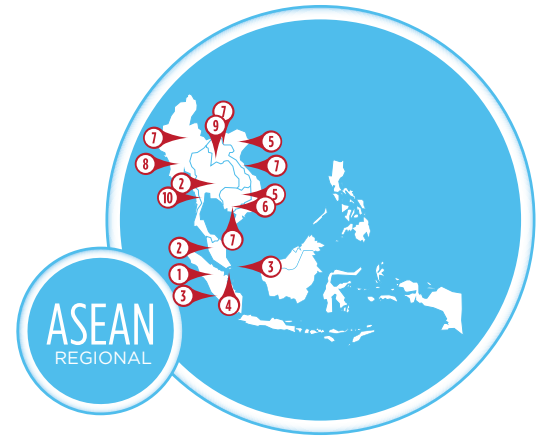


CARI CAPTURES



01 FOREIGN OWNERSHIP REGULATIONS MAY LOOSEN FOR ISLAMIC BANKS

INDONESIA

Banks Offering Islamic Finance in ASEAN



DocStoc

Currently, overseas investors may only own up to 40% of Indonesian lenders, however, Indonesia’s financial regulator has announced its reconsideration of said restrictions for Islamic Banks.

▶ The move would aimed at raising additional funds for Islamic banking in Indonesia from Middle Eastern lenders such as Bahrain’s Al Baraka Banking Group; a relaxation of the rule would help Bahrain-based Al Baraka with its plans to enter Indonesia’s Islamic banking sector by as early as 2016 according to Chief Executive Adnan Ahmed Yousif

- ▶ In the past, the Dubai Islamic Bank also attempted to raise its stake to the 40% cap, showing a robust and growing interest of foreign investment in Indonesia’s thriving Islamic finance markets
- ▶ Consideration of the repeal was facilitated by China Construction Bank Corp’s ownership of a 40% stake in a single entity following the merger of two entities in which the bank owned a 20% interest in

02 MERS SCREENING TO BEGIN IN MALAYSIA, THAILAND



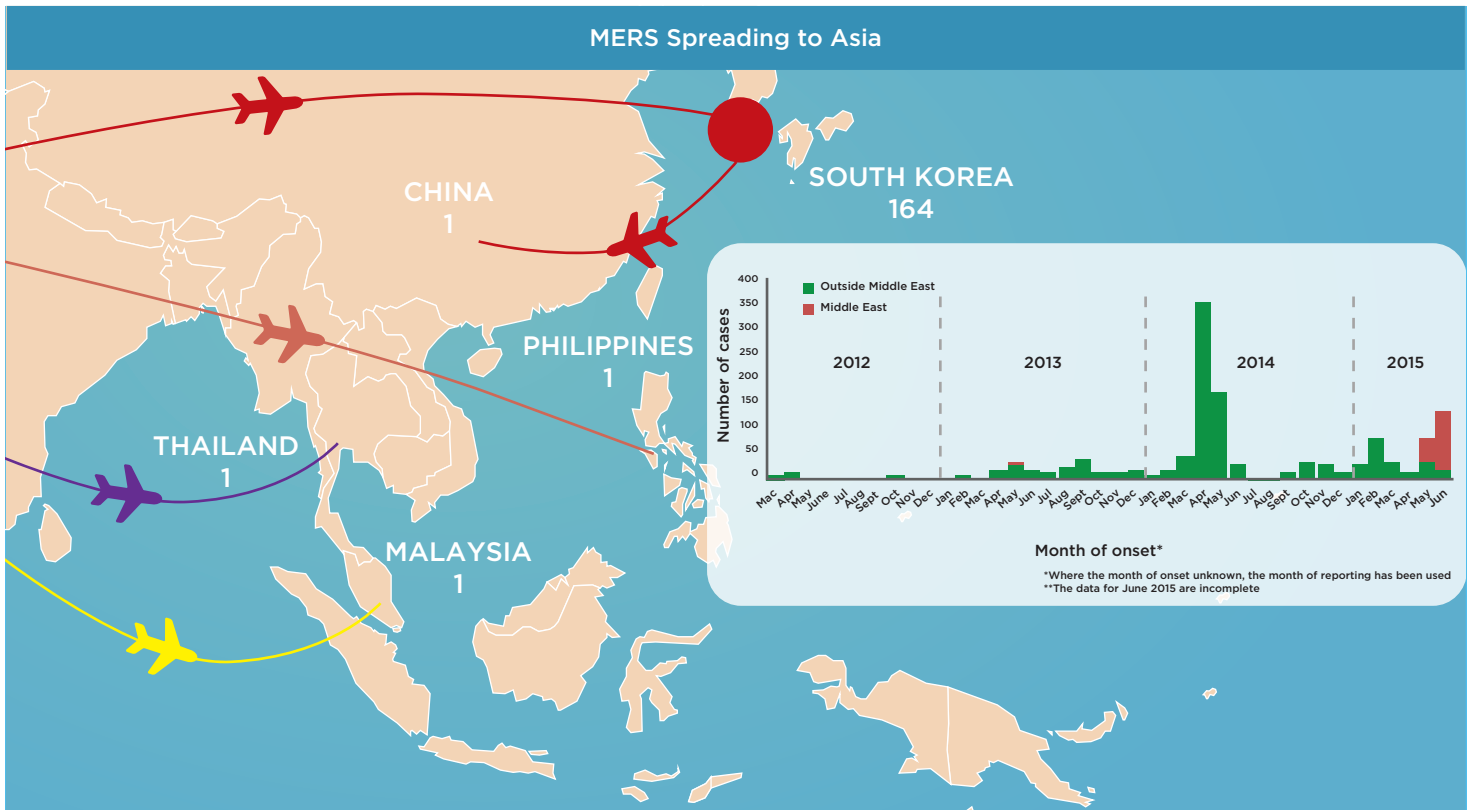
Following reports of new cases in South Korea and the first reported case of a MERS patient in Thailand, Malaysia and Thailand have begun stepping up its health screening efforts to prevent the further spread of the respiratory syndrome.

