

CARI CAPTURES



01 GENERAL PRAYUTH CHAN-OCHA NAMED THAILAND'S NEWEST PM



THAILAND

General Prayuth's Past

Became the Commanding General of the 1st Army Area in 2006



Took over as the head of the army in October 2010



Prayuth launched a military coup against the government in May 2014



Began his military career in the Queen's Guard unit, after graduating from the Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy

Prayuth was the Chief of Staff for the Royal Thai Army from 2008 or 2009



Prayuth was one of the leaders of the military crackdowns on the violent Red Shirts demonstrations of April 2009 and April-May 2010

Elected president by military dominated legislature in August 2014

In a vote that took just 15 minutes, with 191 out of 194 assembly members voting for the motion, General Prayuth was nominated by a legislature made up of most military and police figures.

- ▶ Following his successful nomination as PM, General Prayuth's first task of office will be to appoint a 35 members cabinet, as well as a 250 members reform council whose prerogative will be to reform the government from the ground up
- ▶ Formal public elections are to be held in late 2015, leaving General Prayuth approximately a year to achieve his promised reforms

- ▶ Furthermore, General Prayuth has also received King Bhumibol Adulyadej's formal endorsement; though merely a formality, carries much needed respectability for the Junta's military government
- ▶ A man of action, General Prayuth has a highly polarised public image painted by both his supporters and critics; with the former, described by his supporters as being decisive and a good listener while his critics paint him as abrupt and impatient

02 INDONESIA'S TOP COURT BACKS JOKOWI'S PRESIDENTIAL VICTORY



INDONESIA

The constitutional court of Indonesia has upheld Joko Widodo's victory in July's presidential elections, rejecting an appeal against the result by defeated candidate Prabowo Subianto. The rejection of appeal by Subianto was a unanimous decision.

- ▶ "The court rejects...all applications from the applicant (Mr. Subianto) by all nine judges," said Constitutional Court Chief Hamdan Zoelva

- ▶ Prior to the verdict, hundreds of Subianto's supporters gathered outside of the court. Mr Subianto's legal team now said they will accept the decision
- ▶ In the July election, Mr. Widodo won the poll by a 6% margin against Mr. Subianto

[BBC News \(21 August 2014\)](#)

03 PALM OIL EXPORTS ON THE RISE IN INDONESIA



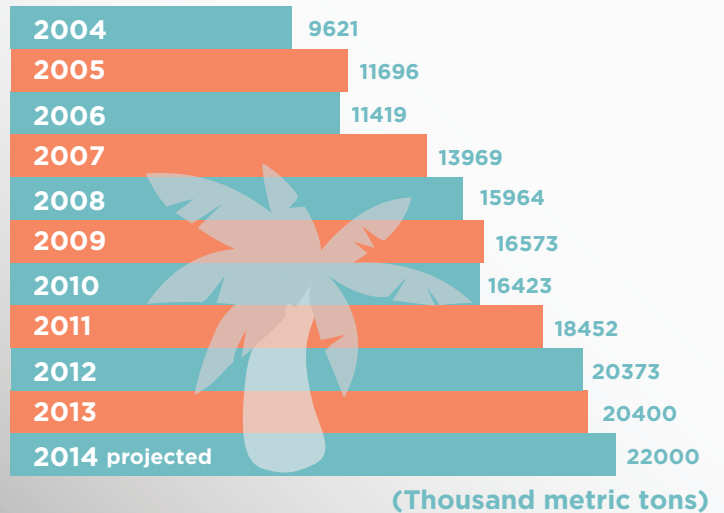
INDONESIA

Exports rose to 1.84 million metric tons from 1.79 million tons in June according to the Indonesian Palm Oil Association.

- ▶ In the past few months alone, the prices of palm futures in Malaysia and Africa fell due to positive prospects for the US. soybean crop, which is a substitute for palm oils in both industrial and foodstuffs
- ▶ According to Joelianto, trading director at Sinar Mas Agro Resources and Technology in Jakarta, the falling prices of Palm Oil exports have managed to compensate for the U.S.' soybean bumper crop, thus raising palm oil export figures
- ▶ The announcement comes after Indonesia's national airline, Garuda Indonesia, stated that it would begin to mix palm oil based biofuel with its jet fuel as an initiative to reduce carbon emissions; whilst Garuda has claimed that the measure is intended to help the environment, the Indonesian government has recently been pushing palm oil use for biofuels to counter slackening demand

[Bloomberg \(25 August 2014\)](#)

Indonesian Palm Oil Exports



04 SINGAPORE INFLATION IN JULY EASES FURTHER



SINGAPORE

Inflation in Singapore saw slight retreat in July as Certificate of Entitlement (COE) premiums fell. The consumer price index (CPI) rose 1.2% in July compared to 2013, slowing from June's 1.8% and down from May's 2.7%, which was a 14-month high.

