

CARI CAPTURES



01 INDONESIAN INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS EXPEDITED

 INDONESIA

Infrastructural Projects with Priority



Twelve priority infrastructure projects, which have been identified as key proponents of economic growth and welfare development by the Indonesian government, have been expedited in their approvals process.

▶ In a limited cabinet meeting on 2 June, President Joko Widodo ordered that the implementation process of ten priority infrastructure projects be simplified so as to accelerate the time frame for Indonesia's latest infrastructural undertaking; the ten projects span areas of electricity, clean water facilities, toll roads, railways, and airports

▶ To facilitate the expedition of projects, the Minister for National Development Planning/Head of the National Development Planning (PNN/Bappenas) stated that the projects would be evaluated and course corrected every three months, with feasibility studies, bluebook, environmental impact analysis, financing sources, and organization settings all being undertaken concurrently

▶ In further support of these initiatives, a Presidential edict will be issued providing immunity to the officials in charge of said projects from being criminalised; the move has the intended effect of placing officials in charge at ease so as to help accelerate the implementation of key plans

02 VIETNAM TO EVACUATE 1,288 HOUSEHOLDS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF NUKE POWER PLANTS



A total of 1,288 households with a population of 4,911 are expected to be evacuated for construction of Vietnam's nuclear power plants.

- ▶ The authorities have ratified a proposal on evacuation and resettlement of people in areas of Ninh Thuan 1 and 2 nuclear power plants in southern Ninh Thuan province, some 1,100 km south of Hanoi, local VNEconomy online newspaper reported on Tuesday
- ▶ Accordingly, the work of evacuation, which costs over 3.2 trillion Vietnamese dong (148 million U.S. dollars), will be completed by 2018
- ▶ Ninh Thuan 1, set to be Vietnam's first nuclear power plant, is expected to put into operation by 2024, while that of Ninh Thuan 2 by 2025

[Shanghai Daily \(9 June 2015\)](#)

03 LAOS AND CHINA TO SET UP JOINT COMPANY FOR HIGH-SPEED RAILWAY



Laos is setting up a joint company with China to oversee the construction and financing of a multibillion-dollar, high-speed railway project that will link the two neighboring countries and extend to Thailand.

- ▶ According to a transport ministry official, the joint company that will be established will be responsible for the project management, land concession, construction [and] fare collections. It means the Lao government must borrow money, so the company will borrow money, but the cost of project is lower than U.S. \$7 billion
- ▶ China and Thailand would be the major beneficiaries of the railway, so these governments should pay for most of the cost of the rails running through Laos
- ▶ In addition, Laos would need to undertake a feasibility study to understand the type of railway project that would be the most beneficial, such as one that could transport minerals or agricultural goods, he said
- ▶ The country also would need to undertake studies to understand the logistics, costs and economic returns of the project, as well as require assistance with the manpower needed to operate the railway and maintenance costs

[Radio Free Asia \(5 June 2015\)](#)

04 WEATHER THREATENS RICE CROPS



With the forecasted late and shorter rainy season in Laos, farmers have begun to express concerns with regards to the delayed planting of their rice crops as well as the predicted lack of sufficient water.

- ▶ Especially badly hit will be the central provinces of Laos, with unusually high temperatures prevailing through the month of May which has translated into the delayed planting of rice crops in the region; the expected shortened rainy season is expected to decrease rice yields throughout the country
- ▶ However, whilst farmers are expecting to see a reduction in the volume of crops produced, it should be noted that this has not been the first

incidence of lessened rainfall; according to Mr Phomma, a Vientiane farmer, the fickle nature of weather has resulted in at least 5 instances out of his 20 years of farming where he has had to deal with such conditions

- ▶ In last year's wet season the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry set a target of 3.3 million tonnes of rice but farmers were only able to produce 3.21 million tonnes after 22,600 hectares of land were affected by weather extremes; this year, the ministry plans to encourage farmers around the country to produce around 4.2 million tonnes of rice including dry season and upland rice cultivation if there is no significant impact from severe weather events

