

CARI CAPTURES



01 INDONESIA RATIFIES HAZE TREATY

 INDONESIA

Countries That Have Ratified The Transboundary Haze Agreement



Indonesia's parliament has voted to ratify the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution.

▶ Indonesia's Environment Minister, Professor Balthasar Kambuaya, said: "This (ratification) is best for our people in Indonesia. So, we will continue, and we still make a lot of efforts, on how we handle forest burning and its impact - haze, especially."

▶ The Agreement was ratified after Singapore passed a bill that carries fines of as much as US\$1.6 million for foreign companies for illegal emissions a year after the city-state endured its worst-ever air quality

▶ Parliament had earlier delayed in ratifying the 2002 pact which became a sticking point during last year's haze when pollutant levels reached record highs in Malaysia and Singapore

02 US NAVY SAYS MALAYSIA OFFERS TO HOST SURVEILLANCE PLANES OVER THE SOUTH CHINA SEA



On 15 September, Admiral Jonathan Greenert, the US Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) said that the Malaysian government recently asked the US to operate the P-8 Poseidon aircraft from the Sabah air base in northeast Malaysia, giving the Americans greater proximity to the South China Sea.

- ▶ If realised, Malaysia will allow the US Navy to operate P-8 and P-3 surveillance aircraft from the country during the search for Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, which disappeared in March on a flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing
- ▶ "The US Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) did not talk about approving

flights. What he was discussing was nurturing future opportunities, like responding to emerging issues in the region, which was done with MH370 search operations," Navy Captain Danny Hernandez, a spokesman for Greenert told Reuters

- ▶ The Malaysian government has not confirmed the offer
- ▶ Wu Xinbo, the director of the Center for American Studies at Fudan University in Shanghai, said China would interpret an agreement between the US and Malaysia as a direct challenge to Beijing's insistence that the American spy flights were an infringement of China's sovereignty

[PRESSTV \(18 September 2014\)](#)

03 LAOS TO PUSH ENERGY INTEGRATION AGENDA AT AEMM



In a bid to facilitate the trade of electricity within the region, Deputy Minister of Energy and Mines Viraphonh Viravong has called for energy integration to be a topic of priority at the upcoming 32nd ASEAN Energy Ministers Meeting (AEMM)

- ▶ The agenda item has also been supported by Thailand, which recently proposed a plan to increase electricity purchase from Myanmar from 1,500 megawatts to 10,000 megawatts, and to widen cooperation on petroleum purchase from that country; Thailand also seeks to increase energy purchases from Laos

Various issues were on the agenda for discussion at the 32nd AEMM including cooperation on a gas pipe connectivity project and ASEAN oil stockpile project; Panel discussions initiated by Laos are set to be convened on the sidelines of the meetings where energy experts will be invited to share energy-related views such as energy development, use and trade

- ▶ Officials from Laos, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand have held several talks on electricity integration with Singapore agreeing in principle to purchase 100 MW of electricity from Laos under a pilot scheme, while Thailand and Malaysia offered their support

[Nation Multimedia \(15 September 2014\)](#)

ASEAN Plan of Action on Energy Cooperation (2010 - 2015)

PROGRAMME AREA	STRATEGIES	OWNERSHIP
ASEAN Power Grid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Accelerate the development of the ASEAN Power Grid Interconnection projects •Optimize the generation sector vis-à-vis the available indigenous energy resources in the region •Encourage and optimize the utilization of ASEAN resources, such as, funding, expertise and products to develop the generation, transmission, and distribution sectors 	HAPUA (Head Asean Power Utilities/authorities)
Trans-ASEAN Gas Pipeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Collectively implement the ASEAN MOU on TAGP by ASCOPE Members •PERTAMINA and PSC Partners to undertake detailed feasibility study for East Natuna Gas Field Development •Implement the approved Roadmap for TAGP by respective ASCOPE Members •Implement the approved 5-year ASCOPE Gas Centre (AGC) Work Program 	ASCOPE (Asean Council On Petroleum)
Coal and Clean Coal Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Strengthen Institutional and Policy Framework and build an ASEAN Coal Image •Promote Coal and Clean Coal Technologies •Promote Intra-ASEAN Coal Trade & Investment •Enhance environmental planning and assessment of coal projects 	AFOC (ASEAN Forum On Coal) (ACE as Secretariat)
Energy Efficiency & Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Develop Energy Efficiency Policy and Build Capacity •Enhance awareness raising and dissemination of information •Promote good energy management practices, especially for industrial and commercial sectors •Facilitate Energy Efficiency Financing 	EE&C-SSN (Energy Efficiency and Conservation-Subsector Network) (ACE as Secretariat)
Renewable Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Increase the development and utilization of RE sources to achieve the 15% target share of RE in ASEAN power generation mix •Enhance awareness and information sharing and strengthen networks •Promote intra-ASEAN cooperation on ASEAN-made products and services •Promote renewable energy financing scheme •Promote the commercial development and utilization of biofuels •Develop ASEAN as a hub for renewable energy 	RE-SSN (Renewable Energy Sub-Sector Network) (ACE as Secretariat)
Regional Energy Policy & Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Enhance energy policy and supply security information sharing network •Conduct capacity building in energy and environmental policy planning and energy supply security assessment •Prepare regional energy outlooks and conducting ASEAN energy policy reviews and analysis series •Strengthen collaboration and dialogues with ASEAN partners and with national, regional and global institutions •Monitor and evaluate the progress of APAEC programs 	REPP-SSN (Regional Energy Policy & Planning-Subsector Network) (ACE as Secretariat)
Civilian Nuclear Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Conduct capacity building among ASEAN Member States •Strengthen public information and public education on nuclear power generation •Strengthen institutional, legal and regulatory capacities on nuclear energy for power generation. 	(ACE as Secretariat)