- ▶ According to the Department of Statistics, private road transport cost fell 1.6% in July, following the 2.8% increase in June amidst high base last year when COE premiums surged
- ▶ Food prices on the other hand increased by 3% in July, compared with 3.2% a month before. Prices of services rose by 2.5% in July, up from 2.2% a month before due to stronger increases in pre-school fees, medical treatments, and holiday travel
- ▶ Core inflation saw an increase of 2.2% year-on-year in July

[Channel News Asia \(25 August 2014\)](#)

05 VIETNAM AND INDIA TO BOOST CO-OPERATION IN DEFENCE, OIL SECTORS



VIETNAM



INDIA

Vietnam and India agreed to deepen co-operation in the defence and oil sectors after Hanoi received a visit by External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj. The agreement came amidst heightening tension in the South China Sea over the territorial disputes with China.

- ▶ During a speech at the Third Round Table on ASEAN-India Network of Thinktanks, Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Pham Binh Minh said between India and Asean "needs to be more effective and efficient as the security and development landscape is experiencing swift and complex conversions"
- ▶ The visit by Swaraj was seen as putting into play "Act East Policy" of the newly-elected government of Narendra Modi
- ▶ Both sides also discussed briefly the five oil blocks offered by Vietnam to India during a visit by Secretary General of Vietnamese Communist party Nguyen Phu Truong, last November
- ▶ Agreements of Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty for extradition and transfer of sentenced persons were also inked during the visit

[Economic Times \(25 August 2014\)](#)

06 US FIRMS EYE US\$900 MILLION PROJECTS IN CAMBODIA



The government of Cambodia met with several US-based energy firms to discuss plans for two large-scale power generation projects worth a total of US\$900 million.

- ▶ Two US renewable energy firms namely Willowbrook Company and Sun Edison met with Commerce Minister Sun Chanthol on 20 August to present plans for 200-megawatt solar power plant valued at US\$400 million, according to the Ministry of Commerce

- ▶ “If approved, the project is scheduled to commence in 2015 and is expected to be completed by the end of 2017,” the statement said, adding that the firms would need to negotiate and sign an agreement with Electricite du Cambodge before getting the go-ahead
- ▶ The government also met up with representatives of Beowulf Energy and Colorado Energy Management a few days after the first meeting
- ▶ In another statement, the ministry said Beowulf is currently “evaluating the possibility” of investing into the construction of an oil refinery in the country

[The Phnom Penh Post \(26 August 2014\)](#)

