

CARI CAPTURES



01 GOVERNMENT OFFERS OIL & GAS BLOCKS

INDONESIA

Government Offers Oil & Gas Blocks



Jakarta Globe

The Government is slated to offer 11 new oil and gas blocks to investors in the month of August, with the online tender to be completed by November.

- ▶ According to Djoko Siswanto, Director of the Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry, the 11 blocks will include three conventional and non-conventional blocks will be available through a direct offer, while five conventional blocks will be up for bid in a regular tender scheme
- ▶ Amongst those offered, the regular tenders include Rupert Labuhan in offshore Riau and North Sumatra; West Asri in offshore Lampung, Oti offshore of East Kalimantan, North Adang offshore of West Sulawesi,

and Kasuri II onshore Papua; the direct offers available include North Jabung, onshore Riau and Jambi, Southwest Benggana, onshore East Kalimantan, West Berau, offshore West Papua, Blora Deep, Central Java, Batu Ampar in Riau, and Sentral Bangkani, Central Kalimantan

- ▶ The move comes as Indonesia's government attempts to increase its national oil and gas reserves, as well as facilitate increased investment and growth within its energy infrastructure; currently, Indonesia has 317 PSC contracts from 80 exploited oil and gas blocks, whilst only 62 blocks are in operation, 18 are in their development stages and 182 are in the exploration stages

The Star (28 July 2015)

02 MORE SUSPECTED MH370 WRECKAGE FOUND



More debris suspected to be part of the missing Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 was discovered off the northern coast of the French Island of La Reunion.

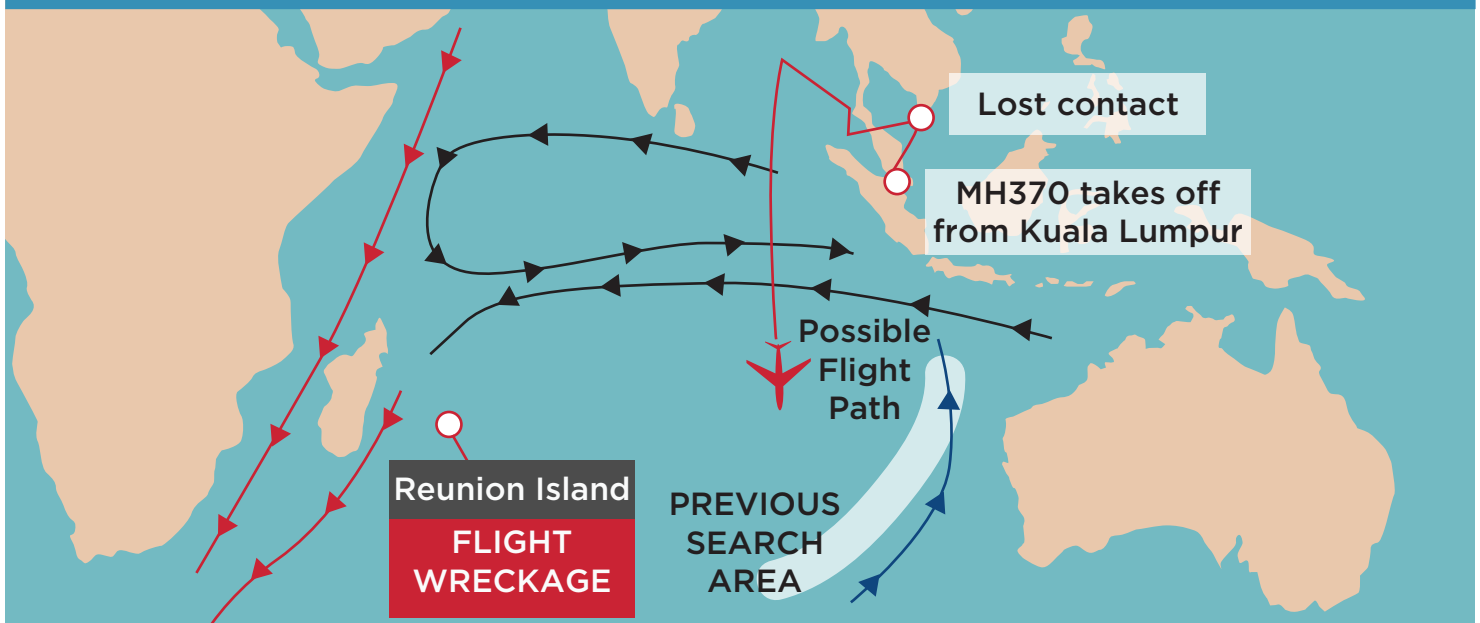
▶ The newly found wreckage, a 30 by 30 square frame with edges and round corners, was found after the discovery of another piece of metallic wreckage in the same area the previous week on 29 July previously, a piece of luggage bearing a burnt patch was investigated after washing on shore

▶ The founder reportedly discovered another piece of metallic wreckage last Sunday in the same area, reported a local daily; however, the debris, with two Chinese characters monogrammed on it, finally tested to be not linked to any aircraft

▶ Whilst the newly found wreckage is a flapper from a Boeing 777, there has been no confirmation as to its potential links with the missing Malaysian Jet

[NDTV \(5 August 2015\)](#)

MH370 Debris Found in Reunion Island



[The Mole](#)

03 LAOS PONDERES AEC CHALLENGES



Human capital development, identifying top tourism products, and marketing and promotion resonated as key areas on which Lao tourism needs to focus in preparing for the ASEAN Economic Community's launch.

