VIETNAM TRADE TO REACH US\$34.9 BILLION IN 2014



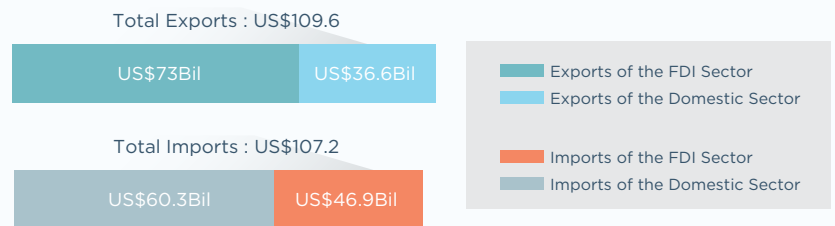
According to the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) in Ho Chi Minh City, despite internal domestic and economic difficulties, two consecutive years of strong economic growth has bolstered American and Vietnamese trade, which is slated to increase total trade by approximately 17.5%.

▶ Approximately 1/3 of total export growth between US - Vietnamese trade can be attributed to textiles and apparel; The U.S. is projected to import US\$9.8 billion worth of textiles and apparel from Vietnam in 2014, approaching a 10% of the U.S. market

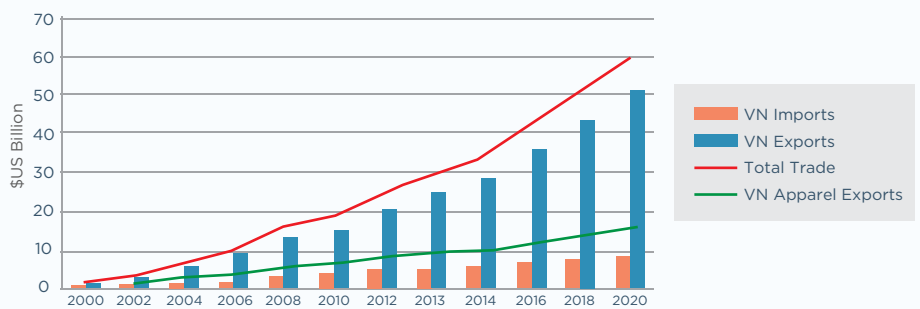
▶ According to AmCham, Vietnam accounts for 20% of ASEAN exports to the U.S. and if present trends continue, will have a market share of over 30% by 2020; furthermore, the expected conclusion and implementation of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the Trade Facilitation Agreement, Vietnam's international trade and GDP are likely to demonstrate even stronger growth

[Tuoitrenews \(28 October 2014\)](#)

Current Vietnamese Trade Performance



AmCham Projections of Vietnam-US Trade



10 DUBAI, MALAYSIA SIGN PACTS TO CREATE GLOBAL HALAL TRADE NETWORK



According to Thomson Reuters's research, the total halal market is forecast to grow to USD 1.6 trillion by 2018. On October 26, Dubai Exports in partnership with the Halal Industry Development Corporation (HDC) of Malaysia and the Dubai Islamic Economy Development Centre have signed a number of Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) and agreements to create a global halal trade network aimed at generating investment opportunities and strengthening multilateral trade among halal-based industries.

▶ Mohammed Al Gergawi, Chairman of Dubai Islamic Economy Development Centre, stated that this initiative will significantly strengthen economic activity, not just in Muslim majority countries but also in countries that have significant halal-based industries such as New Zealand and Brazil

▶ The agreements will bolster efforts to create a global halal trade network with common standards. This will enable regional and international companies to tap the growing global interest in halal products.

▶ Furthermore, the creation of the global halal trade network will strengthen bilateral trade between developed and developing Muslim majority countries, giving an immediate boost to the volume of halal products, which consecutively will bolster foreign exchange earnings and help create new jobs.

[Zee News \(27 October 2014\)](#)

