

# CARI CAPTURES

TPP OR NOT, VIETNAM WILL  
CONTINUE INTEGRATION

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## ASEAN REACTS TO TRUMP WIN

### DONALD JOHN TRUMP

- Born 1946 in New York City – 70 years old
- Chairman of The Trump Organization since 1971
- Married third wife, Melania Knauss in 2005
- Five children: Donald Jr., Ivanka, Eric, Tiffany, Barron
- Bachelor's degree in economics from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania in 1968
- Estimated net worth: US\$4.5 billion
- Listed by Forbes as the world's 324th wealthiest person in 2016
- Owned Miss USA from 1996-2015
- Hosted The Apprentice from 2004-2016

Source: Thomson Reuters datastream

**The surprising victory of Donald Trump in the United States presidential election has left ASEAN questioning the status of the region's ties with the US, which has hitherto played a key role in regional stability.**

- ▶ Throughout Trump's campaign he espoused an "America first" worldview, rattling many US allies and partners, including the ASEAN countries which have been a focus point of US foreign policy for eight years now under the Obama administration
- ▶ Under Obama's stewardship, the US acceded to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, joined the East Asia Summit, became the first ASEAN dialogue partner to establish a permanent mission to the organisation, forged a strategic partnership with ASEAN, and hosted the first US-ASEAN summit in the US
- ▶ Trump on the other hand has said he will focus overwhelmingly on domestic issues at the expense of America's strategic interests abroad and he may well back away from strategic engagement with ASEAN and

fail to show up at important regional meetings like the East Asian Summits

- ▶ One ASEAN leader who welcomed the results was Philippines' president Rodrigo Duterte, who said "I would like to congratulate President Trump," before declaring amid cheers, "Long live, Mr. Trump! We both curse at the slightest of reasons. We are alike."
- ▶ ASEAN stock markets also reacted to the news about Trump's election as markets in the region ended lower on Monday as risks of faster US inflation and wider budget deficits sent Treasury yields higher, a painful mix for assets in many emerging markets
- ▶ "A lot of people think that the US economy will improve under Trump's presidency and so the dollar is strengthening and this has resulted in money going back from emerging markets to the United States," said Harry Su, an analyst with Bahana Securities in Indonesia

[Bangkok Post \(14 November 2016\)](#)

[Myanmar Times \(14 November 2016\)](#)

[Business Insider UK \(13 November 2016\)](#)

## TPP OR NOT, VIETNAM WILL CONTINUE INTEGRATION

**The Vietnam government will continue with its reform process to improve business and the investment environment and negotiate other agreements, regardless of the uncertain status of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) following the US elections.**

- ▶ Several experts believe that Trump's victory in the US presidential election will be the end of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)
- ▶ Vietnam's Minister of Trade and Industry Tran Tuan Anh told the press on the sidelines of the ongoing National Assembly that Vietnam was consistent with its point of view and policy in the international integration and the country would proceed with other free trade agreements (FTAs) to create opportunities for companies to fuel economic growth
- ▶ If implemented, the TPP would provide export opportunities in the US, Japan and Canada for key sectors such as textile, garment, footwear, and seafood
- ▶ If the TPP was not passed, it would be considered a setback as much time and effort has been spent on the negotiation process, Anh said, adding that Vietnam has however completed FTAs with several other partners, such as the EU

[Bloomberg \(8 November 2016\)](#)

## MALAYSIA, SAUDI ARABIA TO SET UP CENTRE ON COUNTERING TERRORISM IDEOLOGIES

**Malaysian and Saudi Arabian authorities are discussing establishing a centre on countering terrorism narratives based on cooperation between the two countries.**

- ▶ The Malaysian Defence Minister, Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein, who is on a working visit to Saudi Arabia, said he along with his Saudi counterpart Deputy Crown Prince Mohamad Salman Al Saud spoke on establishing such a centre
- ▶ "The centre will further foster cooperation between Malaysia and Saudi Arabia on countering the narratives and ideologies that underpins terrorism and radicalism in Islam. We also highlighted the need to promote Islam as a religion of peace and moderation," Hishammuddin said in a statement on 14 November
- ▶ Both parties also agreed on the need to rectify the many misconceptions about Islam and its fundamentals
- ▶ The two countries military representatives also met on the sidelines of the working visit and both parties agreed to enhance military-to-military relations between both Armed Forces

[The Star Online \(14 November 2016\)](#)

