

CARI CAPTURES



01 VIETNAM DEREGULATES FOREIGN PROPERTY OWNERSHIP RESTRICTIONS



Foreign Ownership Land restrictions within ASEAN

								
Horizontal screening	No	No	No	No	Yes, by the Myanmar Investment Commission	No	Only for activities in List 2 or 3 of the Negative List for FDI>49%	No
Horizontal equity restrictions			Foreign ownership cannot exceed 20% for listed companies			No		Foreign ownership cannot exceed 49% for listed companies
Land	Foreign investors (FDI>49%) may not own land but long lease are possible	Foreign may not own land but may receive long-term leases (99 years) for business purposes	Foreign investors with registered capital >500,000 may purchased land use rights for business purposes. Otherwise 30 years are possible for business purposes.	Foreign investors (FDI>49%) may not own land but long lease are possible	Foreign investors are prohibited from purchasing land	The constitution restricts ownership of land to Filipinos and to Filipino companies. (FDI<40%) The acquisition of agricultural land is subject to a size limit	The Land Code (1954) prohibits purchased and ownership of land by foreign persons or foreign-owned enterprise based in Thailand (FDI>49%)	All land belongs to the state but land use rights are available to all investors and can be used as collateral

[OECD, Southeast Asia Investment Policy Perspectives December 2014](#)

From the 1 July 2015 onwards, legislation passed will allow overseas nationals with valid residence visas to purchase up to 250 houses in designated administrative areas, as well as 30% of condominiums.

▶ Estate agents have identified the urban centers of Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh, and coastal resort areas to be prime targets for foreign demand; combined with a burgeoning middle class, as well as returning Vietnamese nationals from abroad, demand within the nation's property market is expected to continue growing within the short term future

▶ Whilst the new foreign ownership regulations have been well received at face value, concerns as to how visa requirements will be handled as well as their disbursement have been cited as key concerns within the property market; unclear regulations regarding the buying, selling, and repatriation of proceeds for institutional investors are also viewed as major barriers to foreign investments into Vietnam's property market

▶ It should be noted however that higher returns for investments into properties in other nations in the region, as well as increasing anti-Chinese sentiment within Vietnam, are key factors working against increased inflows of investments into Vietnam

[Financial Times \(3 April 2015\)](#)

02 JAPANESE COMPANIES TO STEP UP INVESTMENT IN INDONESIA



Japanese companies vowed to increase their investment in Indonesia, particularly in the manufacturing, infrastructure, service and automotive sectors. All the companies plan to market their products in Indonesia and Southeast Asia.

- ▶ In response to the high Japanese confidence in increasing investment to Indonesia, President Joko Widodo states “Japan, the second-largest foreign investor after Singapore, should become Indonesia’s largest

investor once more. [The minister] hopes that these initiatives will lead to the companies making Indonesia the basis of production for ASEAN,”

- ▶ The ministry added that with the implementation of the ASEAN Economic Community at the end of 2015, Japanese investors would have a larger market in Indonesia, with a share of 600 million people

[Jakarta Post \(9 April 2015\)](#)

03 VOLKSWAGEN CONSIDERS US\$200 MILLION FILIPINO PLANT



According to John Philip S. Orbeta, president and CEO of Volkswagen Philippines, preliminary talks with the government about setting up assembly operations in the nation hinge primarily on the incentives the Filipino government offers.

- ▶ Currently, a joint task force between Volkswagen and Ayala Automotive Holdings Corp, the official distributor of Volkswagen vehicles in the Philippines, are undertaking a feasibility study to ascertain the profitability of setting up production within the country; neighbouring nations of Vietnam, Thailand, and Indonesia will also be considered should the Philippines be viewed as unsuitable
- ▶ Amongst the deciding factors which will determine if Volkswagen sets up production within the nation would be Executive order (EO) 156; an incentive offered by the Motor Vehicle Development Program in the Philippines which qualifies certain companies for a lowered tariff rate for imported vehicle parts used in the local production of vehicles
- ▶ At the moment, Volkswagen would not qualify for EO 156 as it does not meet the requirements of using a local assembler or manufacturer in basic assembly processes; currently, the company already automates most of its assembly processes, thus disqualifying Volkswagen’s eligibility for EO 156