[Vientiane Times \(8 June 2015\)](#)

Total Rice Supply and Utilisation of 10 ASEAN Countries

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Annual Percent Growth
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022		
Thousand Hectares														
Area Harvested	46,197	46,121	46,866	46,875	46,855	46,906	46,897	46,894	46,855	46,906	46,897	46,894	0.15%	
Metric Tons per Hectare														
Yield	2.39	2.43	2.45	2.49	2.53	2.56	2.59	2.62	2.53	2.56	2.59	2.62	1.22%	
Thousand Metric Tons														
Production	110,466	111,965	114,849	116,709	118,507	120,175	121,574	122,920	124,345	125,753	127,173	128,345	1.37%	
Beginning Stocks	19,441	17,653	18,638	20,867	22,703	24,447	26,352	28,076	29,628	30,965	32,142	33,288	5.01%	
Domestic Supply	129,907	129,618	133,487	137,576	141,211	144,623	147,926	150,996	153,974	156,718	159,315	161,633	2.01%	
Consumption	99,572	99,973	102,151	103,248	103,248	104,946	106,026	107,154	108,232	109,209	110,292	111,328	1.02%	
Ending Stocks	17,653	18,638	20,867	22,703	24,447	26,352	28,076	29,628	30,965	32,142	33,288	34,322	6.23%	
Domestic Use	117,225	118,611	123,018	125,951	128,313	131,298	134,102	136,783	139,197	141,351	143,580	145,650	1.99%	
Net Trade	12,682	11,007	10,468	11,624	12,898	13,325	13,823	14,213	14,776	15,367	15,735	15,982	2.12%	
Percent														
Stock-to-Use Ratio	17.73	18.64	20.43	21.99	23.54	25.11	26.48	27.65	28.61	29.43	30.18	30.83		

[Wallis and Chaves](#)



05 HIV VILLAGE DEMANDS ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE IN PHNOM PENH



Members of a community in Battambang where an unlicensed doctor allegedly infected more than 200 people with HIV earlier this year have demanded free general healthcare, a provision usually reserved only for the country's poorest.

- ▶ According to local council of healthcare, the temporary card she now has only arrived after she took her baby, who is HIV-positive, to a hospital in Battambang city for measles treatment and protested over a \$20 bill she could not pay. Other victims of the HIV outbreak remain without such coverage, she said
- ▶ Battambang provincial Health Department Deputy Director Sou Phanith said the cards had been made available to those infected in the outbreak in April, with around half of victims now possessing them
- ▶ However San Sokhat, a coordinator for People Living with HIV/AIDS Network in Battambang, said many victims had no idea of their entitlement and more effort should be made to communicate the message

[Phnom Penh Post \(10 June 2015\)](#)

06 MINDANAO BUSINESS LEADERS PUSH FOR BETTER POWER, COMMUNICATION SERVICES



Officials and members of Mindanao Business Conference (MinBizCon) have called on the national government to improve the island's power utilities and communication services because these are the key factors in moving forward towards globalization.

- ▶ Power supply and telecommunication services are vital to rural businesses and this must be addressed by the national government in an objective to make the economy in full swing in Mindanao
- ▶ These areas of concern and resolutions are set to be presented to the national government for action
- ▶ Surigao del Norte Gov. Sol F. Matugas, chairperson of the powerful Regional Development Council (RDC) in Northeastern Mindanao, also hailed the issues and concerns of the business sectors, which was "a vital and very reasonable driver to full economic growth in Mindanao"

[Manila Buletin \(8 June 2015\)](#)

07 PRO DEMOCRACY PROTESTORS GATHER FROM NORTHEAST



Approximately 100 protestors from the Northeast gathered at Khon Kaen's Democracy Monument on the 8 June in support of the pro-democracy Dao Din student group.

