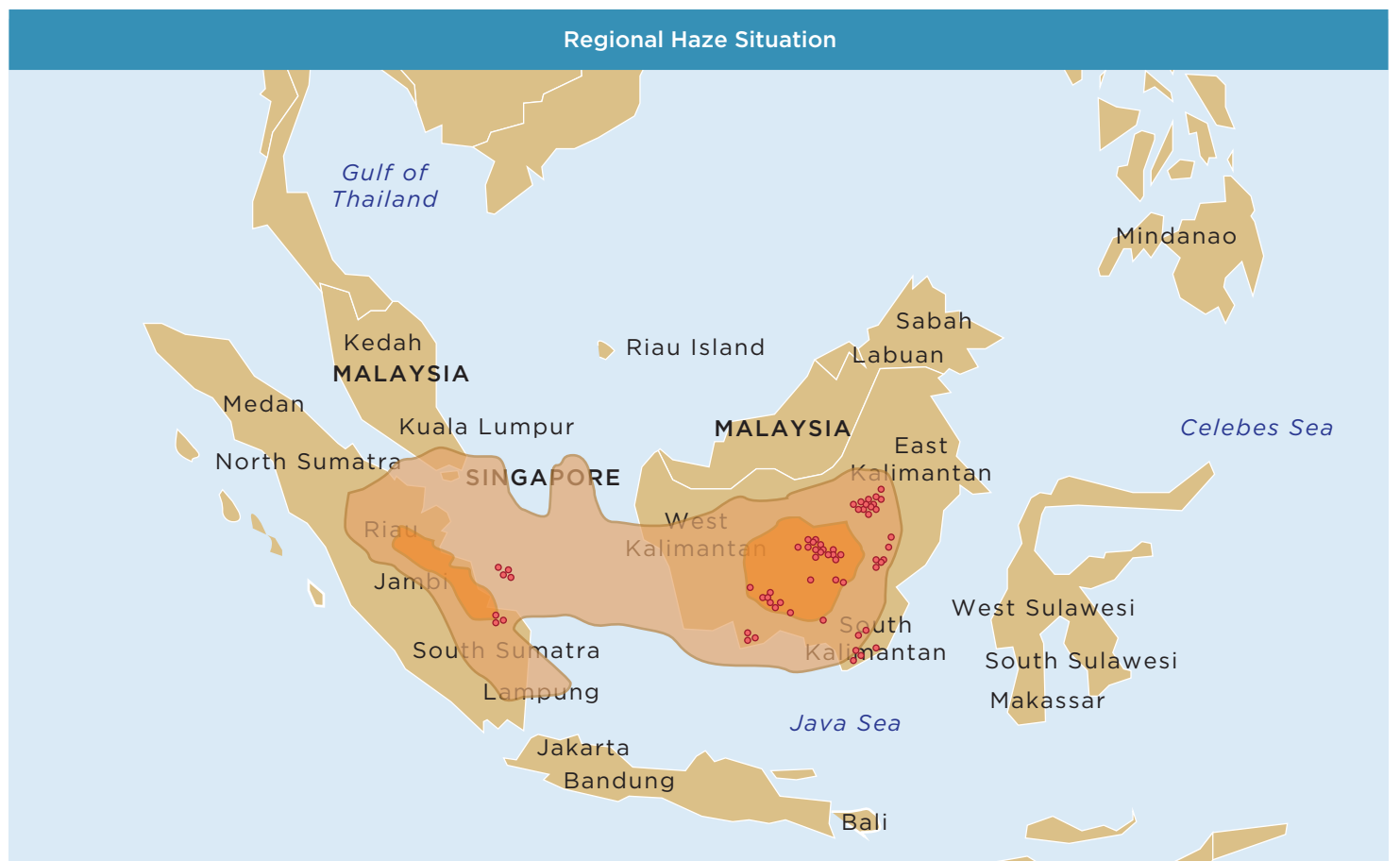


# CARI CAPTURES



## 01 HAZE CRISIS CONTINUES



ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Center

**The regional haze crisis plaguing nations surrounding Indonesia has been the topic of high level talks between Singapore and Indonesia.**

- ▶ Singapore's Defense Minister Ng Eng Hen and Indonesian Minister for Political, Legal and Security Affairs Luhut Panjaitan, and Defense Minister Ryamizard Ryacudu met on 28 September to discuss further plans of action in addressing the situation; worsening conditions have recently caused the closure of schools and airports across the region
- ▶ Defense Minister Ng once again affirmed that the Singapore Armed Forces stand ready to support Indonesia's haze mitigation efforts

as and when necessary; meanwhile, Indonesia has continued to use 19 choppers and two Air Tractor planes to water bomb hot spots as well as to seed clouds

- ▶ Whilst the burning of peatland and forested areas in Indonesia has continued to cause widespread economic and health damage to nations, wildlife has also been adversely affected; in the Lester orang-utan sanctuary located within East Kalimantan alone, 200 hectares of forest have been razed by fires, which has threatened the lives of 209 orang-utans and 47 sun bears

[Jakarta Post \(29 September 2015\)](#)