[Reuters \(10 April 2015\)](#)

Motor Vehicle Sales in 2014

Country	2014	2013	Variance %
	18,114	18,642	-3%
	1,208,019	1,229,901	-2%
	666,465	655,793	2%
	234,747	181,738	29%
	47,443	34,111	39%
	881,832	1,330,672	-34%
	133,588	98,649	35%
	3,190,208	3,549,506	-10%

[Malaysia Automotive Association](#)

04 LAOS-MYANMAR BRIDGE EXPECTED TO OPEN IN MAY



The construction of first bridge linking Myanmar and Laos has been completed and the bridge is expected to officially open to traffic next month. The bridge, which will link Laos’ National Road No.17E and Myanmar’s National Road No.4, has been jointly funded by the two governments at a cost of USD 26 million.

- ▶ The respective bridge connects from a river port in Laos province to a village in Myanmar state. The bridge is designed to support vehicles weighing up to 75 tonnes and withstand earthquakes of magnitudes up to 7.0 on the Richter scale

- ▶ Bridge-building and road upgrades are among the efforts to foster cross-border trade, investment and tourism between the two nations and their neighbors that include China, Vietnam, Bangladesh and India

[Global Times \(7 April 2015\)](#)

05 MALAYSIA TO IMPLEMENT \$7.45 LEVY FOR SINGAPORE VEHICLES ON 1 AUGUST



Malaysia is expected to start charging a Vehicle Entry Permit (VEP) of RM20 (S\$7.45) from 1 August, for all foreign vehicles entering the country from Singapore and other entry points, such as from Thailand.

- ▶ The Malaysian government is currently in the process of procuring and installing the equipment at the Causeway in Johor and Malaysia-Singapore Second Link to facilitate collection of the fee
- ▶ A spokesperson told Channel NewsAsia that Singapore's Ministry of Transport will "study the Malaysian levy and consider matching in some form after the details are confirmed"
- ▶ In another development, Abd Aziz said the ministry would hold discussions with the Land Public Transport Commission on fare increase for express buses, which has been postponed

[Channel News Asia \(4 April 2015\)](#)

06 EU WANTS TO EXPAND TIES WITH ASEAN IN MARITIME AREAS



The European Union (EU), while looking at possibilities of further increasing bilateral trade and economic relations with ASEAN, also wants to expand ties with the 10-member bloc in non-traditional security areas, such as maritime cooperation.

- ▶ As Malaysia is not only the ASEAN Chair for this year, but also has offered to host the second edition of the EU-ASEAN High level Dialogue on Maritime Security in May, the Ambassador and Head of the EU Delegation to Malaysia Luc Vandebon said that these events are very encouraging to upgrade the good relationship the EU has with ASEAN and cooperate in many areas especially security issues
- ▶ Vandebon looked forward to the formation of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), which is very similar to EU single market, and said that it would not only benefit ASEAN but also provide more opportunities for its trading partners to increase trade and investment. He further said the EU would offer all possible forms of assistance to help ASEAN realise the AEC
- ▶ On how ASEAN and the EU can learn from each other to counter terrorism, Vandebon said this could be done through exchange of information and programmes on border management, for example on maritime cooperation

[The Guardian \(30 March 2015\)](#)

07 SINGTEL LAUNCHES WAVEE



Singapore Telecommunications Limited launched Wavee on, an application targeted at taking on WhatsApp, Skype, and Viber, which allows users to make voice and video calls, send instant messages, and set up chat groups.

- ▶ The app, which was launched on 10 April 2015, is able to detect the strength of network connections and adjust the quality of a user's call, thus allowing for a better experience than other third party applications not integrated into the network provider's existing infrastructure
- ▶ Furthermore, to aid in its launch, Wavee is slated to be free to use

