

CARI CAPTURES

DUTERTE DEFENDS DEADLY
CRIME CRACKDOWN

THOUSANDS MARCH IN
FUNERAL OF SLAIN ACTIVIST

SINGAPORE HOSTS ASEAN
SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

01 ASEAN

ASEAN POLICE CHIEFS INK NEW PACT AMID ISLAMIC STATE FEARS

ASEANPOL - ASEAN POLICE CHIEFS

BRUNEI

DATO SERI
PAHLAWAN HAJI
MOHD JAMMY
BIN HAJI MOHD
SHAH AL-ISLAM



MALAYSIA

TAN SRI
KHALID ABU
BAKAR



THAILAND

POLICE
GENERAL AEK
ANGSANANONT



CAMBODIA

POLICE
COMMISSIONER
GENERAL NETH
SAVOEUN



MYANMAR

SWE THET
MYINT



VIETNAM

GENERAL
TRAN ĐAI
QUANG



INDONESIA

POLICE
GENERAL
BADRODIN
HAITI



PHILIPPINES

DIRECTOR
GENERAL
RONALD
DELA ROSA



LAOS

LITH
LUENAMACHACK



SINGAPORE

HOONG
WEE TECK



Source: ASEANPOL

Police chiefs from the all ten member states signed a historic pact first tabled a decade ago that will speed up the distribution of information, intelligence and assistance in times of crisis.

- ▶ After a decade of discussions, the delegates at the 36th ASEANAPOL Conference in the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur signed the ASEAN Communication and Coordination Protocol for Crisis Management (ACCCPM); the move came as countries in the region, most notably Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and the Philippines, have grown increasingly alarmed at the rising threat of terrorism from the Islamic State

- ▶ According to Malaysian Inspector General Khalid Abu Bakar, the signing of ACCPCM would be a boost for the distribution of information, intelligence and assistance during events such as large scale acts of terrorism which could result in mass casualties or the destruction of infrastructure
- ▶ In addition to the ten ASEAN countries, the meeting was also attended by nine other partner delegations including Australia, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand, Russia, Turkey and Interpol, as well as East Timor, the United Kingdom, Europol and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC); among the topics of discussion were the unlawful possession of firearms, wildlife trafficking, and money laundering

[The Diplomat \(29 July 2016\)](#)

AUSTRALIAN-INDONESIAN TRADE DEAL A PRIORITY

Amid uncertainties surrounding the passage of the Trans Pacific Partnership through US congress, the Australian government has deemed a trade agreement with Indonesia to be the important economic agenda item.

- ▶ Trade Minister Steve Ciobo will be in Jakarta this week to progress a deal that would give Australian businesses greater access to a middle class expected to reach 135 million by 2020, when Indonesia's GDP is expected to equal that of Australia's
- ▶ Negotiations for the Indonesia Australia Comprehensive

Economic Partnership Agreement were revived in March after a three year hiatus; according to Minister Ciobo, the move to finalise an agreement with Indonesia is in line with Australia's attempt to diversify its economic ties in Asia, having already signed agreements with China, Japan, and Korea

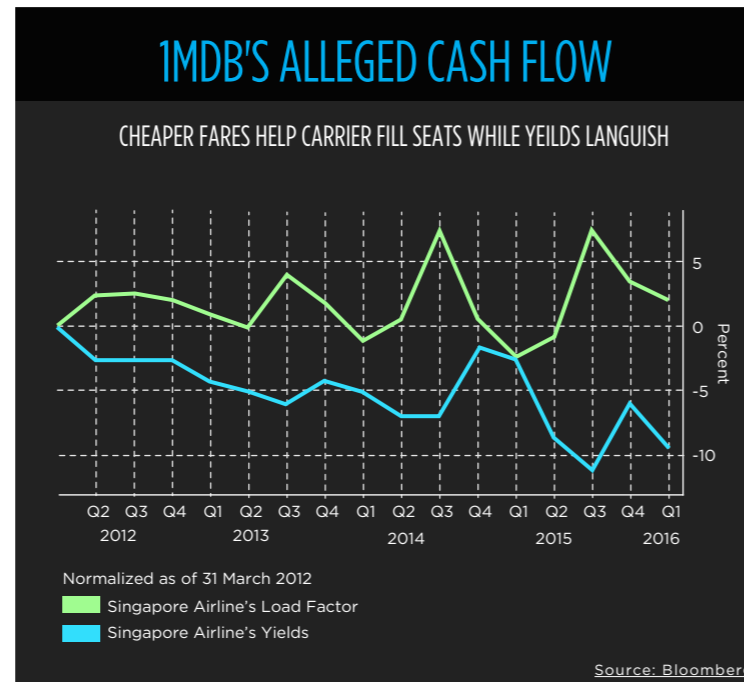
- ▶ The finalisation of such a trade deal may be impeded by rising protectionist and anti-globalisation sentiment however; with individuals like Pauline Hanson, an outspoken Australian anti-Islamic politician and protectionist policies in Indonesia acting as barriers to securing a successful deal