▶ In addition to the already existing temperature scans implemented in airports, Malaysia's deputy health minister Hilmi Yahaya has stated that further precautions are to be implemented in airports and other entry points such as relevant information campaigns

▶ In Thailand, the first MERS case was a 75 year old man from Oman who came into contact with 94 individuals; whilst they have been quarantined and remain under watch, the added pressures of pilgrims traveling to Saudi Arabia during the pilgrimage period will add added strain on containing the virus

▶ Currently, South Korea is handling its 172 infected cases of MERS since May, with the death toll at 27 and suspected individuals currently at 3,833

[TECH Times \(22 June 2015\)](#)



[European Center for Disease and Prevention Control](#)

03 SINGAPORE AND CHINA TO COLLABORATE ON BEIDOU APPLICATIONS



Singapore and China have agreed to open a center to develop applications for China's Beidou global navigation system and have signed a commercial agreement to create anti-jamming systems to protect Beidou signals.

▶ The companies described the effort as one that would work against unintentional jamming of Beidou signals in urban environments in which wireless devices occasionally overstep their radio-frequency boundaries

▶ Like the U.S. GPS and European Galileo positioning, navigation and timing constellations, Beidou has both an open signal and a protected, encrypted signal reserved for government and military use

▶ The China-Singapore agreement is the first such arrangement outside Chinese territory, creating a center of excellence for Chinese navigation and location-based services

[Space News \(11 June 2015\)](#)

04 INDONESIA'S TELECOMMUNICATION PROJECT IN SINGAPORE STIRS CONTROVERSY AT HOME



The groundbreaking of a telecommunication project carried out by Telin, a subsidiary of Indonesia's state-run telecommunication firm Telkom in Singapore, sparked controversy at home for the fear that it is prone to breach that may risk the state's data security.

▶ Following the groundbreaking of the project located in Jurong, Singapore, a public organization of Indonesian Club (IC) lodged a complaint with Indonesia's police criminal investigator section alleging that the State-owned Enterprises Minister Rini Soemarno intends to sell the nation's confidential data through the project.

▶ IC Director Gigih Guntoro said the minister has violated the existing laws concerning state intelligence and information and technology, presidential decree and law on corruption act

[Xinhua News Agency \(22 June 2015\)](#)



