



ASEAN News Update January 2026

Contents

ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting (28 January 2026)	1
Digital.....	2
ASEAN Chairmanship 2026	2
Commentary	2
Thailand-Cambodia Conflict	2
Geopolitics/Geoeconomics	3
Myanmar.....	3
Timor-Leste.....	3
External Relations.....	4
Climate Change, Energy	4
ASEAN Economic Community	5

ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting (28 January 2026)

[ASEAN Foreign Ministers Discuss Myanmar, South China Sea at Cebu Retreat](#)

The Diplomat, 29 January 2026



Digital

6th ASEAN Digital Ministers' Meeting and Related Meetings (15 -16 January 2026)

- [Hanoi Digital Declaration – “Adaptive ASEAN: From Connectivity to Connected Intelligence”](#)
- [Joint Media Statement of the 6th ASEAN Digital Ministers' Meeting and Related Meetings](#)
- [ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2030](#)

[Singapore proposes ASEAN-first mechanism to trace scam calls across borders](#)

The Straits Times, 21 January 2026

[ASEAN's AI startups focus on profitability amid funding bubble fears](#)

Nikkei Asian Review, Dylan Loh, 20 January 2026

[Japan to help ASEAN develop local-language AI amid China concerns](#)

Nikkei Asian Review, 16 January 2026

[Asean agrees on guidelines for quicker subsea cable fixes](#)

Business Times Singapore, 16 January 2026

ASEAN Chairmanship 2026

[The Philippines inherits an ASEAN in turmoil](#)

The Jakarta Post, Samady Ou, 28 January 2026

[The Philippines Are in for a Turbulent 2026](#)

Foreign Policy, Derek Grossman, 19 January 2026

Commentary

[The ASEAN Treaty on Extradition: ASEAN's Commitment to Cross-Border Justice](#)

Fulcrum, Yvette Foo, 26 January 2026

[ASEAN needs Indonesia but Indonesia needs ASEAN more](#)

East Asia Forum, Iman Pambagyo, 25 January 2026

[Investing in care: A pathway to gender equality in ASEAN](#)

UNESCAP, Kavita Sukanandan, 23 January 2026

Thailand-Cambodia Conflict

[A Blueprint for Cambodia-Thailand Peace: A Thai Perspective](#)

[A Blueprint for Cambodia-Thailand Peace: A Cambodian Perspective](#)

The Diplomat, Pattharapong Rattanasevee and In Sokhuon, 14 January 2026



Geopolitics/Geoeconomics

[Resilience in a conditional trade order: ASEAN's 2026 challenge](#)

The Interpreter, Apoorba Banerjee, 28 January 2026

[Southeast Asia Navigates Trumpian Storms: Disruptions, Recalibrations and Adaptations](#)

ISEAS Perspective, Hoang Thi Ha, 26 January 2026

[ASEAN exits 2025 bruised but not broken](#)

East Asia Forum, Julia Tijaja, 25 January 2026

[A Media Analysis of Beijing's Head-of-State Diplomacy in Southeast Asia](#)

ISEAS Perspective, Wang Zheng, 15 January 2026

[What Southeast Asia Should Expect from Trump in 2026](#)

Fulcrum, Derek Grossman, 2 January 2026

[Mainland Southeast Asia: What to Watch in 2026](#)

The Diplomat, Sebastian Strangio, 2 January 2026

[ASEAN Centrality and the revitalisation of regional connectivity](#)

Ed. Hong Liu, Celia Lee, Jeremy Goh, World Scientific 2026

Myanmar

[Signs of US shift on Myanmar stoke battle for legitimacy](#)

Nikkei Asian Review, 27 January 2026

[ASEAN chair Philippines hopes to widen talks with anti-junta forces in Myanmar](#)

Reuters, 22 January 2026

[ASEAN will not certify Myanmar election or send observers, Malaysia says](#)

The Straits Times, 20 January 2026

[UN's top court opens landmark Myanmar Rohingya genocide case](#)

Al Jazeera, 12 January 2026

[Myanmar's election is a litmus test for ASEAN centrality](#)

East Asia Forum, Myat Sandar Zaw, 7 January 2026

Timor-Leste

[ADB Support for Timor-Leste's ASEAN Integration](#)

Asian Development Bank, 26 January 2026

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.



External Relations

[Ten Forces That Will Define ASEAN+3's Next Decade](#)

AMRO, 28 January 2026

[EU signals possible ASEAN-wide trade pact review after 2027](#)

Indonesia Business Post, 27 January 2026

[Research on the Image Construction of ASEAN in Chinese Mainstream Media](#)

Qiong Dang, Springer 2025

Climate Change, Energy

[ASEAN poised to produce 8.5 million barrels of sustainable aviation fuel daily by 2050](#)

ASEAN Secretariat News, 23 January 2026

[Fostering the Cleantech Innovation and Entrepreneurship Ecosystem in ASEAN: Key Policy Analysis](#)

ASEAN Centre for Energy, 22 January 2026

[Changing Diets Amid a Changing Climate](#)

Fulcrum, Paul Teng, 2 January 2026

[Tackling the Energy Transition: Insights from ASEAN and Beyond](#)

Phoumin Han, Xunpeng Shi, Fukunari Kumura, Springer 2025

[Preventive Diplomacy in Non-Traditional Security Issues: ASEAN-China Public Health and Environmental Cooperation](#)

Ed. Yue Yang, Youlin Qiao, World Scientific 2025



ASEAN Economic Community

[RCEP Was a Major Breakthrough, But It Still Needs Work](#)

The Diplomat, Jesslene Lee, 28 January 2026

[Industrial Transformation in ASEAN: A Cluster-Driven Model for Regional and Global Collaboration](#)

World Economic Forum, 13 January 2026

[MSMEs in the ASEAN Economic Community: Connecting the Blueprint to Real-World Action](#)

Fulcrum, Miguel Jaime Encarnacion, 9 January 2026

[Inside the Philippines' stacked agenda to steer Asean's trillion-dollar economy](#)

Business Times Singapore, 6 January 2026

Early 2026 Trade Notes by Iman Pambagyo

Jakarta Globe, 5 January 2026

- Part 1: [Indonesia should Decide on ASEAN's Future](#)
- Part 2: [Why ASEAN Matters Strategically for Indonesia in a Fragmented World](#)

[How fintech forges resilience in ASEAN – with lessons for the wider world](#)

World Economic Forum, 5 January 2026

[Competition Law in ASEAN](#)

Ray Steinwall, Edward Elgar 2025

[The Financial Trilemma and Cross-border Bank Crisis Management in ASEAN](#)

Wasamon Kun-amornpong, Springer 2025

[Navigating ASEAN: Proven Strategies for Consumer Goods from Scholar-Practitioners](#)

Rudolf Tjandra, Amalia E. Maulana, Springer 2025