[Rural \(01 August 2016\)](#)

SINGAPORE AIR WARNS OF TOUGHER DAYS AFTER 181% PROFIT JUMP

Despite experiencing a 181% jump in profit due to lower oil prices reducing costs and a sale of its stake in a subsidiary, Singapore Airlines has warned that tougher competition will erode existing margins.

- ▶ Singapore Air, the only Asian airline to have flown the Concorde and first in the world to fly the A380 superjumbo, reported first-quarter profit almost tripled as lower oil prices reduced costs and the company benefited from the sale of a stake by its subsidiary; net income jumped to US\$190 million in the three months ended in June even as sales declined by 2.1%
- ▶ SIA has emphasised that passenger yields, which is a key measure of profitability in the industry, remain under pressure amid "aggressive capacity injection"; yields declined to their lowest in more than six years in the first quarter, whilst SIA stock fell 2% in Singapore, the most in more than two months
- ▶ The expansion of the Middle East's 'Big Three', Emirates, Etihad Airways and Qatar Airways, and an unprecedented surge by budget airlines in the region is hurting the pricing power of Asian carriers; Singapore Air CEO Goh Choon Phong and his Cathay counterpart Chu have ordered some US\$20 billion in new aircraft to modernize their fleet and take on



their competitors who are offering luxuries like on-board shower and butlers

- ▶ Yields, or the revenue earned from a passenger for flying a kilometer, fell by around 5% from Q4 2015 to Q1 2016

[Bloomberg \(28 July 2016\)](#)

FILIPINO FOREIGN SECRETARY AFFIRMS FLEXIBILITY

In response to calls from Former Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert Del Rosario and former Ambassador to the United States Jose Cuisia Jr. for Foreign Affairs Secretary Perfecto Yasay to assume a more hard line approach towards the South China Sea issue, Yasay has affirmed a more diplomatic approach.

- ▶ One of the criticisms levelled against Yasay by his predecessors includes the failure of Philippines in pressuring ASEAN to include the UN ruling in its joint statement regarding the South China Sea; in response, Yasay stated that his predecessors failed altogether in obtaining a joint statement from ASEAN due to their commitment to a hard line approach on the South China Sea

- ▶ Yasay also stated that "The united statement and joint communique of ASEAN as worded did not in any way weaken the legal foundations of our claim and the award given to us by the arbitral tribunal,"
- ▶ "On the contrary the statement was a resounding diplomatic triumph that enabled ASEAN to join our traditional partners, ally and the international community in urging China to uphold international law and respect the processes and mechanisms under UNCLOS in resolving the dispute in the South China Sea/West Philippine Sea which implicitly called for respect of the Ruling of the Arbitral Tribunal," Yasay added

[GMA News Online \(30 July 2016\)](#)

MALAYSIA ANTI-GRAFT CHIEF QUILTS JOB EARLY

The head of Malaysia's anti-corruption agency, which doggedly investigated Prime Minister Najib Razak's finances along with the broader scandal around state investment fund 1MDB, is quitting his post early amid intensifying political pressure.

- ▶ Abu Kassim Mohamed, chief commissioner of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission, is due to step down on 1 August 2016, more than two years ahead of the scheduled end of his term in December 2018; he will be replaced by Dzulkifli Ahmad, an official in the attorney-general's chambers
- ▶ Mr Kassim, who denies that the government has pressed him to stand down, has come under attack

from Mr Najib's supporters; he is among three current or former civil servants against whom a police report was filed last week by an official in Mr Najib's ruling United Malays National Organisation

- ▶ According to local media, the police report accuses the three, who also include former central bank governor Zeti Akhtar Aziz and former attorney-general Abdul Gani Patail, of providing confidential information to foreign agencies
- ▶ The MACC leadership was praised recently by the US Federal Bureau of Investigation for its "tremendous courage", as US officials announced they were seeking to seize assets allegedly acquired with misappropriated Malaysian state funds

