

CARI CAPTURES



01 TEARY MOURNERS IN SINGAPORE REMEMBER LEE KUAN YEW

SINGAPORE

Remembering Lee Kuan Yew

ABOUT

Politician who served as Prime Minister of Singapore and oversaw Singapore's separation from Malaysia. He helped found the People's Action Party, which won an unprecedented eight victories from 1959 to 1990.

BEFORE FAME

In the years after World War II, he studied at both the London School of Economics and the University of Cambridge.

TRIVIA

He served as Minister Mentor of Singapore from 2004 to 2011.

FAMILY LIFE

He had three children -- Lee Hsien Loong (Prime Minister of Singapore 2004 - present), Lee Wei Ling and Lee Hsien Yang. His wife Kwa Geok Choo.

16 September 1923 - 23 March 2015

[Wikipedia](#)

World leaders praised Lee Kuan Yew, who died Monday at the age of 91, as a visionary statesman whose confidence and insight helped build Singapore into a prosperous and influential nation. Their tributes arrived as Singapore declared a week of national mourning to mark the death of the city-state's founding father.

- ▶ Mr. Lee led Singapore from 1959 until 1990, an era in which it rose "From Third World to First," as he titled his 2000 book on the former British colony's modern history
- ▶ Under Mr. Lee's leadership, Singapore became a highly manicured metropolis, a magnet for the wealth of elites in neighboring countries and a financial hub in Southeast Asia
- ▶ Singapore's current prime minister, Lee Hsien Loong, the son of Lee Kuan Yew, said that Singapore was his father's passion, he "fought for

our independence, built a nation where there was none, and made us proud to be Singaporeans." Towards the end of Mr. Lee's life, he had said that he had given up his life for a successful Singapore, and there is nothing left to be done

- ▶ Nevertheless, there were also dissenting voices coming from human rights groups, which criticized his strong-handed tactics in politics. "Lee Kuan Yew's tremendous role in Singapore's economic development is beyond doubt, but it also came at a significant cost for human rights," said Phil Robertson, the deputy Asia director of Human Rights Watch.
- ▶ Even so, the mourners shrugged off the darker side of Mr. Lee's tenure, which is of the relentless prosecutions of his political opponents in light of the now prosperous Singapore

[NY Times \(23 March 2015\)](#)

02 TRILATERAL DEAL TO STRENGTHEN ASEAN INTEGRATION



The three way strategic partnership will be based on separate partnerships signed between Vietnam, Thailand, and Indonesia in 2014; the partnership will involve the sharing of human capital and natural resources to instigate growth within the region.

- ▶ The deal hopes to capitalise upon Indonesia’s wealth of natural resources such as coal, as well as the human capital and technical expertise of Thailand and Vietnam; the trilateral deal could very well result in low-cost electricity generated from coal for the latter two nations should the talks proceed to a fruitful resolution
- ▶ Whilst Thailand stands to receive the benefits of cheaper energy, Indonesia also hopes to secure cheaper and more efficient imports of foodstuffs from the nation, whilst also continuing to develop the burgeoning tourism trade between both nations; Indonesia already has such agreements with Brunei, the Philippines, Malaysia, and Singapore, and hopes to replicate past successes
- ▶ Currently, representatives from the Indonesia-Thai Chamber of Commerce (INTCC) are scheduled to be hosted in Vietnam to continue talks regarding the deal; whilst all parties have expressed their commitment to regional cooperation and the achievement of a unified AEC, the specifics of any deal have yet to be released

[Bangkok Post \(15 March 2015\)](#)

Trilateral Deal To Strengthen ASEAN Integration

Combined Economic Strength

	GDP (US\$Billion)	Workforce (Million)	Consumer Spending (US\$Billion)
	868	250	91.4
	387	67	19.8
	171	90	27.06
Total	1426	407	138.26

[Trading Economics](#)

03 NATIONAL SOLIDARITY PARTY CALLS FOR MORE AFFORDABLE NURSING HOMES IN SINGAPORE



The National Solidarity Party (NSP) has called for nursing homes in Singapore to be made more affordable for the middle-income group, amid a trend of Singaporeans turning to Malaysia specifically, Johor Baru for cheaper nursing home alternatives.