## SINGAPORE AND INDONESIA TO SET UP BUSINESS COUNCIL TO BOOST NETWORKING

**An Indonesia-Singapore Business Council will be set up to allow businesses from both countries to network and understand opportunities on both sides, Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong announced on 14 November at a joint press conference with President Joko Widodo during the leaders' retreat.**

- ▶ Mr Lee said the council will comprise business leaders from both countries and suggested that it could be co-chaired by Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB) and Indonesia's Investment Coordinating Board (BKPM)

- ▶ The leaders' retreat was the first for the both leaders following President Jokowi's state visit to Singapore last year
- ▶ Despite its small size, Singapore was Indonesia's top foreign investor in 2015
- ▶ Mr Lee pointed out that Singapore companies are interested in other regions of Indonesia, beyond the traditional investment destinations such as Jakarta and Batam-Bintan-Karimun (BBK)
- ▶ The two leaders also discussed the possibility of cooperation in the energy sector to increase access to energy for Indonesians and help meet the region's growing energy needs

[Channel NewsAsia \(14 November 2016\)](#)



## CIVIC GROUPS URGE ASEAN TO STRENGTHEN LABOUR RIGHTS

**Civic groups are demanding stronger legal help for migrant workers after finding their access to labour rights is still being limited by the practices of ASEAN countries.**

- ▶ The Asean Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers, known as the Cebu Declaration was ratified by ASEAN members in 2007 but in practice many labourers still face problems, according to the Southeast Asia Legal Aid Network
- ▶ "We'd like to see help go to both documented and undocumented migrant workers," Kyaw Htwe, a member of Myanmar's lower house, said during a recent meeting

with representatives from Thai labour agencies and labour advocacy groups

- ▶ According to migrant labour rights groups, common problems faced by both documented and undocumented workers include lower wages than stated by law, unpaid overtime, passports seized by employers, and unfair layoffs
- ▶ Deputy permanent secretary for justice Tawatchai Thaiyo said Thai authorities are working to ensure that foreign workers have legal help in place. "We are also planning to work [more closely] with our Asean counterparts to take care of people working in foreign countries," he said

[The Jakarta Post \(14 November 2016\)](#)

[The Wall Street Journal \(13 November 2016\)](#)

## INDONESIA SEES HIGHEST NUMBER OF NATURAL DISASTERS IN 10 YEARS BUT SMALLER FIRESTORM

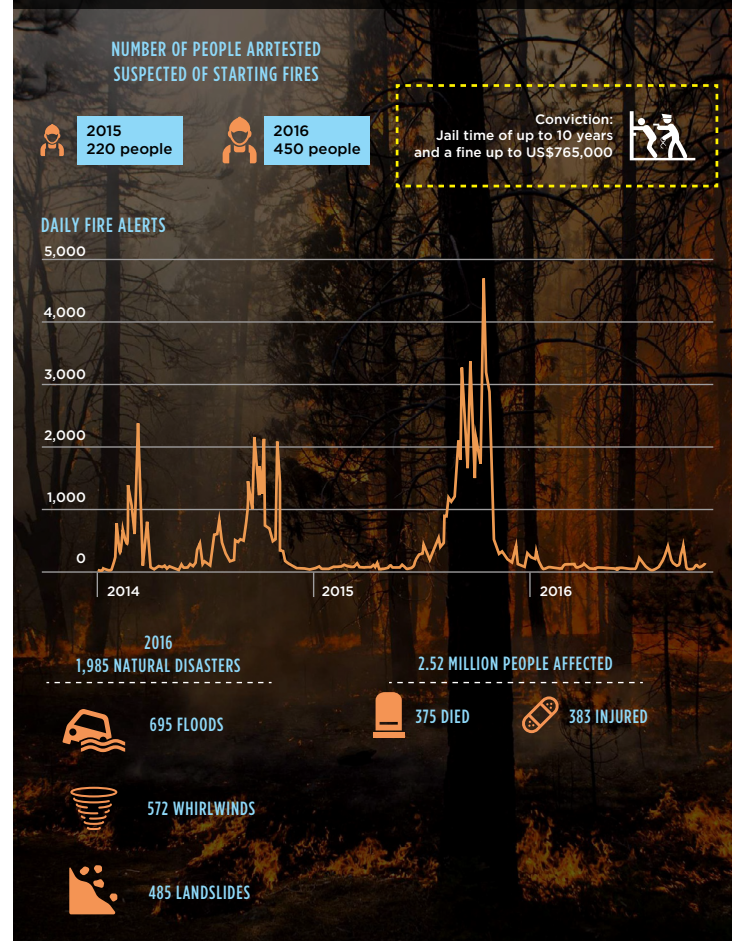
**This year, Indonesia has suffered the highest number of natural disasters in ten years. The country has been hit with 1,985 natural disasters from 1 January to 11 November and disaster numbers are expected to increase due to unstable hydrological conditions, according to the National Disaster Mitigation Agency (BNPB). This year's annual firestorm is on the other hand much milder due to wet weather.**