07 VIETNAM CLEARS “GOLDEN AIR ROUTE” WITH LAOS AND CAMBODIA



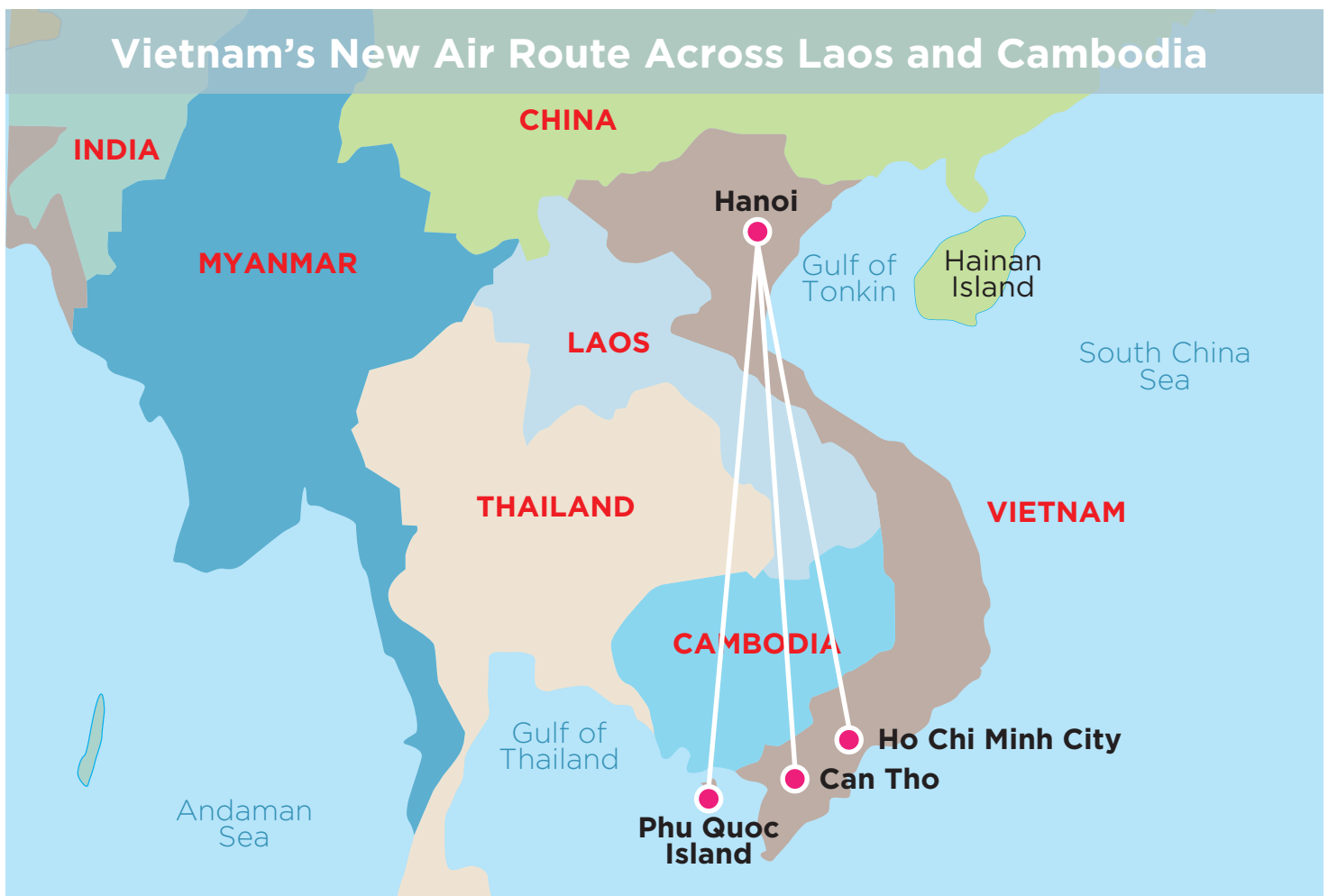
Vietnamese Minister of Transport Dinh La Thang announced in a recent statement that Vietnam had brokered a deal with Cambodia to establish a new, more direct flight route between Vietnam cities using Cambodian and Laos airspace.

- ▶ The proposed new air route would mean planes flying between the capital Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City over Laos and Cambodia, rather than over the ocean, following Vietnam’s “S” shaped coastline
- ▶ A direct air route along the 106th meridian east would cut the distance between Hanoi and HCM City from 1,200 km down to

1,000 km, thus reducing flight times from 105 minutes to 80 minutes, saving 5,000 liters of fuel per trip

- ▶ The new route will help to save US\$300 million in losses as airlines will be able to shave 25% of extra costs from Hanoi to Ho Chi Minh City, 28% of extra costs for flights between Hanoi and Can Tho City, and 38% for Hanoi-Phu Quoc island due to being able to use both Lao and Cambodian airspace
- ▶ The newly brokered deal is expected to return domestic flights into a profitable avenue of business

[Vietnam Net \(25 August 2014\)](#)



08 MYANMAR MONITOR

POLITICS

▶ Leaders of ethnic armed groups say they want Aung San Suu Kyi to observe the signing of the nationwide ceasefire agreement and the accompanying political dialogue. The signing is expected to take place in October following discussion of a second draft of the agreement in September.

[Myanmar Times \(25 August 2014\)](#)

ECONOMY

▶ Myanmar's rice exports surged 41% since April, due to increased demand from Russia. The Myanmar Commerce Ministry said 530,000 tonnes of rice worth US\$196 million were exported from 1 April to 15 August.

[Bangkok Post \(27 August 2014\)](#)

▶ The US-based ACO Investment Group and Myanmar's Ministry of Electric Power signed an agreement on 28 August to build Myanmar's first solar energy project at an estimated cost of about US\$480 million. The agreement calls for the development of two 150 megawatt solar energy plants in Mandalay Region, which upon completion in 2016 are expected to provide between 10-12% of the country's power needs.

[Mizzima \(28 August 2014\)](#)

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

▶ US President Barack Obama will visit China, Myanmar and Australia in November as a part of his administration's Asia Pacific re-balance strategy. In Myanmar Obama will attend the East Asia Summit on 12 November.

[The Economic Times \(28 August 2014\)](#)

▶ Israel's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Tzachi Hanegbi, arrived in Myanmar on 27 August Wednesday, making Israel's first official visit to the country in 35 years.