04 THAKSIN SHINAWATRA'S NAME IS ERASED FROM HIGH SCHOOL TEXTBOOKS



THAILAND

Mr. Thaksin's legacy has always been part of the political turmoil in Thailand for the past 10 years. However, high school students will no longer find his name in history textbooks that the country's military junta recently ordered schools to use.

- ▶ Mr. Thaksin is seen as a threat to the junta. Mr. Thaksin was in power from 2001 to 2006, and his political movement has won every election in the past decade and a half, including a number of landslides. His sister, Yingluck Shinawatra, was prime minister from 2011 until she was removed from office in May
- ▶ The Education Ministry's order last month that all public high schools use the new textbook to instil patriotism among Thai youths. The

country's military junta has ordered a new school curriculum that underlines what are seen to be the unifying themes of the monarchy and the glories of the ancient kingdoms of Siam, as Thailand was formerly known

- ▶ However, the power of social media technologies is beyond the government's control. The history textbook's author, Thanom Anarmwat said that many people might dislike Mr. Thaksin but he should not be deleted from history. His aberration should be recorded as mistakes or lesson learned for the young people

[The New York Times \(15 September 2014\)](#)

05 SINGAPOREAN EXPORTS TEMPORARILY UP



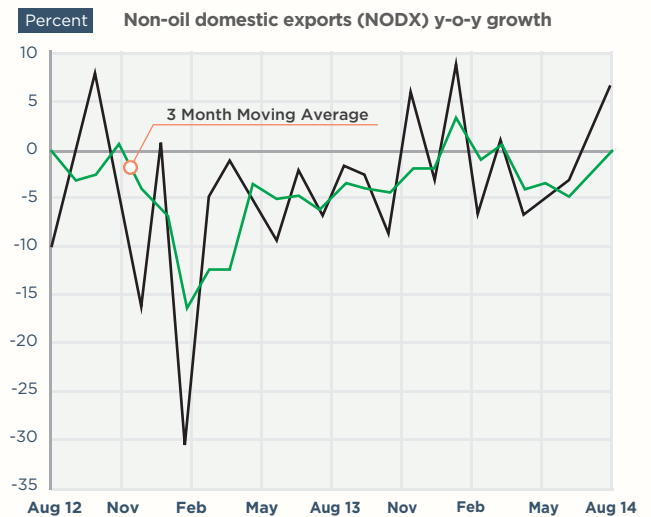
SINGAPORE

Singapore's Non-Oil Domestic Exports (NODX) rose by 6% on year in August despite declining electronic exports.

- ▶ The increase comes after two months of declining exports; where Singapore's NODX decreased by 3.3% in August, and fell by 4.6% in June
- ▶ According to an economist at ANZ, the increase in export numbers is not permanent, and can be attributed to a temporary increase in petrochemicals, pharmaceuticals, and shipbuilding related materials
- ▶ On a year-on-year basis, NODX to all of Singapore's top 10 export partners, except Hong Kong, Japan and Thailand, rose last month; the top three contributors to the rise were South Korea, Taiwan and China

[Channel News Asia \(17 September 2014\)](#)

On a y-o-y basis, NODX expanded by 6.0% in August 2014



06 COMPREHENSIVE TIES BETWEEN VIETNAM AND AUSTRALIA URGED



VIETNAM AUSTRALIA

Party General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong urged Vietnam and Australia to bolster economic and trade ties as he welcomed Speaker of the Australian House of Representatives Bronwyn Bishop during her official visit to Hanoi from September 13 to 14.