- ▶ The demonstrators called upon the Thai government to address issues raised by the Dao Din Group, Khon Kaen province's environmental conversation group, and those raised by an anti-mining group from the Loei province
- ▶ Mainly however, the protestors gathered in solidarity to demand that charges be dropped against seven students belonging to the Dao Din student group who were charged for violating the National Council for Peace and order's edict which suspended the assembly and political expression of more than five people; currently, the students face charges of up to six months in jail and/or a fine not exceeding 10,000 baht
- ▶ The seven students being charged, who were enrolled at Khon Kaen University's Law Faculty, are Chatupat Boonyapatraks, Apiwat Suntararak, Payu Boonsopon, Panupong Srithananuwat, Suvicha Tipangkorn, Supachai Pukrongploy, and Wasant Satesit

[Bangkok Post \(8 June 2015\)](#)

The "Dao Din" Group

A student activist group at the Khon Kaen University

Planned to hold a rally on June 24 in Khon Kaen to commemorate the 1932 Siamese Revolution

Students were arrested on May 22 during a protest at the Democracy Monument at Khon Kaen

Students are due to be tried at Military Court Circle 23 at the Patcharin Army Camp

08 MYANMAR MONITOR

ECONOMY

▶ Thai conglomerate Saha Group has scaled back its plans in Myanmar because of high land prices, according to a report in the Bangkok Post. The group had previously announced that it would set up an industrial zone in the country. Land price in Myanmar has soared since 2011 and the rise has partly been fuelled by speculators looking to make large profits.

[The Irrawaddy \(13 June 2015\)](#)

▶ A new directive from the Central Bank (CBM) on use of the US dollar is causing concern among investors, raising uncertainty about future transactions, VDB-Loi a legal advisor operating in Myanmar has said. Under the directive government agencies and SOEs are advised to conclude agreements that provide payment in MMK. Overseas transactions, such as those involving a purchase of equipment from abroad, are not covered by the order. "It is not certain yet whether payments between enterprises and individual consumers [retail] are also to be targeted," The VDB-Loi note said. The directive is only an announcement to notify companies about incoming rules.

[The Irrawaddy \(13 June 2015\)](#)

▶ Myanmar's national carrier is flying international for the first time in 22 years, with Singapore its destination, likely followed by flights to other foreign cities like Hong Kong and Taipei. With a brand new Boeing 737 the latest addition to the airline's fleet of 10, along with five others still on order, the national carrier is hoping to expand internationally. Three million people visited Myanmar in 2014, and it expects to welcome five million tourists in 2015.

[Channel NewsAsia \(16 June 2015\)](#)

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

▶ Thailand and Myanmar have signed a memorandum of understanding on future energy cooperation, the Thai Energy Ministry said. The MoU includes the establishment of two joint committees, one each for petroleum and electricity, to facilitate downstream petroleum trade opportunities and cooperation in many areas, including technical issues, HR, education, exploration, and drilling.

[The Nation \(17 June 2015\)](#)

POLITICS

▶ A fresh clash between an armed ethnic Kachin group and government soldiers in Shan state on 16 June, as fighting between the two continued in the in the Pharkant area of neighboring Kachin state, according to a military official. The clashes between the KIA and government army have forced more than 1,000 people in the region into camps.

[Radio Free Asia \(16 June 2015\)](#)