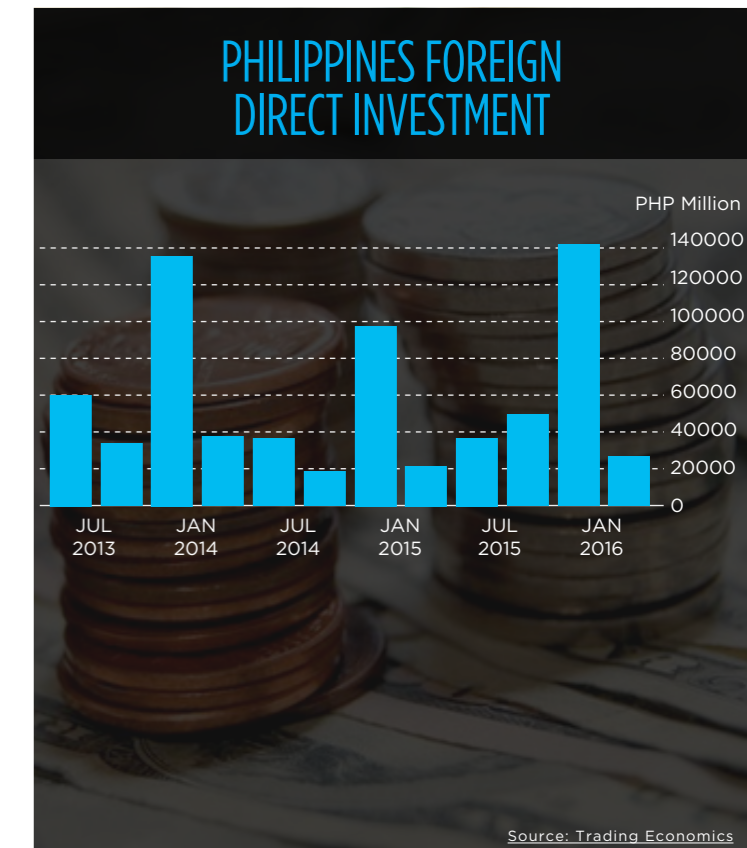
[Financial Times \(01 August 2016\)](#)

PHILIPPINES EMERGING AS WINNER IN FDI

The Philippines is emerging as a clear winner among members of ASEAN in attracting foreign direct investments (FDI), as China becomes a less attractive destination for inflows, Credit Suisse said in a report.

- ▶ The investment bank said FDI inflow in the Philippines is now at a multi decade high of US\$8 billion as of end April, up from US\$6 billion in 2015 and US\$1 billion just five years ago; the report added that Japan and the US are key drivers behind the increase, while inflows are concentrated in the manufacturing and the finance industry
- ▶ Credit Suisse said Vietnam also continued to be an FDI magnet, attracting manufacturing investments especially from South Korea on the back of generous tax incentives and still relatively cheap labor
- ▶ Likewise, it added Malaysia's FDI inflows remained surprisingly resilient despite political uncertainty in recent years; however, Malaysia is likely to sustain the robust inward FDI due to the lack of reform momentum
- ▶ Credit Suisse noted weakening trend in Indonesia, Singapore and Thailand; FDI inflows in Thailand is now down to US\$3 billion as of end April after peaking at US\$15 billion in 2014, while inflows to Indonesia reached US\$30 billion on a rolling basis
- ▶ On the other hand, FDI inflows in Singapore reached US\$60 billion in the first quarter of the year from US\$68 billion in 2013

[Philstar \(01 August 2016\)](#)



DON'T UNDERPLAY ASEAN'S ROLE IN REGIONAL SECURITY

The strength and success of ASEAN as it approaches its 50-year anniversary is measured by its ability to continue to promote economic growth through deeper regional integration into the global economy, not by its military power.

- ▶ The sovereignty-linked issues of jurisdiction in the South China Sea have always been tied to a larger political calculus of stability and good neighbourliness; China's leaders have not been shy in calibrating their stance between a hardline and a flexible one to suit the strategic circumstances

▶ The quiet in the wake of the South China Sea arbitration will not last, as US Secretary of State John Kerry says, an opportunity to "turn the page"; in the context of the broader interests in the ASEAN-China relationship there is incentive for both sides to nudge their relationship forward, beyond the tribunal's ruling

- ▶ The challenge for ASEAN today is to direct its unique but resilient strategies of regional association to tackling the issues of the middle income trap; ASEAN should not be diverted in its open economic strategies by uncertainties in the international economic environment or troubles in the South China Sea

[Financial Review \(31 July 2016\)](#)

SECURITY

- ▶ More security will be provided for State Counselor and Foreign Affairs Minister Aung San Suu Kyi after her name appeared on a hit list sent by the ISIS militant group to police in Malaysia, a government spokesman said on 3 August. Malaysian police are trying to identify the sender, while forensics experts are examining the letter, which also included Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak and Deputy Prime Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi.