# 02 SINGAPORE'S NEW CABINET SWORN IN



**Singapore's new cabinet of 31 office holders was sworn in on October 1st, with Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong affirming a renewed focus on national security, economic, social policies, and infrastructure.**

▶ The new cabinet was selected with the future of Singapore's leadership in mind, with more younger ministers being promoted to positions of prominence; out of the total 20 cabinet members, half were below 55 years of age, with the others providing depth and experience needed to retain stability within government

▶ Furthermore, the new cabinet was also restructured to include three coordinating ministers to oversee and coordinate related ministries, with Teo Chee Hean becoming the new Coordinating Minister for National Security, Tharman Shanmugaratnam was appointed the new Coordinating Minister for Economic and Social Policies, and Khaw Boon Wan receiving the title of Coordinating Minister of Infrastructure

▶ Another change to the cabinet's structure was the addition of a ministerial post for both the Education, and Trade and Industry ministries; the change was designed to overcome the heavy workload of both posts

[Business Standard \(2 October 2015\)](#)

## Singapore's New Cabinet



[Channel News Asia](#)

# 03 INDONESIA PLEDGES TO CUT EMISSIONS



**Viet Nam is creating a framework to stimulate private investments in the aviation industry, as public-private partnerships for development of this sector has become a trend in the region. According to the Civil Aviation Authority of Viet Nam's (CAAV's) airport management department, the new aviation law, which took effect on 1 July had aimed to promote the roles of private investors.**

- ▶ The booming growth in the aviation market is posing a great demand for better airport infrastructure, requiring greater financing and knowhow from the private sector
- ▶ From 2010 to 2014, the domestic aviation sector grew on average 12 per cent per year in terms of passenger traffic, with annual numbers of passengers increasing from 21.07 million to 33.16 million
- ▶ In freight, the market posted an average growth rate of 12.67 per cent per year, with annual quantities of cargo rising from some 460,000 tonnes to more than 741,000 tonnes
- ▶ Notable growth was also reported during the period at some international airports such as Cam Ranh, which grew at 25.5 per cent per year, Vinh at 34.8 per cent per year, and Phu Quoc at 24.7 per cent per year.

[Vietnam Bridge \(2 October 2015\)](#)

# 04 THAILAND SET TO BUILD CHINA-LIKE INTERNET FIREWALL



**The military government of Thailand is steadily moving forward with plans to build a massive Internet firewall that would allow officials to censor and conduct surveillance on nearly all digital traffic in and out of the country.**

- ▶ The decree would establish a single Internet gateway for Thailand, instead of the current 10, through which all digital data would pass. That could enable government authorities to closely monitor email communications - using "deep-packet inspection" (DPI), which aids analysis of data bits that have been divided into packets - and block access to any website it chooses
- ▶ Internet censorship is nothing new in Thailand. Several successive governments have routinely blocked media sites such as YouTube for criticizing the government or the monarchy. The latter is a crime with harsh penalties under Thailand's strict "lese majeste" laws
- ▶ Since taking power in May 2014, the ruling military junta repeatedly ordered Thai ISPs to block hundreds of websites, including, for a time, Facebook and Google. But the single gateway plan, if enacted, would create a much more restricted Internet, much like China's so-called Great Firewall

[Voice of America \(28 September 2015\)](#)



# 05 SINGAPORE TO LAUNCH NEW SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



**Singapore announced on 27 September at a United Nations (UN) summit that it will launch a new programme where it will work with partners on sustainable development.**

- ▶ Under the new Sustainable Development Programme, Singapore will work with partners to provide technical assistance and capacity building to developing countries in the areas of leadership and governance, sustainable cities, and water and sanitation solutions

- ▶ Minister for the Environment and Water Resources Vivian Balakrishnan said the programme supports the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a global framework which outlines 17 goals to wipe out poverty, fight inequality and tackle climate change over the next 15 years
- ▶ Dr Balakrishnan said Singapore is willing to invest in new technology and new partnerships for the sake of sustainability, but said the best investment his country can make is in its people

[Channel News Asia \(28 September 2015\)](#)

# 06 PHILIPPINES OFFERS 70% EMISSIONS CUT



**The Philippines has announced its willingness to slash emissions by as much as 70% by 2030 if it receives sufficient financial and technological support from developed nations.**

- ▶ The submission, which closely follows Indonesia's earlier pledges comes in anticipation of climate change talks in Paris later in the year; the talks, which are aimed at creating a feasible method at which to limit climate change to as much as a two degrees celsius increase in world temperature has called for nations to submit proposals and plans to limit harmful emissions
- ▶ Whilst experts have stated that a two degree celsius temperature cap would be viable if wealthy nations provide support to developing nations, it should be noted that the feasibility of such a goal is hampered by stiff negotiations regarding the financing of plans to reduce emissions, as well as the transparency behind said plans
- ▶ Reuben Muni, a climate and energy campaigner for the Philippines from the environmental group Greenpeace, criticised the conditional nature of Manila's offer and said the country could start by cutting its heavy reliance on coal for power generation

[Yahoo News \(1 October 2015\)](#)

