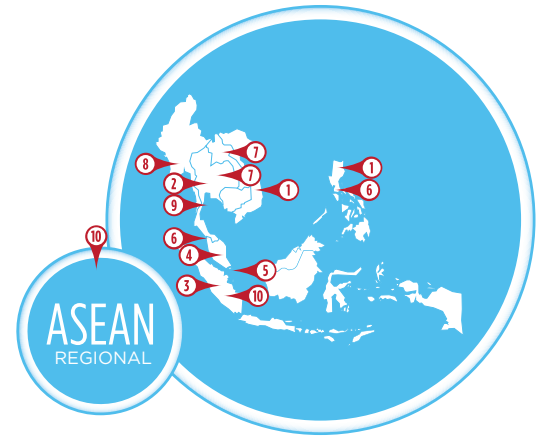


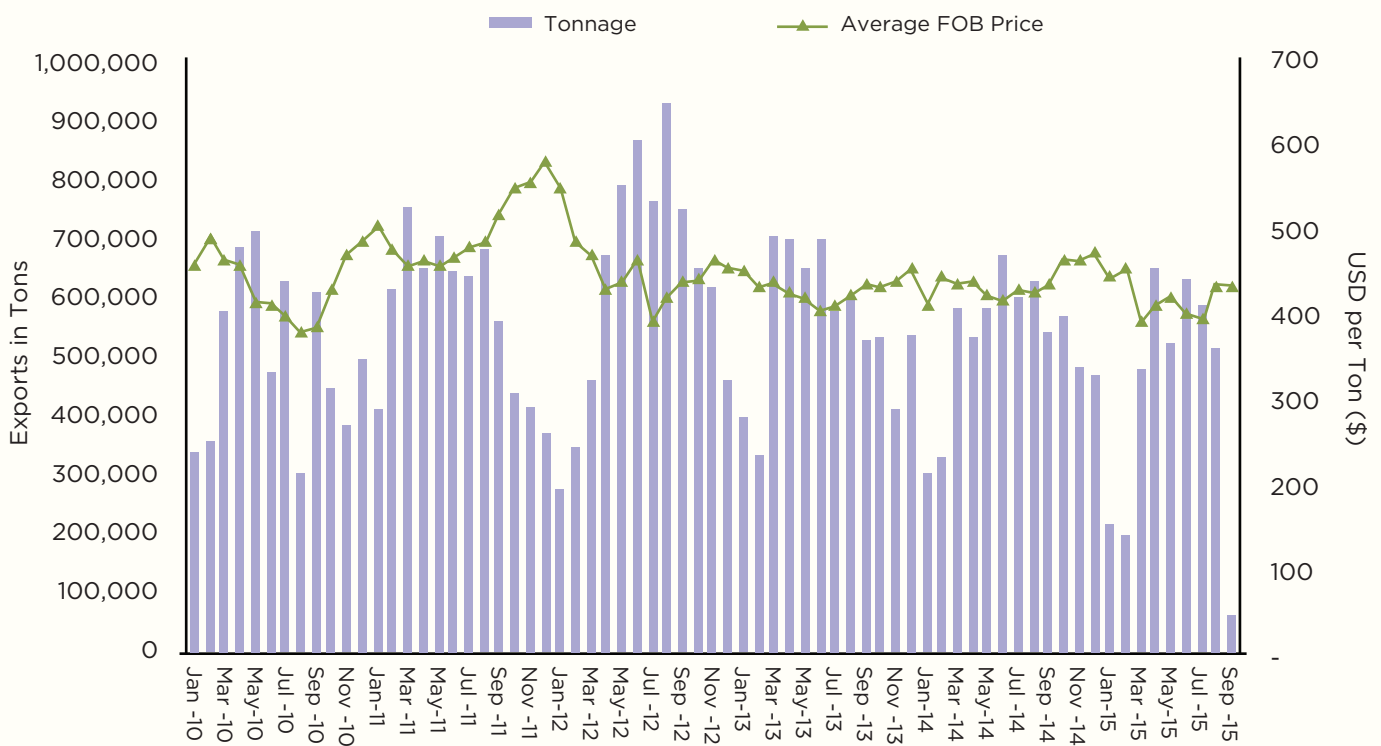
CARI CAPTURES



01 VIETNAM WINS FILIPINO RICE CONTRACT



Vietnam Rice Exports



[Vietnam Food Association](#)

Vietnam will supply over 450,000 tonnes of rice to the Philippines over the next two years following an auction organised by the Filipino National Food Association (NFA).