- ▶ According to Lao Ministry of Information, Culture, and Tourism (MoICT) vice minister, Chaleune Warintrasak, "To compete in the AEC, we need to aim for quality tourists by increasing marketing and promotion and our efforts in human capital development (HCD). The government and private sector will also continue to engage in product development", he said
- ▶ These endeavours are in line with the ASEAN Tourism Strategic Plan 2011 to 2015 and the early stages of the ATSP 2016 to 2025. The current ATSP places priority on natural, cultural, and heritage sites as well as community-based tourism (CBT) and river cruise tourism, which has good potential in Laos
- ▶ However, challenges such as the current need for multiple visas, which hinders intra-regional tourism, and issues regarding seamless cross-border road vehicle traffic

[TTR Weekly \(5 August 2015\)](#)

04 ASEAN MINISTERS TO PUSH FOR SOUTH CHINA SEA AGREEMENTS



The ASEAN foreign ministers are working toward a so-called "Declaration of Conduct," that would set the stage for a code of conduct, a set of rules that would put in place mechanisms to avoid conflict in the contentious sea.

- ▶ The ministers will express concern over China's land reclamation and construction of land features in the South China Sea and will try to dissuade unilateral action or any use of force that could destabilize the region
- ▶ In an earlier meeting in July, working groups from ASEAN and China agreed to resolve maritime issues over the sea "in the spirit of good neighborliness" and in accordance with international maritime law
- ▶ In that meeting, ASEAN states and China worked on establishing points of contact for emergency communications between senior officials, which could help prevent conflicts from escalating. However, draft documents note a "widening gap" between the diplomatic track and growing tension on the ground

[Voice of America \(4 August 2015\)](#)

05 ASEAN TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CAMBODIAN MUSLIMS

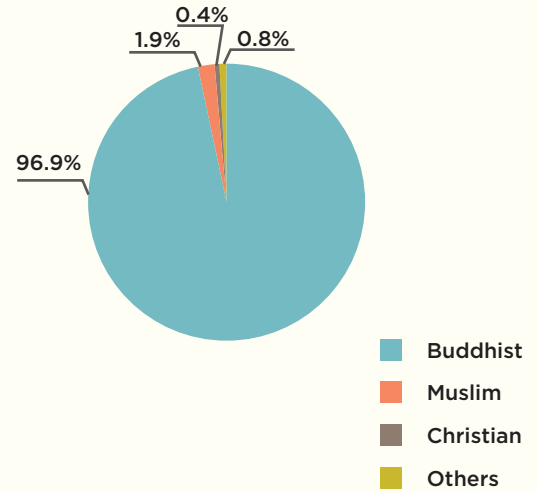


During roundtable discussion surrounding business opportunities in Cambodia's financial sector, Cambodia's government urged the local Muslim community to start its own bank to cater to some 600,000 Muslims within the nation.

- ▶ During the World Islamic Economic Forum Foundation (WIEF), where 250 Muslim businessmen discussed business opportunities within the nation, Datum Othman Hassan urged the creation of an Islamic microfinance institution to further the financial services and improve the business and livelihood of Cambodia's people
- ▶ Currently, there are 36 commercial banks and over 40 microfinance institutions catering to the Cambodian population; as the nation touts its 7% economic growth as one of the fastest growing economies in the world, experts predict a uptake in demand for financial infrastructure to fund said growth
- ▶ Although other Southeast Asian countries, such as Myanmar and Philippines, have disputes with their minority Muslim populations, Mr. Hassan said Cambodia is not worried about religious conflicts

[Khmer Times \(4 August 2015\)](#)

Religions in Cambodia (2008)



[American Association of Singapore](#)

06 TYPHOON SOUDELOR ENTERS PHILIPPINE TERRITORY



On 5 August 2015, Typhoon Soudelor has entered Philippine territory, becoming locally known as Hanna, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA). PAGASA spotted the eye of the typhoon at 1,420 km east of Calayan, Cagayan.

