

ASEAN News Update September 2025

[57th ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting \(and Related Meetings\), 23-24 September 2025](#)

[Statements](#)

[News](#)

[19th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime \(and Related Meetings\), 10 September 2025](#)

[18th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment \(and Related Meetings\), 3-4 September 2025](#)

[Geopolitics/Security](#)

[Global Trade](#)

[Socio-Cultural Community Strategic Plan](#)

[Myanmar](#)

[Timor Leste](#)

[External Relations](#)

[Energy](#)

[Disaster Management](#)

[Digital Trade, Governance](#)

[ASEAN Economic Community](#)

57th ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting (and Related Meetings), 23-24 September 2025

Statements

- [Joint Media Statement of the 57th ASEAN Economic Ministers' \(AEM\) Meeting](#)
- [Joint Media Statement of the Thirteenth EAS Economic Ministers' Meeting](#)
- [Joint Media Statement of the 4th RCEP Ministers' Meeting](#)
- [Joint Media Statement of the Twenty-Eighth AEM Plus Three Consultation](#)
- [Joint Media Statement of the Twenty Fourth AEM-MOFCOM Consultation](#) (China)
- [Joint Media Statement of the Thirty-First AEM-METI Consultation](#) (Japan)
- [Joint Media Statement of the Twenty-Second AEM-ROK Consultation](#)
- [Joint Media Statement of the Twenty-Second AEM-India Consultation](#)
- [Joint Media Statement of the Thirtieth AEM – Closer Economic Relations \(CER\) Consultation](#) (Australia, New Zealand)
- [Joint Media Statement of the Twenty-First AEM-EU Trade Commissioner Consultation](#)
- [Joint Media Statement of the AEM-USTR Consultation](#)
- [Joint Media Statement of the Ninth AEM-Hong Kong, China Consultation](#)
- [Joint Media Statement of the Fourteenth AEM-Russia Consultation](#)
- [Joint Media Statement of the Fifth AEM-UK Consultation](#)
- [Joint Media Statement of the Fourteenth AEM-Canada Consultation](#)
- [Joint Media Statement of the Fourth AEM Troika Open-Ended Dialogue with Switzerland Trade Minister](#)

News

[ASEAN deepens internal, external ties to weather US tariff headwinds](#)

Nikkei Asia Review, 26 September 2025

[Operationalising the AEC Strategic Plan 2026-2030: From Aspirations to Real Action](#)

Fulcrum, Denis Hew, 25 September 2025

[United States to seal Southeast Asia trade deals in coming months, trade representative says](#)

Reuters, 24 September 2025

[Asean renews commitment to fair markets amid global disruption](#)

The Straits Times, 24 September 2025

[ASEAN explores cooperation with CPTPP amid trade uncertainties](#)

Nikkei Asia Review, 23 September 2025

[Hong Kong, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Chile seeking to join ASEAN-led RCEP](#) (Video)

Channel News Asia, 21 September 2025

Compiled by the Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore. Please note that links to third-party websites were checked for accuracy in the month of the updates. No responsibility can be taken for subsequent changes on these websites.

19th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (and Related Meetings), 10 September 2025

- [Joint Statement of the Nineteenth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime](#)
- [Joint Statement of the Fifteenth ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime Consultation](#)
- [Joint Statement of the Twelfth ASEAN Plus China Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime Consultation](#)
- [Joint Statement of the Tenth ASEAN Plus Japan Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime Consultation](#)
- [Joint Statement of the Sixth ASEAN Plus Republic of Korea Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime Consultation](#)

18th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment (and Related Meetings), 3-4 September 2025

- [18th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment and the 20th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution](#)
- [Joint Press Statement on the first ASEAN-EU Ministerial Dialogue on Environment and Climate Change](#)
- [Joint Statement on the ASEAN-Japan Mutually Beneficial Partnership on Environment and Climate Change for Materializing New Growth](#)
- [Joint Press Statement on the first ASEAN-EU Ministerial Dialogue on Environment and Climate Change](#)

Geopolitics/Security

[Indonesia, ASEAN and the global leadership vacuum](#)

East Asia Forum, 29 September 2025

[Why Malaysia Should Build its Capacity to Mediate International Disputes](#)

The Diplomat, Teh Lip Li, 26 September 2025

[Asean must strengthen cohesion](#)

Bangkok Post, Anwar Ibrahim, 17 September 2025

[China aims to shore up Asean ties with free-trade deal 3.0 as US protectionism deepens](#)

South China Morning Post, 9 September 2025

[Asean cannot drift on autopilot](#)

The Straits Times, Simon Tay, 6 September 2025

Compiled by the Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore. Please note that links to third-party websites were checked for accuracy in the month of the updates. No responsibility can be taken for subsequent changes on these websites.

[ASEAN balances autonomy and unity in a shifting geopolitical landscape](#)

The Japan Times, Anwar Ibrahim, 5 September 2025

[Building regional order: The three phases of ASEAN-led joint military exercises](#)

Contemporary Security Policy, Sarah Teo, 4 September 2025

[Can ASEAN Truly Remain Neutral Between the US and China?](#)

The Diplomat, Siau Lim Chong, 1 September 2025

Global Trade

[Recalibrating Southeast Asian trade policy in a world of economic fragmentation](#)

East Asia Forum, Riandy Laksono and Dandy Rafitrandi, 20 September 2025

[Enhancing ASEAN's Intra-Regional Trade Need Not Require Bells and Whistles](#)

Fulcrum, Kristina Fong Siew Leng, 17 September 2025

Socio-Cultural Community Strategic Plan

[21st ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Coordinating Conference sets strategic direction for post-2025 agenda](#)