- ▶ The agency predicts Indonesia will face more natural disasters until January next year because of this year's strong La Niña weather phenomenon, which has caused heavy rains and extensive flooding across the country
- ▶ "We predict rainfall will increase until it peaks in January next year. Our data shows that in Indonesia, January is the month with the most disasters," said BNPB spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho in a data released on 13 November
- ▶ Last year was one of the worst on record in regards to the number of fires, with around 6 million acres consumed during 26 days, which also released more greenhouse gases than the entire US economy
- ▶ Wetter weather this year helped bring the number of fires down dramatically, according to early data. But thousands of acres of cleared and drained swampland still burned
- ▶ Indonesian President Joko Widodo has agreed that the country would overhaul the way it manages its forests to help cut its greenhouse gas emissions by 29% by 2030

[The Jakarta Post \(14 November 2016\)](#)

[The Wall Street Journal \(13 November 2016\)](#)

## FIRES AND NATURAL DISASTERS IN INDONESIA



## MALAYSIA TO RECEIVE TWO JAPANESE COAST GUARD VESSELS NEXT YEAR

**Malaysia and Japan are set to formalise an agreement which will see Japan hand over two of its used Coast Guard patrol vessels to Malaysia.**

- ▶ Malaysia's Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, will hold talks on 16 November, as part of Najib's three-day working visit to Japan
- ▶ The patrol vessels will be delivered to Malaysia during the first half of next year, deployed to the Malaysian

Maritime Enforcement Agency, and provided without cost and, along with the necessary training and support

- ▶ MIDA and Matrade would also sign separate agreements with Japan's JETRO to boost cooperation
- ▶ Japan also earlier agreed to provide the Philippines with two large patrol vessels

[New Straits Times \(14 November 2016\)](#)

## SOCIETY

- ▶ A total of 130 people have been killed in the latest surge of violence in the country and scores of Rohingya Muslims are fleeing to Bangladesh because of the military crackdown in Rakhine state. Some of the Rohingya were shot as they tried to cross the Naaf River that separates Myanmar and Bangladesh, while others arriving by boat were pushed away by Bangladeshi border guards. The surge of violence is believed to underscore the lack of oversight of the military by the seven-month-old Aung San Suu Kyi administration.

[Aljazeera \(17 November 2016\)](#)

## ECONOMY

- ▶ Since the YSE, a joint venture between Myanmar, Japan's Daiwa Institute of Research and the Japan Exchange Group, began trading in March, only 20,000 investors have ventured into the market. Only three companies are listed on the board and at the end of the day just 7,221 shares were traded, compared with nearly 839 million the same day on the New York Stock Exchange. Regulators complain that those who do take the plunge rely largely on rumors, herd psychology and even the stars.

[ABC News \(15 November 2016\)](#)

## FOREIGN AFFAIRS

- ▶ The World Association of Newspapers (WAN) and News Publishers have echoed international concerns that the detention of the two media executives has raised serious doubts about the NLD-led government's commitment to freedom of expression. WAN and the World Editors' Forum wrote a letter to Myanmar President Htin Kyaw and called for authorities to drop the charges against Than Htut Aung and Wai Phyo, CEO and Chief Editor of Eleven Media respectively.

[The Jakarta Post \(16 November 2016\)](#)

## HEALTH

- ▶ Myanmar ranks last of the ASEAN countries theast Asia Tobacco Control Alliance (SEATCA), which measures each of the ASEAN countries' implementation of the World Health Organization (WHO) framework for tobacco control. Myanmar scored 45.7 out of 100, falling just behind the Philippines and Laos, while Singapore topped the list with a score of 80.5. According to the study, Myanmar's smoking policies are badly out of date.

[Myanmar Times \(17 November 2016\)](#)

- ▶ The doctor Cynthia Maung opened a health clinic in the border town of Mae Sot in north-western Thailand in 1988 to help fellow refugees who had fled Myanmar's crackdown at the time. Starting with only four beds, the clinic has now developed into a fully-fledged health facility providing inpatient services, surgery and trauma care, dental care, vaccinations and HIV prevention, serving more than 75,000 patients per year. For her service for refugees, Maung received the AidEx Humanitarian Hero of the Year Award in Brussels.