- ▶ At the price of US\$426.6 per tonne, Vietnam will ship 250,000 tonnes of rice to the Philippines over the course of 2015, with an additional 200,000 tonnes to be shipped in early 2016; it should be noted that the agreed price was \$77 lower per tonne than that given by the NFA
- ▶ The auction was held in the hopes of importing a total of 750,000 tonnes of rice in part due to the prediction that the El Nino weather

phenomenon would continue to worsen, with weather conditions such as prolonged droughts to be the worst seen since 1997

- ▶ With rice being a water heavy crop, Filipino farmers are slated to suffer delayed and limited crops which will in turn reduce their harvest income for the year; whilst it has been suggested that 32 provinces adapt their crops to match changing weather patterns, farmers often lack the expertise and capital to switch crops

[Vietnam News \(19 September 2015\)](#)

02 CONSTRUCTION OF CHINA-THAILAND RAILWAY TO BEGIN BY END OF 2015



Thailand's deputy Prime Minister Tanasak Patimapragorn has revealed that the construction of a high speed railway connecting China and Thailand would begin by the end of this year.

- ▶ The work on the 873 kilometers standard gauge dual-track rail project had been scheduled to commence in October 2015
- ▶ According to Patimapragorn, the China-Thailand railway line, which will run from Yunan Province through Laos to Thailand's Rayong province, would improve the transportation of people and goods in the region

- ▶ Experts say it would also increase the number of Chinese tourists who visit Thailand annually. When the railway comes into operation in 2018, it is expected to be considerably cheaper than air transportation

[China Topix \(21 September 2015\)](#)

03 INDONESIA PLEDGES TO CUT EMISSIONS



Indonesia has affirmed its commitment towards cutting greenhouse gas emissions 29% by 2030.

- ▶ The announcement comes in anticipation of an upcoming summit regarding efforts limiting global warming to 2 degrees celsius; furthermore, Indonesia has stated that it would be prepared to further slash emissions by 41% if financial and technological support equalling US\$6 billion in aid was provided
- ▶ Whilst the news was generally well received, political commentary coming from think tanks such as the World Resources institute(WRI) has been skeptical due to vague nature of the pledge as well as the feasibility of such drastic policy shifts without hampering economic growth
- ▶ Indonesia, which is currently ranked as the world's sixth largest polluter of greenhouse gases, with a booming coal industry as well as rampant deforestation; just four years ago Indonesia committed to halt all deforestation and peatland expansion, however huge swathes of forest and peat land have continued to be cleared in recent times

[The GuaRdian \(20 September 2015\)](#)

Indonesia CO₂ Emissions

Year	CO ₂ Emission Total (K/Tons CO ₂)
2000	294452.66
2001	315418.34
2002	322269.35
2003	331687.37
2004	349428.95
2005	359539.41
2006	375169.68
2007	399205.40
2008	406938.29
2009	418523.08
2010	451479.58
2011	470461.39
2012	476455.06
2013	487282.53



[EDGAR \(Emissions Database for Global Atmospheric Research\)](#)

04 MALAYSIA WORKING TO REIN IN RABIES OUTBREAK



As of 18 September, 39 dogs from Perlis (19), Kedah (17) and Penang (3) have tested positive for rabies but none of the people bitten by rabid dogs has tested positive for the disease. Malaysia's last rabies outbreak was in 1999 and the country was declared free of the viral disease in 2012 by the World Health Organization.