ASEAN Secretariat News, 24 September 2025

[ASCC reaffirms commitment to a robust, inclusive, participatory strategic plan](#)

ASEAN Secretariat News, 19 September 2025

Myanmar

[ASEAN foreign ministers postpone Myanmar visit to discuss election](#)

Nikkei Asian Review, 18 September 2025

Timor Leste

[Malaysia's Anwar Winds up Visit to Timor-Leste as ASEAN Membership Looms](#)

The Diplomat, 25 September 2025

['We shouldn't bring to ASEAN an additional burden': Timor-Leste president on joining the bloc](#)

Channel News Asia, Saifulbahri Ismail, 15 September 2025

External Relations

[EU Expects to Finalize Trade Pacts With Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia in 2026](#)

The Diplomat, 26 September 2025

Compiled by the Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore. Please note that links to third-party websites were checked for accuracy in the month of the updates. No responsibility can be taken for subsequent changes on these websites.

[Co-Chairs' Press Release: 8th ASEAN-Pacific Alliance Ministerial Meeting](#)

ASEAN Secretariat, 24 September 2025

[The Case for an ASEAN-EU Free Trade Agreement](#)

RSIS Commentary, Dipinder Singh Randhawa, 17 September 2025

[ASEAN-ROK Security Cooperation in a Dual Contingency](#)

Fulcrum, Ju Hyung Kim, 16 September 2025

[The Mango Flavour: India and ASEAN After a Decade of the Act East Policy](#)

Fulcrum, Gurjit Singh (Interview), 4 September 2025

[Amid Trump turbulence, ASEAN+3 charts Asia's AI future](#)

East Asia Forum, Mark Manantan, 3 September 2025

[Addressing Novel Risks, Strengthening Finance, and Building Resilience in ASEAN+3](#)

AMRO, Aziz Durrani, 1 September 2025

[Joint Statement between The Republic of Korea and The Association of South East Asian Nations \(ASEAN\) on Intellectual Property Cooperation 2025](#)

ASEAN Secretariat, 1 September 2025

[Impact of the South China Sea Conflict on Trade between China and ASEAN Countries](#)

Statistika, Vol 105(3), Anwar, Nugroho et al.

Energy

[A China-ASEAN mechanism to power the clean energy transition](#)

East Asia Forum, Kevin Zongzhe Li, 24 September 2025

[ASEAN Centre for Energy and United Nations ESCAP Sign MoU to Advance ASEAN Energy Cooperation](#)

ESCAP, 5 September 2025

[Regional integration and sustainability: enterprise energy efficiency in the China-ASEAN free trade area](#)

Energy Efficiency Vol 18 (2025), Ting, Imran et al.

[ESG Performance in the EU and ASEAN: The Roles of Institutional Governance, Economic Structure, and Global Integration](#)

Sustainability, 2025, Vol 17. Ionascu, Hordofa et al.

Compiled by the Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore. Please note that links to third-party websites were checked for accuracy in the month of the updates. No responsibility can be taken for subsequent changes on these websites.

Disaster Management

[AADMER Work Programme 2026-2030](#) (ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response Work Programme)
ASEAN Secretariat, September 2025

[Weathering the Storm – Navigating ASEAN Disaster Management to Sustainability](#)
RSIS, Nia Kaul, Alistair D. B. Cook, 11 September 2025

Digital Trade, Governance

[Digital Literacy Vital for Enhancing ASEAN's Digital Integration Agenda](#)
Fulcrum, Kristina Fong Siew Leng, 26 September 2025

[Which way for ASEAN's AI governance approach?](#)
The Interpreter, Faiza Saleem, 23 September 2025

[Advancing cybersecurity in ASEAN: current trends, emerging challenges, and opportunities for enhanced resilience](#)
International Journal of Information Security, Auwal Shehu Ali et al., 2 September 2025

ASEAN Economic Community

[ASEAN needs to reinvent itself](#)
Nikkei Asian Review, Doris Liew, 23 September 2025

[Outlook for Agriculture and ASEAN's Role in Southeast Asia's Food Security](#)
Fulcrum, Elyssa Kaur Ludher and Paul Teng, 19 September 2025

[How Asia can thrive in the next era of global value chains](#)
Nikkei Asian Review, Hoe Ee Khor and Suan Yong Foo, 17 September 2025

[ASEAN Inclusive Business Forum 2025 celebrates excellence, launches new framework to boost regional talent](#)
ASEAN Secretariat News, 12 September 2025

[ASEAN strengthens cross-sectoral partnerships at the 16th ASEAN Connectivity Symposium](#)
ASEAN Secretariat News, 12 September 2025

[Why Advancing Intra-ASEAN Student Mobility Can Help Boost ASEAN's Integration Journey](#)
Fulcrum, Melinda Martinus, 11 September 2025

[ASEAN faces a tighter middle-income trap](#)
East Asia Forum, Satoru Kumagai, 10 September 2025

Compiled by the Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore. Please note that links to third-party websites were checked for accuracy in the month of the updates. No responsibility can be taken for subsequent changes on these websites.

[When Fintech Meets Finance: Growth effects across Asean, Asia, and OECD Economies](#)

Swee Liang Tan, Singapore Economic Review, 30 September 2025

[Shadow Economy and the Ecological Footprint Nexus: The Implication of Foreign Direct Investment in ASEAN Countries](#)

Economies, 2025 (13), Kongbuamai, Bui and Nimsai.

[Sustainable Financial Transformation: The Role of Green Bond Policy and SDGS Index in ASEAN](#)

Dialektika, Vol 10 (2), Anisha, Wijaya et al.