[Haaretz \(27 August 2014\)](#)

▶ Britain's newly appointed international development minister said on 25 August that the United Kingdom will increase its development aid to Myanmar by more than a third in the next fiscal year. The UK had increased aid last year from US\$50 million to US\$100 million and will now increase further to US\$136 million.

[The Irrawaddy \(25 August 2014\)](#)

09 PHILIPPINES' IMPORTS DROP 3.6% IN JUNE



Philippines' imports declined for a second month in June due to lower purchases of electronic components.

- ▶ According to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), merchandise imports amounted to US\$4.716 billion in June, 3.6% lower than the US\$4.890 billion in 2013
- ▶ "The decrease in total imports for this period was due to the negative performance of three out of the top 10 major commodities for the month. These were industrial machinery and equipment; electronic products; and other food and live animals," the PSA said
- ▶ China remained the country's biggest source of imports, accounting to 17.2% of total purchases in June. Payments for imports from China amounted to US\$809.64 million in June, up 17.9% from the US\$686.79 million in June last year

[Philstar.com \(27 August 2014\)](#)

10 MALAYSIA HOLDS DAY OF MOURNING FOR MH17 VICTIMS



Flags were flown at half-mast whilst a momentary silence marked a national day of mourning in Malaysia for the victims of flight MH17.

- ▶ A plane carrying the first remains of the 43 Malaysians killed in the MH17 disaster returned home to a sombre reception on a national day of mourning; the special Malaysia Airlines flight from Amsterdam touched down shortly before 10am local time bearing the remains of 20 people killed when the plane was shot out of the sky over eastern Ukraine
- ▶ Authorities had earlier asked citizens to refrain from festive activities out of respect for the victims. Commuters streaming into the bustling streets of the capital Kuala Lumpur earlier in the morning were overwhelmingly black-clad, while state television aired recitations from the Qur'an and showed photos of the victims
- ▶ The search for further remains was called off earlier in August due to an escalation in clashes between Kiev and the pro-Moscow rebels

[The Star \(22 August 2014\)](#)

MH17 MALAYSIAN VICTIMS

PASSENGERS LIST

ANTHONYSAMY/MABEL	F	NG/LYE TIE LISABETH	F
BINTAMBI/MUHAMMAD AFRUZ	M	NG/QINGZ HENG	M
BINITITAMBI/MARSHA AZMEENA	F	NG/SHIING	F
DEWA/SHALIZA ZAINI	F	NOOR/RAHIMMAH	F
FOO/MING LEE	M	PARLAN/HASNI HARDI BIN	M
GAZALEE/ARIZA BINTI	F	PUNJABI/KAUSHALYA JAIRAMDAS DATIN	F
GOES/KAELAMAYAJAY	F	SITIAMIRAH/BINTIPARAWIRA	F
JIEE/TAMBI BIN	M	SIVAGNANAM/MATTHEW EZEKIAL	M
JRETNAM/SUBASHNI	F	SIVAGNANAM/PAUL RAJASINGAM	M
KARNAILSINGH/KARAMJIT SINGH	M	TAMBI/MUHAMMAD AFIF BIN	M
LEE/JIANHANBENJAMIN	M	TAN/SIEW POH	F
LEE/KIAH YEEN	F	TEOH/ELAINE	F
LIEW/YAU CHEE	M		
MD SALIM/MOHD ALI BIN	M		
MULA/MELINGANAK	M		

CREW LIST

CAPTAIN	WAN AMRAN BIN WAN HUSSIN	M
CAPTAIN	CHOO JIN LEONG, EUGENE	M
FIRST OFFICER	AHMAD HAKIMI BIN HANAPI	M
FIRST OFFICER	MUHAMAD FIRDAUS BIN ABDUL RAHIM	M
IN-FLIGHT SUPERVISOR	MOHD GHAFAR BIN ABU BAKAR	M
CHIEF STEWARDESS	DORA SHAHILA BINTI KASSIM	F
CHIEF STEWARDESS	AZRINA BINTI YAKOB	F
LEADING STEWARDESS	LEE HUI PIN	F
LEADING STEWARDESS	MASTURA BINTI MUSTAFA	F
FLIGHT STEWARDESS	CHONG YEE PHENG	F
FLIGHT STEWARDESS	HAMFAZLIN SHAM BINTI MOHAMEDARIFIN	F
FLIGHT STEWARDESS	NUR SHAZANA BINTI MOHAMED SALLEH	F
FLIGHT STEWARDESS	ANGELINE PREMILA RAJANDARAN	F
FLIGHT STEWARD	SHAIKH MOHD NOOR BIN MAHMOOD	M
FLIGHT STEWARD	SANJID SINGH SANDHU	M