05 RIDE SHARING REGULATIONS TO BE IMPLEMENTED

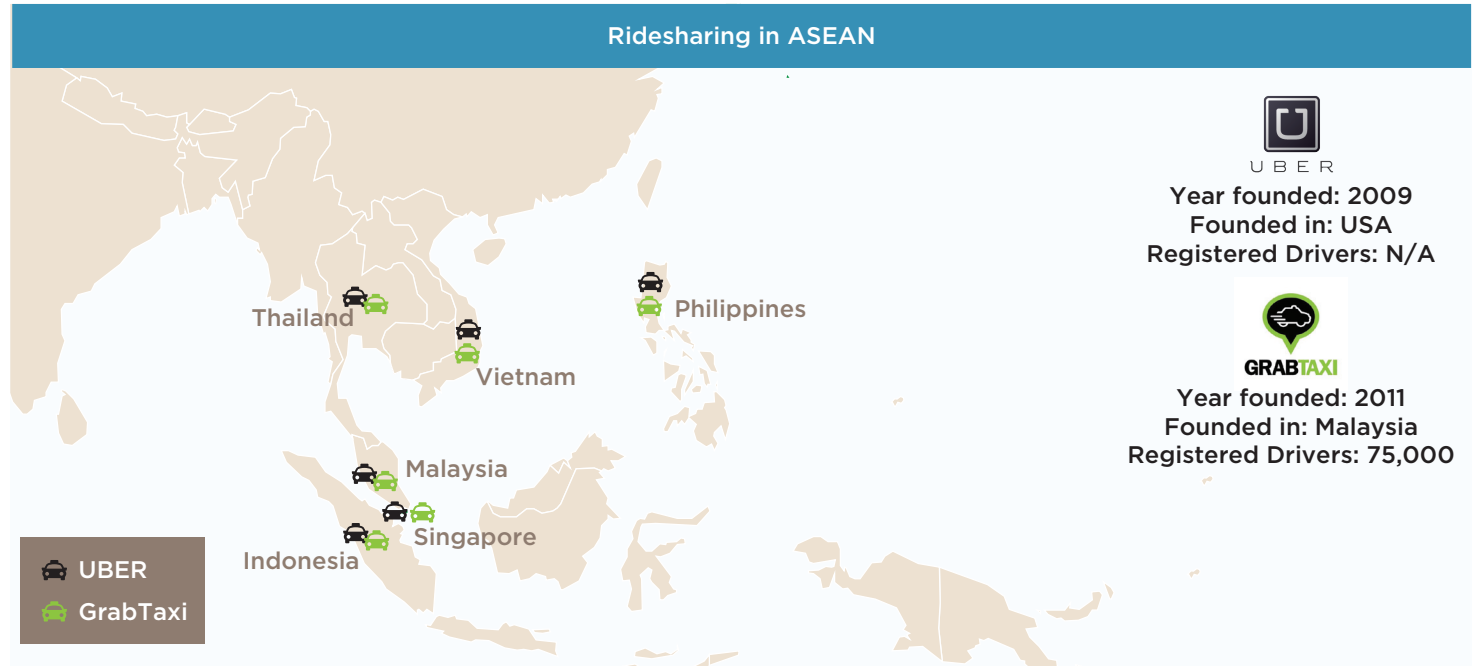


Country wide guidelines for the Philippines are to be announced on 24 June, outlining ride sharing service rules which make the nation the first to implement service rules of this nature in the world.

- ▶ The regulations require prospective drivers to register with a ride sharing company approved by the government, and will be required to pay an annual US\$12 fee to the government in order to operate as an officially licensed ride sharing operator

- ▶ The added fee imposed upon ride-sharing service operators is designed to even the playing field between traditional taxis and those who operate under uber and GrabTaxi; previously, without the annual fee, ride sharing service operators were given an advantage over taxi drivers
- ▶ In a statement, Uber Senior Vice-President David Plouffe hailed the Philippine action, which he said would “advance urban mobility, create new economic opportunity and put rider safety first”

[Business World Online \(22 June 2015\)](#)



06 CAMBODIA FACES GROWING INTERNATIONAL OPPOSITION TO DRAFT NGO LAW



Sixteen international human rights groups urged Cambodia to withdraw a proposed law they fear will muzzle government critics and severely restrict the activities of non-governmental organisations. The law would require Cambodia’s 5,000 domestic and international NGOs to report their activities and finances to the government.

- ▶ Of particular concern is a provision that gives the government discretionary powers to prohibit any activities it perceives to jeopardise peace, stability and public order or harm the country’s national security, culture and traditions
- ▶ The letter, to be delivered on Monday to National Assembly President Heng Samrin, said the law would also give the government complete discretion in deciding whether to accept NGO registration requests
- ▶ The groups criticised a lack of public consultation and opportunity to comment on the draft law, which they say the government had tried to keep secret before it goes to parliament

[DailyMail UK \(22 June 2015\)](#)

07 MYANMAR, CAMBODIA, LAOS, VIETNAM AGREE TO BOOST COOPERATION



The leaders of the four least-developed members of the Association of Southeast Nations — Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam — agreed at a summit in Naypyitaw to promote cooperation in such areas as trade and investment, transport, agriculture, tourism and development of human resources.