[Reuters \(16 November 2016\)](#)

## PH TO HOST ASEAN TRANSPORT MEETINGS

**The Philippines hosted two high-level meetings on transportation of the ASEAN nations, on 14-18 November. The Department of Transportation hosted the 42nd Senior Transport Officials Meeting (STOM) and the 22nd ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting at the Philippine International Convention Center in Manila.**

- ▶ More than 200 transport officials and delegates from the ASEAN member states discussed various transport initiatives and policies to improve connectivity and enhance cooperation in the region
- ▶ STOM leaders reviewed transport agreements and projects such as the Kuala Lumpur Transport Strategic Plan, which is the region's transport vision and blueprint for 2016 to 2025
- ▶ Other items on the agenda include the ASEAN Single Shipping Market and the ASEAN Roll-on Roll-off Shipping Network, which are both designed to facilitate trade, and provide easier access to key markets in the region

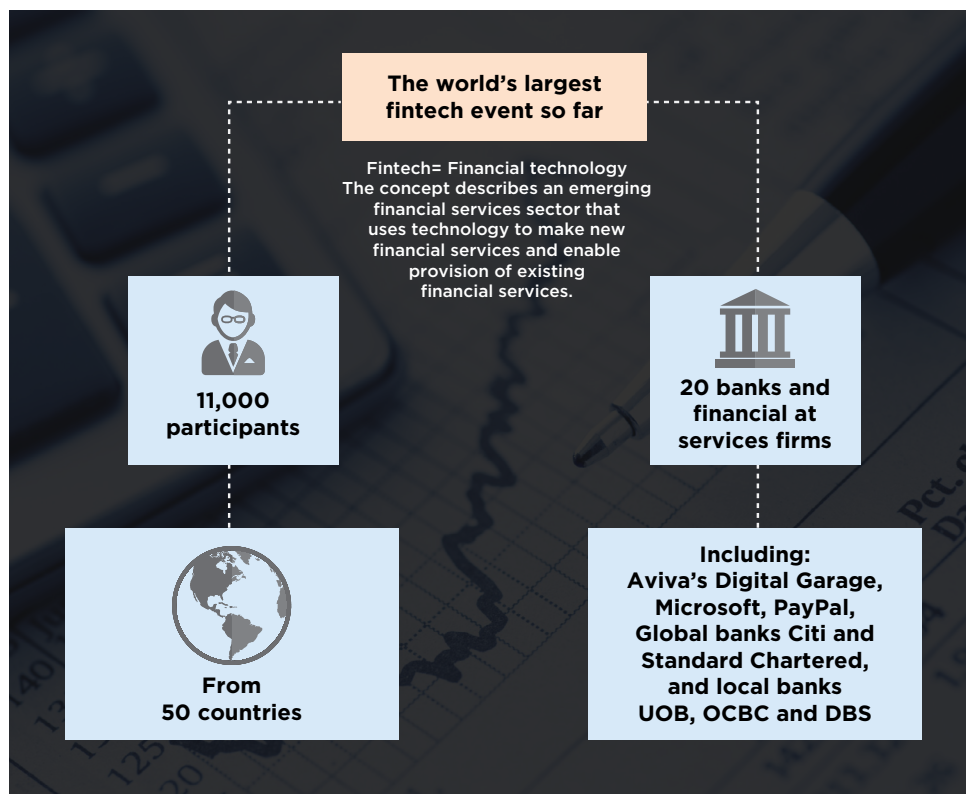
[ABS-CBN \(13 November 2016\)](#)

## SINGAPORE KICKS OFF WORLD'S LARGEST FINTECH EVENT

**Some 11,000 participants from over 50 countries gathered in Singapore 14-18 November for the inaugural FinTech Festival, the world's largest fintech event so far.**

- ▶ The first key program of the festival was a Lab Crawl on 14 November with over 20 banks and financial services firms open their innovation labs for public demonstrations and tours
- ▶ The FinTech Festival was organised by the Management Association of Singapore (MAS) to create a platform for financial institutions, fintech start-ups and investors to network and explore new innovations that can make financial services more efficient in the digital era
- ▶ "The festival will foster the thriving fintech ecosystem in Singapore and beyond, as we strive towards establishing Singapore as a smart financial centre and a world class fintech hub," MAS chief fintech officer Sopnendu Mohanty said

[Straits Times \(14 November 2016\)](#)



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