Filipino CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions

Year	CO <sub>2</sub> Emission Total (millions metri tons )
2013	90.78M
2012	84.85M
2011	80.56M
2010	78.48M
2009	74.84M
2008	73.53M
2007	74.42M
2006	69.13M
2005	74.77M
2004	73.74M
2003	71.52M



[YCharts](#)

# 07 ASEAN TO STEP UP FIGHT AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL CRIMET



**The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is looking to step up its efforts to tackle transnational crime under Malaysia's chairmanship of the regional grouping.**

- ▶ Deputy Prime Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, who concurrently serves as home minister, told a press conference at the 10th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC) that Southeast Asian states had agreed to several measures to boost their fight against transnational crime.
- ▶ In a nod to the growing importance of transnational crime as an issue, ASEAN states have agreed to hold the AMMTC annually instead of biannually starting in 2016. Furthermore, Southeast Asian countries

have agreed to expand the scope of the issue itself, recognizing the rise of new forms of transnational crime over the past few years

- ▶ Whilst transnational crime traditionally is limited to eight areas - drug trafficking, terrorism, economic crimes, human trafficking, money laundering, piracy, weapon smuggling and cybercrime - three new areas have been added: illicit trafficking in wildlife, illicit trafficking in timber, and people smuggling

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

# 08 MYANMAR MONITOR

## FOREIGN AFFAIRS

▶ A top negotiator in Myanmar's peace talks with ethnic rebels has accused neighbouring China of derailing a nationwide ceasefire deal. Min Zaw Oo says China envoy pressed two rebel groups not to sign peace accord, adding that "China usually says they want stability. Of course they want stability but at the same time, they want to wield influence on the groups along the Chinese border."

[The Guardian \(9 October 2015\)](#)

## ECONOMY

▶ "I think Myanmar's economy will recover next year in the post-election period," said Hoe Ee Khor, deputy director for Asia and Pacific at the IMF on the sidelines of an Asia Pacific press briefing on 9 October. Reforms and monetary policy changes in the post-election period would boost slowing growth in Myanmar, he said. The World Bank last week cut Myanmar's economic growth forecast by almost 2%, to 6.5% for this fiscal year.

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

▶ Myanmar's first modern stock exchange, set to launch later this year, risks opening under sanctions by the US Treasury. The Yangon Stock Exchange is not designated specifically by the Department of Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC). However US officials have clarified that under US law it would be automatically sanctioned, as it is 51 percent owned by Myanmar Economic Bank (MEB), a state entity under US sanctions.

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

## BUSINESS AND INVESTMENT

▶ Officials from Vietnam's BIDV have claimed the bank is next in line to receive approval to enter Myanmar's nascent market for foreign banks, according to Reuters. BIDV said it had been assured by President Thein Sein that it would be allowed to offer banking services in the country next year.

[The Irrawaddy \(10 October 2015\)](#)

▶ Black & Veatch was recently appointed by Green Earth Power (Thailand) to provide design and consultancy services for a solar power project in Myanmar, the first after the company opened an office in the country. Green Earth Power's project will generate up to 220 megawatts of power and the construction is planned to commence in the first quarter of 2016.

[The Nation \(14 October 2015\)](#)

▶ Heineken has only been in Myanmar for a month, but demand is already so high it can't produce enough, said Lester Tan, managing director of APB Alliance Brewery Company, a joint venture between Heineken and Myanmar's Alliance Brewery. "We need to apply to the Myanmar Investment Commission for a permit to expand. Next year we think we can distribute to the rest of the country," he said.

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

# 09 CAMBODIA, LAOS, VIETNAM TALK SAFETY



**Cambodia, Laos and Viet Nam agreed to maintain close co-ordination to ensure security, order and safety at their shared border during the second joint conference of their Defence and Security Committees in Laos on 29 September.**

- ▶ The three countries pledged to support their local authorities in co-operating and exchanging information in order to prevent crimes related to terrorism, human and drug trafficking, smuggling and child labour in border areas
- ▶ They agreed to share experiences checking and controlling border gates in the development triangle to facilitate trade and improve nearby residents' living standards
- ▶ The nations also vowed to address security issues along the border through diplomatic means, and work together on the implementation of the joint statement of the eighth CLV Summit signed in Vientiane on November 2014

[Vietnam News \(29 September 2015\)](#)

# 10 MANILA FOUND TO HAVE WORST TRAFFIC



**According to a study on the Global Driver Satisfaction Index (GDSI) released on September 30th carried out by Waze, which runs a community based traffic and navigation application, Manila was found to have the worst city traffic on earth.**

- ▶ According to the Index, driver satisfaction is based upon six main criteria; traffic level by frequency and severity, road quality and infrastructure, driver safety and road hazards, driver services, gas prices, and the level of helpfulness within the Waze community
- ▶ The study found that Manila had a 0.4 traffic index rating, with a 0 score for socio-economic index; whilst the low scores paint a bleak picture, it should also be noted that Manila got a score of 10 for the drivers services index, landing it as fifth best on the list
- ▶ On average, it was found that motorists in Manila take approximately 45.5 minutes to commute from the office to their homes

[Manilla Buletin \(1 October 2015\)](#)



[Waze](#)