[Radio Free Asia \(3 August 2016\)](#)

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

- ▶ Thai authorities have arrested and deported up to 10,000 Myanmar nationals working in the country as part of a crackdown on illegal immigrants during the last 10 days, according to an official from the Myanmar Association in Thailand. Thai authorities confiscate their Thai work permits and residency documents and transport them to border towns, where they have to pay Thai officials 1,000 baht (US\$29). So far, only Myanmar employees have been arrested in the operation.

[Radio Free Asia \(1 August 2016\)](#)

POLITICS

- ▶ The Myanmar government is removing names of more than 600 citizens and foreigners on an official "no-entry" black list, as part of the government's 100-day reform programs. Of the 619 names removed, 248 are of Myanmar nationals while 371 are foreigners. The exact number of how many names remain on the blacklist has not been revealed.

[Radio Free Asia \(3 August 2016\)](#)

ECONOMY

- ▶ Myanmar's tourism authority is shaping new policies that should help the country attract 5.5 million visitors this year and more than 7.8 million per year for the next three years. "Our focus is to create more jobs and generate more income for the nation while paying attention to environmental protection," said Tint Thwin, director-general of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism on 2 August, adding that the ministry would encourage private-sector participation and engage more with other ministries.

[The Nation \(4 August 2016\)](#)

- ▶ Kanbawza Bank (KBZ Bank) has opened a representative office in Bangkok, the first Myanmar bank to establish an international presence. The office would start offering financial and advisory services to Myanmar people and to businesses in Thailand. The bank also recently obtained a representative licence to open an office in Singapore, continuing its planned expansion within ASEAN.

[Bangkok Post \(3 August 2016\)](#)

VIETNAM REPORTS SURGE IN DENGUE INFECTIONS

The number of people with dengue fever has seen a 260% increase from 2015.

- ▶ The number of people coming down with dengue fever in Vietnam in the first seven months of 2016 has seen a 260% from 2015; nearly 45,000 people have come down with dengue fever so far this year, according to new data released by the health ministry
- ▶ In addition, Tran Dac Phu, the chief of the ministry's General Department of Preventive Medicine, stated that at least 14 people have been killed, with infections recorded in 46 out of 63 cities and provinces
- ▶ Dengue is transmitted by the bite of a mosquito infected with one of the four dengue virus serotypes. The World Health Organization (WHO) defines it as a febrile illness that affects infants, young children, and adults, with symptoms appearing 3-14 days after the infective bite
- ▶ In April 2015, there were reports that Vietnam was among five Asian nations to take part in the trial of a promising new dengue fever vaccine now in its experimentation phase; assuming trials are completed successfully, the cost of the vaccine is anticipated to be around US\$50 per shot, with a person needing three shots in six-month intervals

[The Diplomat \(29 July 2016\)](#)

MALAYSIA BEATS NZ, SOUTH KOREA IN INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT RISK RANKING

Malaysia ranked top among emerging countries in Asia in a BMI Research survey measuring the risk of infrastructure projects, with its risk considered to be lower than in developed nations like Hong Kong, South Korea, New Zealand and Taiwan.

- ▶ Malaysia ranked fourth out of 21 countries in the Asia Project Risk Index by the Fitch Group research house, beating neighbouring nations like Thailand (9th), Vietnam (11th), the Philippines (12th), Indonesia (13th), Cambodia (20th) and Myanmar (21st)
- ▶ Singapore topped the list, followed by Australia, Japan and Malaysia; "Among emerging countries, Malaysia and Thailand outperform, scoring high in the Financing component, while Cambodia and Myanmar register the lowest scores, far below the regional average," said BMI Research
- ▶ Malaysia scored 75.6 out of 100 in the index, compared to Singapore's 79, where a higher score denotes lower risk; Malaysia also ranked the second-highest in the "financing" category at 81.7, behind Japan's 86.5

[The Malay Mail Online \(27 July 2016\)](#)

BMI RESEARCH SURVEY

Country	Rank
Singapore	1st
Malaysia	4th
Thailand	9th
Vietnam	11th
Philippines	12th
Indonesia	13th
Cambodia	20th
Myanmar	21st

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