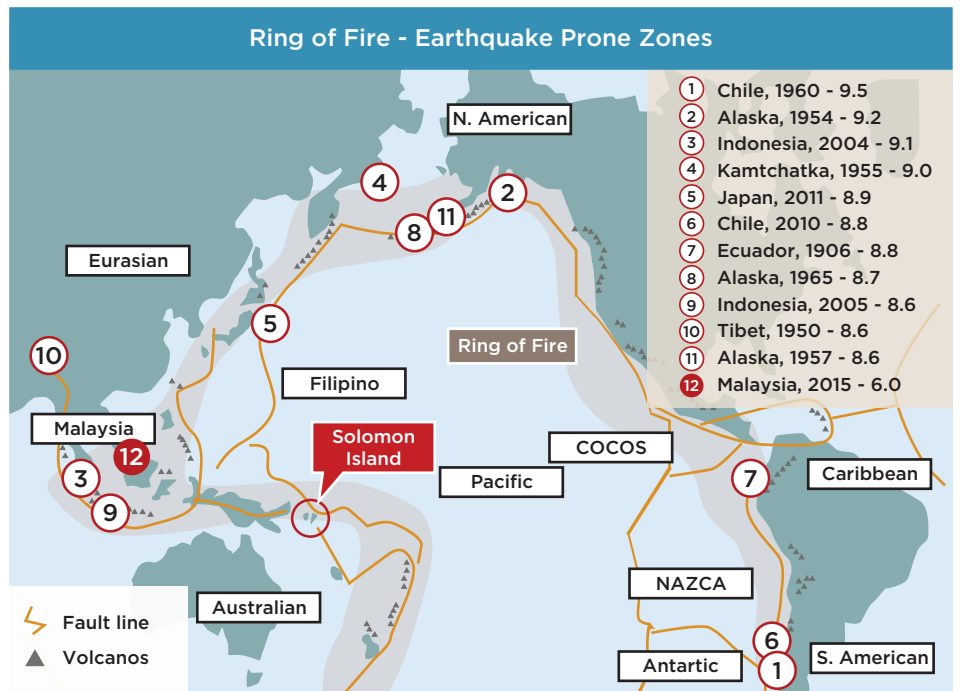
09 SABAH HIT BY 6.0 EARTHQUAKES

MALAYSIA

An earthquake struck near Malaysia's Mount Kinabalu on the 5 June, damaging access routes, injuring, and killing individuals on the mountain itself.

- ▶ According to a US Geological Survey, the quake struck at a depth of 10km, with its epicentre occurring 54km east of Kota Kinabalu; meanwhile, villagers at the foothills of Mount Kinabalu continue to experience tremors a week after the initial earthquake
- ▶ As of 11 June, the current casualties of Sabah's most recent natural disaster lie with 18 people dead, with 137 others injured or trapped on the mountain itself; amongst the dead were the Singaporean students and teacher of Tanjong Katong Primary School
- ▶ Malaysian authorities have also detained four tourists, including two Canadians, a British citizen, and one Dutch national, for allegedly stripping naked on Mount Kinabalu, an act some locals say angered tribal spirits and caused a deadly earthquake

[Free Malaysia Today \(6 June 2015\)](#)



[AFP](#)

10 SEA GAMES OPENS IN SINGAPORE WITH SPECTACULAR LIGHT DISPLAY

ASEAN SINGAPORE

The 28th SEA Games officially opened on 5 June in Singapore, with a spectacular show. Over two hours of pulsating electronics, stunning light displays and singing, dancing and drumming by more than 5,000 performers, Singapore ushered in the region's sporting tournament in fine fashion. The National Stadium burst into a neon diorama, showcasing the island's diverse culture and environment - a modern city with lofty ambitions.

- ▶ Dubbed the Big Singapore Welcome, the launch of the ceremony did not disappoint. The arena was transformed into a jungle of animal dancers, flamingos that strutted alongside leaping orang utans and plodding chameleons
- ▶ The country's multi-cultural society was represented in music and dance - Dikir Barat, Jingkli Nona, Indian dance and Chinese drums in what culminated in a melting pot of rich diversity and vibrancy. The Games were then officially declared open by President Tony Tan Keng Yam
- ▶ Over five acts the show then begun, starting under the theme of DNA, designed to symbolise the strands that make Singapore unique and connect the people. That concept was brought to life by giant creatures of Southeast Asian lore - an egret, a lion, a carp, a dragon and a turtle

[Channel News Asia \(5 June 2015\)](#)