- ▶ The rabies virus is believed to have spread from a neighbouring country, possibly Thailand, which shares a border with Malaysia

- ▶ The mass cull has been criticised by animal rights groups, some of which have held protests, raising money to vaccinate the strays themselves
- ▶ For now, Malaysia says the situation is more or less under control but vets are counting down the days till the next batch of vaccine arrives

[Channel News Asia \(21 September 2015\)](#)

05 SINGAPORE AND UK BOOST INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY COOPERATION



A new intellectual property (IP) agreement is set to benefit the Republic and the UK, with closer IP cooperation and enhanced UK-ASEAN trade relations.

- ▶ The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which was signed in Singapore, will improve international cooperation between the two IP offices, on issues relating to copyright, patents, trade mark and design
- ▶ According to Mr. Tan Yih San, Chief Executive of IPOS, the MOU reaffirms the mutual commitment between UK and Singapore to increase cross-border IP cooperation and provide a robust IP system for businesses and creators looking to expand into the UK, and those seeking to venture into the ASEAN region

[Channel News Asia \(21 September 2015\)](#)

06 PHILIPPINES - MALAYSIA END MILITARY, DISASTER RESPONSE EXERCISES



Two decades after it started carrying out kidnappings, bombings, occasional beheadings and general mischief in Southern Philippines, a local court has legally declared the Abu Sayyaf a terrorist organisation.

- ▶ The exercises with Malaysian Army were held from 9 to 21 September in Philippines. The series of Training Activity Land Malaysia-Philippines (MALPHI) focused on a combined Army operations through a command post exercise dealing with a scenario on humanitarian assistance and disaster response operations
- ▶ There were 76 personnel from the Philippine Army and 30 from Malaysian Army who joined the bilateral exercises held at the Peacekeeping Operations Center in Philippines
- ▶ The similar exercises are expected to be held in Malaysia next year

[Inquirer \(21 September 2015\)](#)

07 THAI COKE BOTTLER OPENS PLANT IN LAOS



A joint venture between two Lao based firms and a Thai bottler has seen to the inaugural coke bottling plant being set up within Laos.

- ▶ Lao Coca Cola Bottling Co. Ltd, Lao PT Sole Co. Ltd, and Thai Coke bottler ThaiNamthip Ltd, have recently agreed to build and operate Lao's inaugural coke bottling plant which will initially produce Coca-Cola, Fanta, and Sprite; the possibility of further production lines at a later date have also been discussed

- ▶ The establishment of a coke bottling plant in Laos means that each of the 10 ASEAN nation states now have a coke bottling plant, a momentous occasion marking how far the regions has come
- ▶ According to Coca-Cola chairman and chief executive Muhtar Kent, Southeast Asia will continue to provide vibrant growth offering opportunities for further investment within the region through local bottling partners

[Vending Times \(12 September 2015\)](#)

Coke Asia Pacific Supply Chain



[Coca Cola](#)

08 MYANMAR MONITOR

POLITICS

▶ Politicians and activists in Myanmar have criticized an influential Buddhist national group for holding large public gatherings across the country to celebrate the passage of a set of four controversial laws. The Association for the Protection of Race and Religion has hosted rallies among tens of thousands of its supporters in recent weeks to call attention to the passage of the Race and Religion Protection Laws ahead of Myanmar's general elections.

[Channel NewsAsia \(4 October 2015\)](#)

▶ Thousands of Myanmar's nationalist monks and their supporters rallied on 4 October, in a show of growing clout of radical Buddhists. Religious tensions are running high ahead of general elections, largely stoked by the Ma Ba Tha, an organization led by the hard-line monks who called the rally.

[Reuters \(4 October 2015\)](#)

ECONOMY

▶ Gross domestic product may grow by 10% in the financial year through March, Aung Tun Thet, economic adviser to Myanmar's President said in an interview. Foreign direct investments are likely to climb 25% from a year earlier to US\$10 billion, Thet said, giving a much-needed boost to the economy.