- ▶ Trong thanked the Australian government for its assistance in education, personnel training and construction of My Thuan and Cao Lanh bridges as part of the central Mekong Delta region connectivity project
- ▶ National Assembly Chairman, Nguyen Sinh Hung asked for further national defence, security and education co-operation and used the occasion to invite Bishop to the 132nd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, slated for next March in Hanoi
- ▶ Bishop told Hung that her visit aimed to tighten relationships between the two legislative bodies and peoples, adding that both countries should launch more co-operation channels in order to realise their commitments. She agreed that the potential of joint work in education had not yet been fully tapped

[Viet Nam News \(15 September 2014\)](#)

07 THE 11TH CHINA-ASEAN EXPO OPENS IN NANNING



CHINA ASEAN

The 11th China-ASEAN Expo (CAEXPO 2014) kicked off in Nanning, capital of south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region on 16 September with over 2,300 companies from China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) attending the event.

- ▶ Chinese Vice-Premier Zhang Gaoli and leaders of ASEAN member countries attended the opening ceremony. With the theme of "jointly building the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road", the expo hosted 4,600 exhibitors, 1,259 of which are from ASEAN countries
- ▶ The CAEXPO was initiated in 2004 and serves as an important platform to promote bilateral trade and relationships between China and the ASEAN
- ▶ China is ASEAN's largest trading partner, while ASEAN ranks as China's third-largest trading partner. The bilateral trade between China and the ASEAN increased 10.9% year-on-year to 443.61 billion U.S. dollars in 2013, around 5.7 times that of 2003

[CRIENGLISH \(16 September 2014\)](#)

08 MYANMAR MONITOR

POLITICS

► Tensions continue to rise in Karen State's Myawaddy after Karen rebel groups defied orders from a local Myanmar Army commander not to carry weapons or wear uniforms. The news comes just days after the discovery of two small bombs in and around Myawaddy.

[The Irrawaddy \(17 September 2014\)](#)

► Nine Myanmar police officers were injured as they sought to free officials held hostage by dozens of angry workers demanding wages and compensation after their factory was closed in June, authorities said on 18 September. The labour ministry has filed a lawsuit against the South Korean-owned factory after it closed without informing or paying its 757 staff.

[Channel NewsAsia \(18 September 2014\)](#)

ECONOMY

► Foreign investment in August alone totalled US\$2.443 billion, from 48 companies, including 15 in the export sector and 13 in oil and gas sector. Total investment in the 2014-2015 fiscal year had reached US\$3.183 billion at the end of August, less than US\$2 billion short from the targeted US\$5 billion.

[Mizzima \(18 September 2014\)](#)

► Mismanagement of land ownership and land grab issues has hampered the ability of Myanmar to feed itself, according to members of the agricultural community. The government's inability to deal with the problem of land grabs provides farmers with instability, and the increasing price of land is tempting farmers to sell rather than farm the land, according to industry players.

[Mizzima \(16 September 2014\)](#)

► Myanmar's state oil and gas enterprise (MOGE) will jointly conduct inland crude oil exploration in Magway region with the Brunei National Petroleum Company and IGE Ptd Ltd of Myanmar, on a production sharing basis. Earlier in September, MOGE signed contracts with two Canadian companies, to undertake exploration at other inland oil blocks in central Myanmar.

[Global Post \(17 September 2014\)](#)

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

► A special police taskforce has been set up to look into whether the murders of twenty people in Penang, Malaysia this year are related to religious disputes between Muslims and Buddhists from Myanmar. The flashpoint of this violence is Seberang Prai where Rohingya Muslims from the western Rakhine state are the main suspects in the killings.

[Malay Mail \(18 September 2014\)](#)

09 DUTCH REPORT SUGGESTS MH17 SHOT DOWN FROM GROUND



MALAYSIA



NETHERLANDS

A report by Dutch investigators indicated that the Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 over Ukraine crashed due to a "large number of high-energy objects" penetrating the fuselage and there were no signs that the MH17 crash was caused by a technical fault or by actions of the crew.

- The report finds there were only three other aircraft in the vicinity: two Boeing 777s and one Airbus A330
- Tim Ripley, a defense analyst with Jane's Defense Weekly magazine mentioned that although the report did not mention a missile, but the impact with a large number of fragments would be consistent with a "proximity" warhead, designed to explode in the air and hurl shrapnel at its target
- "The preliminary report suggests that high energy objects penetrated the aircraft and led it to break up midair. This leads to the strong suspicion that a surface-to-air missile brought MH17 down, but further investigative work is needed before we can be certain," Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak said in a statement.

[Reuters \(14 September 2014\)](#)

10 FILIPINO FERRY SINKS



PHILIPPINES

102 rescued, two dead, after a ferry sank off the coast of Central Philippines.

- The ferry left Liloan port in Southern Leyte province and an order to abandon ship was given just North-West of Panon Island after big waves and strong currents damaged the ship
- Meanwhile communities in the North-East of the main island of Luzon are preparing as Typhoon Kalmaegi heads towards the country
- Vulnerable areas being told to expect flash floods and landslides, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council has warned

[BBC News Asia \(14 September 2014\)](#)