- ▶ The party’s secretary-general Tan Lam Siong said that the NSP is concerned about the implications if this trend develops further
- ▶ The main concerns are: 1) Citizens should be able to live out their days in Singapore, 2) The possibility of citizens missing out on the benefits from the Pioneer Generation Package; the package is where seniors aged 66 and older in 2015 (1987 citizens) can get help with their

healthcare bills, and finally, 3) It is not convenient for the families to go back and forth between Singapore and Malaysia to visit their respective elderlies

- ▶ Calling for filial piety in Singapore to be strengthened, Mr Tan said: “Every effort put into enabling our citizens to love and care for their aged parents in our own land will go a long way in our determination to build families with strong ties and a nation with strong moral values”

[The Straits Times \(20 March 2015\)](#)

04 SOUTH KOREAN INVESTOR PLANS \$5-BLN PROPERTY PROJECT AT SAIGON HISTORIC SHIPYARD



Authorities in Ho Chi Minh City are waiting for the state government’s opinion on a US\$5-billion real estate project at Ba Son, the city’s oldest shipyard, being proposed by a South Korean investor. If approved, the plan of EUNSAN will be implemented on September 2.

- ▶ The details of the respective project which aims at “renovating” the city’s look are yet to be released
- ▶ The background of this project is that from a few years back, the city’s authorities has approved the current shipyard to be moved to Thi Vai-Cai Mep Port in the southern province of Ba Ria-Vung Tau by 2010, to make space for a complex consisting of hotels, office and apartment

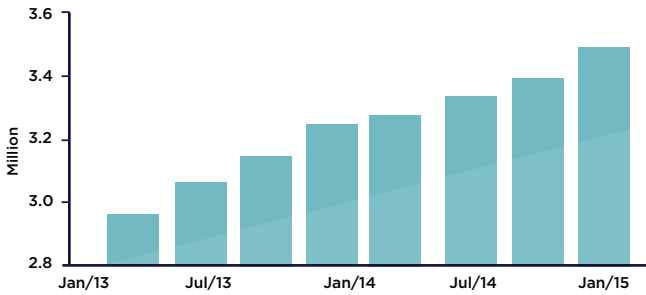
buildings. Nevertheless, as of the end of 2014, the site clearance was yet to be completed because Ba Son Company, a major shipbuilding arm of the defense ministry, did not have enough money to build the new shipyard

- ▶ Ba Son shipyard’s history was believed to start in 1790 when Nguyen Anh, the first emperor of the Nguyen Dynasty, established a factory for making war ships. Later French colonialists took over the place and turned it into a western shipyard that produced both military and civil ships in 1863

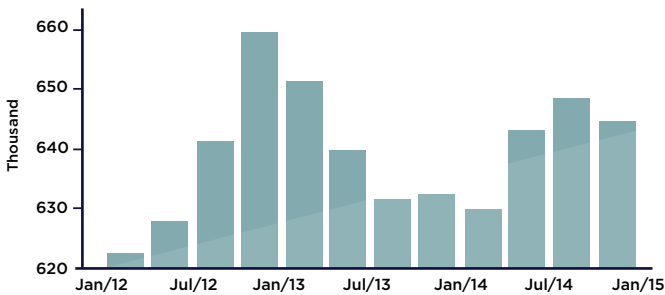
[Thanhien News \(22 March 2015\)](#)



Thailand Consumer Credit (THB)



Thailand Consumer Spending (THB)



[Trading Economics](#)

[Channel News Asia \(20 March 2015\)](#)

05 THE ECONOMIC AFTERMATH OF THAILAND'S POLITICAL UNREST



Whilst economic indicators have shown initial signs of recovery, growth has remained sluggish whilst household debt currently sits at a record high of 85% of Thailand's GDP; locally owned businesses in particular have continued to bear the brunt of the economic slowdown with no reprieve in sight.