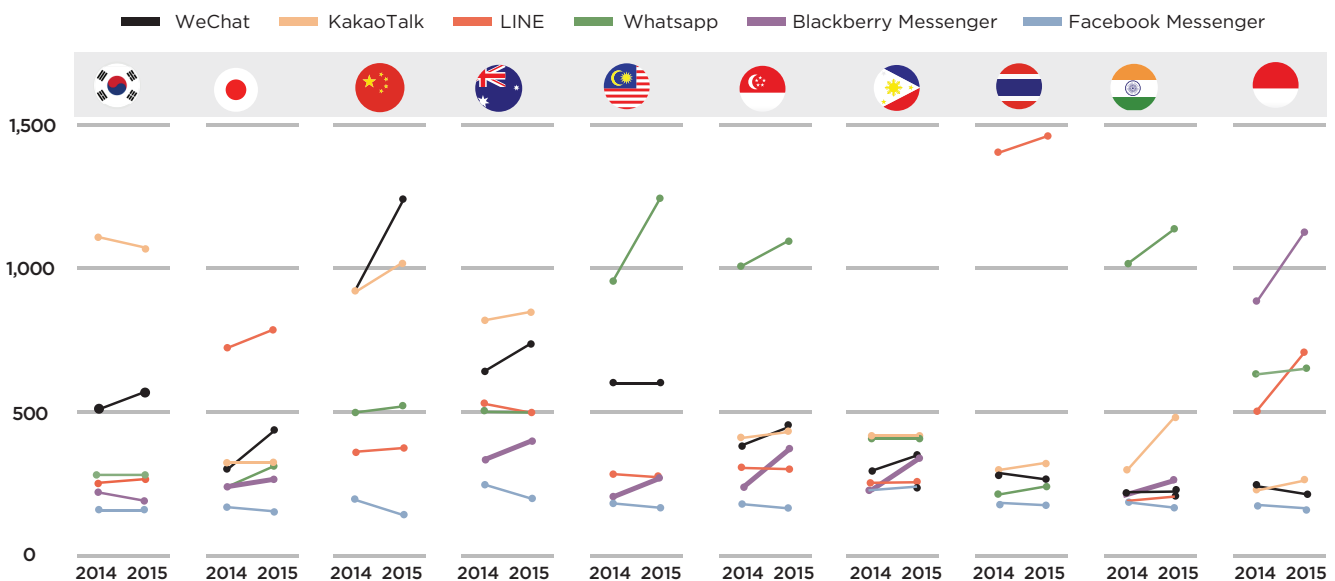
until 9 July for all prepaid and postpaid lines signed up with Singtel; however, even with the added promotional campaign, the app is not expected to gain a large market share within developed nations such as Singapore

- ▶ Instead, Wavee is expected to succeed in lesser developed nations which have a weaker telecommunications infrastructure and more open user base not already dominated by existing third party communication apps

[Today Online \(10 April 2015\)](#)

Usage of Messaging Applications - Monthly Time Spent in App

In minutes, during the month of January



Mobidia



08 MYANMAR MONITOR

NATIONAL

▶ A total of 126 government troopers have been killed and 359 others injured since the conflict erupted in the remote Kokang region of Shan State in early February. Myanmar government soldiers have recovered 74 bodies of ethnic Chinese rebels from the Kokang army, as well as arrested 22 of them. A spokesman for the rebel forces said Kokang troops, who have declared their will to continue fighting until achieving autonomy, were still in control of hilltops in the Shan state.

[Press TV \(19 April 2015\)](#)

▶ At least 11 people were killed and 134 injured during Myanmar's annual four-day Thingyan Water Festival marking the beginning of the Myanmar New Year. The casualties were in connection with 50 accident cases triggered by overload, drug and alcohol consumption and over-speeding, Xinhua reported on 18 April.

[The Times of India \(18 April 2015\)](#)

ECONOMY

▶ Myanmar has set a target of attracting US\$6 billion in foreign direct investment (FDI) in the current 2015-2016 fiscal year. The target is considered modest as last year saw FDI of over US\$8 billion while the target was US\$4 billion that year. Myanmar has exceeded its FDI targets for the last three years.

[The Nation \(16 April 2015\)](#)

▶ Prices of tin metal, which is used mainly in the consumer-electronics industry, hit a 5-year low on the London Metal Exchange last week, largely due to a flood of supply from Myanmar into China. The price of tin is down 22% from the beginning of the year.

[The Wall Street Journal \(19 April 2015\)](#)

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

▶ Myanmar President Thein Sein will attend the 60th Asian-African Conference (AACC) in Indonesia, according to an official announcement on 18 April. Thein Sein will also attend activities commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Bandung Conference and the 10th anniversary Asia Africa New Strategic Partnership.