[CNBC \(1 October 2015\)](#)

▶ While budgets have increased in the past few years, Myanmar is still one of the lowest spenders on healthcare as a share of GDP. According to the latest World Bank figures, health spending increased from 0.2% to just over 1% of the GDP from 2009 to 2013. This year, the country will welcome its first fleet of 230 emergency ambulances, but until now the ineffective ambulance services has been mostly run by volunteers.

[The Star \(3 October 2015\)](#)

▶ Myanmar remains among the 10 least competitive countries in which to do business, according to the latest rankings of the World Economic Forum (WEF). The Myanmar economy was found particularly lacking in "technological readiness" (138th place), "financial market development" (138th) and "business sophistication" (135th), out of 140 countries included.

[The Irrawaddy \(3 October 2015\)](#)

▶ The Myanmar government is expecting its official figure for the number of tourists visiting the country to reach more than 4.5 million this year, according to an official report. The number of arrivals so far this year has already surpassed last year's total of 3.08 million, said Minister for Hotels and Tourism Htay Aung.

[The Irrawaddy \(3 October 2015\)](#)

09 FACEBOOK OPENS THAILAND OFFICE



Facebook, the world's largest social network has launched its first office in Thailand in 17 September.

- ▶ Thailand currently has 37 million Facebook users per month and is the most Facebook-active country in Southeast Asia with an average person using Facebook for 2 hours and 35 minutes per day
- ▶ 94 percent Thai users access Facebook through mobile phones and 70 percent contact with businesses via Facebook pages
- ▶ Whilst the initiative is largely viewed as sustainable, it should be noted that should JICA funding stop, the maintenance of such vehicles may be viewed as prohibitively expensive, which may result in the cancellation of such future projects by the Lao government

[Bangkok Coconuts \(18 September 2015\)](#)

10 INDONESIA TO HOST 2018 ASIAN GAMES



Jakarta and Palembang will play host to the Asian Games, the multi-sport competition held every four years.

- ▶ With participants from 46 Asian countries, and events spanning from 18 August - 2 September 2018, Indonesia has decided to use both cities to host the Asian Games making a historic decision as no other nation has used more than one city in the past
- ▶ Whilst it is currently unclear which sporting events will be held in each of the cities, the dual city hosting agreement has stated that both the opening and closing ceremonies will occur within the main Athlete's Village in Jakarta
- ▶ In the more pressing future, Jakarta will play host to the 2017 Youth Games, which will serve as a test to the city's logistical and security capabilities; whilst originally hosted by Vietnam, the Asian games had a change of venue following financial and economic difficulties in the nation

[Swin Swam \(20 September 2015\)](#)

Past Asian Games

Year	Games	Host	Nations	Athletes	Sports
1951	I	New Delhi, India	11	489	6
1954	II	Manila, Philippines	19	970	8
1958	III	Tokyo, Japan	16	1,820	13
1962	IV	Jakarta, Indonesia	12	1,460	13
1966	V	Bangkok, Thailand	16	1,945	14
1970	VI	Bangkok, Thailand	16	2,400	13
1974	VII	Tehran, Iran	19	3,010	16
1978	VIII	Bangkok, Thailand	19	3,842	19
1982	IX	New Delhi, India	33	3,411	21
1986	X	Seoul, South Korea	27	4,839	25
1990	XI	Beijing, China	36	6,122	29
1994	XII	Hiroshima, Japan	42	6,828	34
1998	XIII	Bangkok, Thailand	41	6,554	36
2002	XIV	Busan, South Korea	44	7,711	38
2006	XV	Doha, Qatar	45	9,520	39
2010	XVI	Guangzhou, China	45	9,704	42
2014	XVII	Incheon, South Korea	45	9,501	36
2018	XVIII	Jakarta-Palembang, Indonesia			
2022	XIX	Hangzhou, China			Undecided