- ▶ Following the prolonged deadlock which split Thailand's political landscape for most of 2014, the recovery of Thailand's retail sector has remained as divided as ever, with high end retailers benefiting from the revival of tourism whilst locally owned retailers continue to suffer
- ▶ Despite a lack of domestic purchasing power due to high levels of consumer debt, the Thai Retailers Association expects sales to grow more than 6 per cent this year; private consumption was flat in January, up just 0.2% from the previous month
- ▶ Meanwhile, the Thai government has continued to affirm its efforts at solving the burgeoning lack of purchasing power at its roots through the use of large-scale public spending projects to facilitate job creation and employment; the further development of Bangkok's metro, and an ambitious new rail project linking Thailand and its bordering nations are but two of the government's large infrastructural projects announced to help rebuild and develop the nation

06 INDONESIA WAIVES TOURIST VISA FOR 30 COUNTRIES



Travel agencies in Indonesia are welcoming a new visa waiver policy for tourists from 30 countries, aimed at increasing tourism. In 2014, 9 million tourists visited Indonesia generating \$10 billion in revenue. This year the government in Jakarta set a revenue target of \$12 billion.

- ▶ This respective move will not only boost Indonesia's businesses from the leap in number of tourists coming in, but also will create a convenience to the tourists by eliminating the physical paperworks when they enter the country
- ▶ From only 15 countries, including Chile, Hong Kong and Peru, Australia has now granted tourist visa waivers to an additional 30 countries including the U.S., Canada, China, Japan, Italy and Spain
- ▶ Ironically, even though Australia makes up nearly 12 percent (last year) from the foreign tourists coming in Indonesia, they are not included in this move. Tourism Minister Arief Yahya claims Australia was excluded because of its own universal visa policy where everyone requires a visa. Therefore, a reciprocity principle applies here in Indonesia," he said
- ▶ Not surprisingly, the statement stated that Indonesian-Australian relations have deteriorated in recent months as a result of the impending execution of the two Australian drug traffickers in Jakarta

[Voice of America \(18 March 2015\)](#)

07 GREEN BUILDINGS CATCHING ON FAST IN MALAYSIA – EXERGY



Malaysia has achieved the fastest rate of buildings under the Green Building Index (GBI) in the Asian region, despite having only about 130 million square feet of buildings GBI-certified.

- ▶ GBI is a fast growing and a promising tool as the existing aids come the government's emphasis on the green building concept and the increase in public awareness. Thus, consequently, more people will be GBI-conscious and more contractors will go for it not only for economic gain but also recognition
- ▶ GBI certification is based on six criterias: 1) energy efficiency, 2) indoor environment quality, 3) sustainable site planning and management, 4) materials and resources, 5) water efficiency, and 6) innovation. GBI currently issues four levels of certification, namely normal (50 to 65 points), silver (66 to 75 points), gold (76 to 85 points), and platinum (86 to 100 points)
- ▶ A registered GBI facilitator and director of Exergy Malaysia Sdn Bhd, Ahmad Izdihar Supaat told thesundaypost after conducting a talk on GBI that "In Malaysia, it is voluntary unlike in Singapore and India - two top nations in GBI rated buildings as the government(s) made it mandatory," He further stated that Miri City too will soon have its first GBI rated building, the third GBI certified building in Sarawak

[Borneo Post, 21 March 2015](#)



08 MYANMAR MONITOR

POLITICS

▶ A Myanmar court charged 69 students for their involvement in riots earlier this month that was forcefully broken up by police and drew sharp criticism from Western governments. The court has also issued arrest warrants for four leaders of the All Burma Federation of Student Unions (ABSFU), according to a student activist named Ei Po. "The government is scared of the students so they intentionally suppress students from the ABSFU," she said.

[Reuters \(25 March 2015\)](#)

▶ Hopes for a nationwide ceasefire accord between the Myanmar government and 16 armed ethnic groups and alliances have brightened after a meeting between the top leaders of the Kachin Independence Organisation (KIO) and President Thein Sein. The seventh round of peace talks paused in Yangon on 22 March but is expected to end in an agreement when the parties reconvene on 30 March.

[AsiaOne \(25 March 2015\)](#)

▶ Hard-liners in Myanmar's government are deliberately instigating communal violence in the country in a bid to derail democracy and maintain their grip on power, according to a report released 23 March by the US-based rights group Justice Trust. The report claims organized gangs of armed men were used to commit anti-Muslim riots under the guise of spontaneous mob violence.

[Radio Free Asia \(23 March 2015\)](#)

ECONOMY

▶ Foreign direct investment (FDI) into Myanmar has soared to more than US\$8 billion in the 2014-2015 fiscal year, US\$3 billion more than anticipated, owing to increased activity in the energy, manufacturing and telecoms sectors, a senior official said. About 35% of total FDI went into the energy sector, while manufacturing and telecommunications attracted 25% each.