[Shanghai Daily \(18 April 2015\)](#)

09 INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO PEDAL OUT OF TRAFFIC WOES

INDONESIA

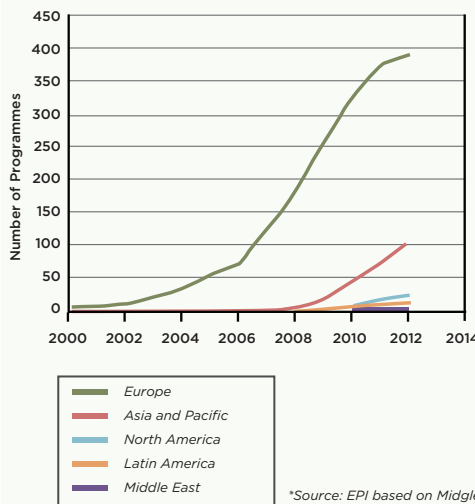
In a bid to ease congestion issues, the Indonesian government intends to introduce bicycle rental hubs within its capital city of Jakarta.

- ▶ The Wez & Go Group, which is a bike to work community group, has issued a proposal to the Indonesian government with the offering of 100 bicycles to rent in locations such as Dukuh Atas, Monas, and the city hall
- ▶ Amongst key considerations for this radical proposal, the design of bicycles as well as safeguards against theft are currently viewed as pivotal points in making the proposal a success in reality; under the current proposal, individuals would be able to use bicycles at these rental hubs with the monthly subscription of US\$ 3
- ▶ In a public statement released by Jakarta Governor Basuki Tjahaja Purnama, the governor stated that: "This is a good plan, not only can it help to ease the congestion, it will also support our Smart City Program"

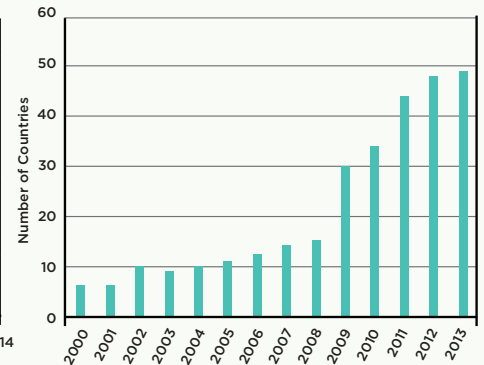
[Jakarta Globa \(9 April 2015\)](#)

Indonesian Government Intends To Pedal Out of Traffic Woes

Bike-Sharing Programs by Region, 2000-2012



Countries with Bike-Sharing Programs January 2000 to April 2013



*Source: EPI based on Midgley, Meddin and DeMaio; Yang et al; Shaheen et al.

10 NEW TEACHERS FOR KHMER ROUGE CLASSES

CAMBODIA

The US Institute of Peace on Wednesday announced the completion of a program - conducted by the Documentation Center of Cambodia (DC-Cam) - to train an additional 600 educators to teach Khmer Rouge history in the Kingdom's secondary schools.

- ▶ Katherine Wood, a grant adviser for USIP, said she hoped the \$120,000 project would help to "heal the profound divisions in Cambodia that have persisted between survivors and perpetrators for the last four decades"
- ▶ Despite the influx of new teachers, DC-Cam director Youk Chhang said yesterday that additional financial support is needed to help the coursework to move beyond the "platform" level and bring a dialogue on - and ultimately the practice of - human rights and democracy to ASEAN nations
- ▶ Chhang explained, "We are not learning history to be obsessed by it, or enslaved by it," "but to be free" and further said, "Right now, genocide education is a foundation, it's a platform. It's not really genocide education yet," explained Chhang. "This process is very fragile"
- ▶ While an estimated 1 million students have been exposed to the course, a limited number of qualified teachers (fewer than 40 per cent had university degrees) and inadequate materials have hindered the project's success, Chhang said. Several teachers said they also feared teaching the material in the classroom, and Chhang recalled a history teacher who refused to teach the material and resigned

[The Phnom Penh Post \(10 April 2015\)](#)