- ▶ The four leaders called for deeper coordination to make best use of economic corridors, facilitate cross-border movement of goods and passengers, and facilitate air transport through bilateral and multilateral agreements on air services
- ▶ They also agreed to mutually facilitate investments in agriculture, industry, energy, technology and telecommunications sectors, through incentives in important areas including SME development, renewable energy, and mineral exploitation

[Bangkok Post \(22 June 2015\)](#)



08 MYANMAR MONITOR

POLITICS AND SECURITY

▶ Myanmar has replaced a high ranking air force officer, officials said on 29 June, a move seen as a response to China's anger over stray bomb that fell in Chinese territory and killed four farmers three months ago. Myanmar initially denied it was responsible for the bomb, later accepted blame and apologized.

[Reuters \(29 June 2015\)](#)

▶ Students in Myanmar led a peaceful protest on 30 June, urging Myanmar's military to remove itself from politics, days after lawmakers voted down a measure to scrap the military's effective legislative veto. The constitution reserves a quarter of parliamentary seats for unelected members of the military, and any change to the constitution must win support from at least 75 percent of lawmakers, giving the military an effective veto power. The proposed change would have cut the support threshold to 70 percent, but the measure failed, as had been expected.

[Channel NewsAsia \(30 June 2015\)](#)

ECONOMY

▶ The National Minimum Wage Committee proposed on 29 June that Myanmar's minimum wage be set at 3,600 (US\$3.24) for an eight-hour working day. If approved, the proposed wage—which amounts to less than 50 cents per hour—will be applied across all sectors nationwide, with the exception of certain small and family businesses.

[The Irrawaddy \(30 June 2015\)](#)

▶ People queued for hours at Myanmar's first KFC restaurant on 30 June, as the US fast food chain became the latest big foreign brand to open an outlet in the country. KFC is the first major US restaurant chain to open in Myanmar as reforms and the removal of most sanctions tempt investors to a market of millions of prospective consumers.

[Channel NewsAsia \(1 July 2015\)](#)

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

▶ Singapore renewed its commitment to Myanmar's development as the two countries extended an official training programme on 30 June in Naypyidaw. The Singapore-Myanmar Technical Cooperation Programme is valid for another three years according to the agreement and will fund and provide training for Myanmar officials in economic development, human resources and public administration.

[Channel NewsAsia \(1 July 2015\)](#)

▶ A scheme to regularise Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand seems to be running aground as workers find it is both unreliable and expensive. Of the 70,000 workers in the border town of Mae Sot who signed up for the program, only half had registered on the registration deadline. Many workers say the program does not offer enough advantage to be worth the cost.

[Myanmar Times \(30 June 2015\)](#)

09 LAOS LOOKS FOR CUBAN COOPERATION IN BIOTECHNOLOGY



Laos deputy Prime Minister Thongloun Sisoulith expressed in Havana his country's interest in expanding cooperation with Cuba in the biotechnology sector.

- ▶ During a visit to the Havana-based Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology Center, Sisoulith met with the director of that entity Dr. Luis Herrera as well as with specialists and workers.
- ▶ He was interested in learning about current projects in Cuba to treat HIV-Aids patients and their effectiveness in the quality of life of those receiving the specialized attention.

[Cuba News \(17 June 2015\)](#)

10 THAILAND FIGHTS TO RETAIN WORLD HERITAGE SITES



The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) has threatened to downgrade the Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex as a world heritage site, whilst also expressing concerns over the Ayutthaya Historical Park.

- ▶ During the 2015 UNESCO world heritage committee meeting in Doha, the UN body expressed concerns over the Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex's state; where illegal Siamese rosewood logging, resource management for forest rangers, forest encroachment, infrastructural initiatives into forest land and insufficient sustainable tourism development strategies have threatened its status as a UNESCO world heritage site
- ▶ Furthermore, recent floods which damaged the Ayutthaya Historical Park has raised concerns with UNESCO, concerns which Natural Resources and Environment General Dapong Rattanasuwan has stated are to be addressed by professional undertakings to repair the site
- ▶ The upcoming World Heritage Committee is to be held on 28 June in Bonn, Germany, where the Thai delegation hopes to defend both World Heritage sites and their statuses

[The Nation \(23 June 2015\)](#)

UNESCO Sites Under Threat

Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai

The Forest Complex spans 230 km, and is home to more than 800 species of fauna. It is internationally important for the conservation of globally threatened and endangered mammal, bird and reptile species, among them 19 that are vulnerable, four that are endangered, and one that is critically endangered. The area contains substantial and important tropical forest ecosystems, which can provide a viable habitat for the long-term survival of these species.

Ayutthaya Historical Park

Founded c. 1350, Ayutthaya became the second Siamese capital after Sukhothai. It was destroyed by the Burmese in the 18th century. Its remains, characterized by the prang (reliquary towers) and gigantic monasteries, give an idea of its past splendour.

[UNESCO](#)