[Reuters \(25 March 2015\)](#)

▶ Unocal Myanmar Offshore Co., a subsidiary of the American energy giant Chevron, signed a production sharing contract with its counterparts in Myanmar to explore for oil and gas off the northwest coast of Myanmar. The agreement is a part of a strategy to meet growing energy needs in the Asia-Pacific.

[UPI \(25 March 2015\)](#)

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

▶ A senior member of Myanmar's government has said members of the US-based Carter Center and the European Union will be invited to monitor a general election later this year. This would be the first time in 65 years that Western poll observers are allowed for general elections.

[Bangkok Post \(24 March 2015\)](#)

09 PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP) ADOPTS SOME BOARD OF INQUIRY (BOI) FINDINGS



The Philippine National Police (PNP) will adopt some recommendations from its Board of Inquiry (BOI) in an effort to improve police service.

- ▶ The PNP spokesman Chief Superintendent, Generoso Cerbo Jr said that in order to prevent the repeat of the bloody clash in Mamasapano, the PNP is exploring the recommendations from BOI to be urgently implemented
- ▶ The recommendations provided by the BOI are: enhancement of the capabilities of the Special Action Force (SAF) and other police units, review of the police supply management system, and technology upgrade, such as their main and back-up communication
- ▶ The BOI also noted that even though SAF is among the most highly equipped police units in terms of equipment and firepower, it always depends on the hands that wield them, and also the effectiveness of the weapons functioning. For example, The STAR learned that surviving SAF commandos had complained that eight of 10 M203 grenades failed to explode during their operation, giving Moro rebels the opportunity to attack

[ABC News \(23 March 2015\)](#)

10 US FIRST LADY VISITS CAMBODIA




In a bid to promote her "Let Girls Learn" initiative, Michelle Obama spent a two days trip to Cambodia meeting with local high school students and Peace Corps volunteers.

- ▶ During the trip, the first lady listened to and shared stories of her own adversities from her past in hopes to encourage and inspire Cambodian women in their fight for the equality of opportunity; regarding the political tension it created, the first lady affirmed that she would not shy away from discussing human rights whilst in Cambodia, a topic which has aggravated the government of Cambodia in the past
- ▶ However, in recognition of the Kingdom's realities, the first lady did state that "It's not always easy for a government to meet the needs of its people. My husband certainly gets his share of criticism and disagreement, but we wouldn't have it any other way. Not in America,"
- ▶ When questioned about the values she had been trying to push forward with said visit, the first lady commented, "The foundation for those values... is education. When (girls) learn to read and write and think and to speak up and to talk about injustice and demand equal treatment, it helps them participate in the political life of their country."

[Phnom Penh Post \(21 March 2015\)](#)

Education Indicators in Cambodia 2000 and 2010

Education level	Cambodia			
	2000		2010	
	NET ENROLMENT RATE	RATIO OF FEMALE TO MALE STUDENTS	NET ENROLMENT RATE	RATIO OF FEMALE TO MALE STUDENTS
PRIMARY	91.4	0.89	95.9	0.99
SECONDARY	15	0.56	-	-
TERTIARY	2.7	0.33	7.8 (2008)	0.53 (2008)
Employment Indicator	Cambodia			
	Women	Men	Gap	
Labor force participation rate				
2001	76.1%; 3.047 million	83.5%; 2.969 million	7.4%	
2012	79.2%; 4.125 million	86.7%; 4.186 million	7.5%	
Employment rate				
2000	74.5%; 2.879 million	80.7%; 2.750 million	6.2%	
2012	77.8%; 4.054 million	85.3%; 4.116 million	7.5%	
Vulnerable employment				
2004	79.1%; 2.568 million	71.1%; 2.368 million	6.2%	
2011	72.8%; 2.878 million	64.1%; 2.520 million	7.5%	
Low wage work				
2004	35.1%	29.9%	5.2%	
2009	35.1%	28.6%	6.5%	

Labor force participation rate : The number of employed and unemployed persons over age 15 divided by the eligible population | Vulnerable employment : The sum of own-account workers and unpaid contributing family workers divided by the total employed | Low wage work : Earning a wage less than 2/3 of median wage

[Government of Cambodia](#)

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