- ▶ PAGASA said the typhoon was moving at 20 kph west-northwest with maximum sustained winds of 215 kph near the center and a gustiness of up to 250 kph
- ▶ Meanwhile, southwest monsoon rains may trigger flash floods and landslides in Mindanao, which will also have moderate to strong winds blowing from the southwest to west. Coastal waters in the region will be moderate to rough

[CNN Phillipine \(5 August 2015\)](#)

07 SINGAPORE PRIVATE VEHICLES TO PAY FEES FOR ENTERING MALAYSIA FROM 1 OCTOBER SAYS MINISTER



Malaysian Deputy Transport Minister Abdul Aziz Kaprawi said Private vehicles entering Malaysia from Singapore will have to pay a RM20 (S\$7) fee from 1 October. The VEP fee can only be paid with a Touch 'n Go card.

- ▶ The online registration, which begins Aug 15, applies to all private vehicles, public buses, taxis, goods vehicles and diplomatic cars and "vehicle owners are required to pay RM10 for the road charge, which is valid for five years"
- ▶ Although the VEP fee would not apply to public buses, motorcycles, taxis and government vehicles they would still need to register with the Malaysia's Road Transport Department

[Channel News Asia \(1 August 2015\)](#)



08 MYANMAR MONITOR

POLITICS

► Shwe Mann was removed as chairman of the ruling Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) on 13 August after security forces surrounded its headquarters in Naypyidaw. Both Shwe Mann, long considered a presidential frontrunner, and the USDP's secretary general were replaced by allies of President Thein Sein. The move is seen as a confirmation of Thein Sein's desire for a second term in office, analysts said. Shwe Mann retains his influential position as speaker of Myanmar's lower house.

[Reuters \(13 August 2015\)](#)

► Myanmar's health minister on 12 August scrapped plans to fill vacancies at his ministry with military personnel, after thousands of people joined a rare online protest. "We had planned to appoint more people from the Ministry of Defense, but we won't go ahead with the plan since it's against the wishes of most people from the medical field," said Health Minister Than Aung.

[Yahoo News \(12 August 2015\)](#)

ECONOMY

► Tour operators in Myanmar are worried visitor numbers will drop this year as a large part of the country battles severe flooding. Images of damage and despair seen all over the world is likely to affect tourist arrival numbers, according to tourism officials. To counter the negative effect of the flood images, the Myanmar Tourism Federation is sending its members out in to the flood-hit areas to gather reliable, first-hand information.

[Channel NewsAsia \(12 August 2015\)](#)

► Myanmar SMEs are not ready for the ASEAN Economic Community, said Daw Aye Aye Win, deputy director general of the SME Development Department at the Ministry of Industry, on 8 August at the SME Forum 2015. Myanmar SMEs, which according to the SME Development Centre are about 87 percent of registered enterprises in Myanmar, face several key issues such as financial management, access to capital and entrepreneurial development.

[Myanmar Times \(12 August 2015\)](#)

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

► Myanmar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs lashed out on 13 August against allegations made by UN rights rapporteur Yanghee Lee. The ministry said that it "rejects country-specific mandates including that of the Special Rapporteur," state media said. Lee wrapped up her third visit to the country last week with sharp criticism of the government's reluctance to facilitate meetings and site visits, including denying her access to Rakhine State where more than 100,000 Rohingya stay in displacement camps.

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

09 TPP TO DEEPEN US TRADE TIES WITH ASEAN, SAYS US STATE SECRETARY



The US will continue to work with its partners to promote a stable, rules-based order for the Asia-Pacific and the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) will spur momentum in that effort, said its Secretary of State John Kerry. For example, he said, the TPP was helping to deepen US trade relations with Asean members as they prepared to launch the ambitious Asean Economic Community later this year.

- Kerry said TPP was about a lot more than just creating economic opportunities, and this was really important to focus on. He said it was about raising standards and this agreement initiated a race to the top, not a race to the bottom.
- Besides, he added under this pact, every participant would have to comply with core international labour and environmental standards
- "They will have to refrain from using under-age workers and unsafe workplaces and ensure state-owned companies are actually competing fairly with ones that are privately-owned," he said

[The Star \(4 August 2015\)](#)

10 MANILA'S STATE GOVERNMENT FORMS TASK FORCE FOR HOMELESS



The Manila city government and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) are forming local task forces in the barangay (village) level to identify homeless families and get them off the streets as beneficiaries of the government's aid program for the poor.

- The plan, which was unveiled following the signing of an agreement between Mayor Joseph Estrada and the head of the DSWD National Capital Region concerning the project, is aimed at clearing city street dwellers within the year
- According to the DSWD-NCR Director Alicia Bonoan, 27 task forces will identify families and offer them modified conditional cash transfer programs as well as a separate initiative focusing on street children
- The covered families will be provided financial assistance enough for them to rent homes, whilst the Department of Labor and Employment and public sector partners will also be tapped to help find jobs for the adult family members

[Inquirer \(3 August 2015\)](#)

Top 10 Cities with Homeless



www.histl-chron.com

