



ASEAN News Update July 2026

(click topics for link to the respective sections)

1. [59th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting, 33rd ASEAN Regional Forum, and Related Meetings \(21 July 2026\)](#)
2. [Geopolitics/Security](#)
3. [Energy, Middle East Conflict](#)
4. [Myanmar](#)
5. [External Relations](#)
6. [South China Sea](#)
7. [Haze](#)
8. [ASEAN Economic Community](#)



59th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting, 33rd ASEAN Regional Forum, and Related Meetings (21 July 2026)

Statements/Documents

- [Joint Communiqué of the 59th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting](#)
- [Chair's Statement of the 33rd ASEAN Regional Forum](#)
- [ARF Manila Plan of Action \(2026–2036\)](#)
- [ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference \(PMC\) 11+1 Sessions with Dialogue partners and Trilateral Meetings](#)
- [ASEAN-China Foreign Ministers' Joint Statement on Addressing the Regional Impacts of Developments in the Middle East and Strengthening Regional Energy Cooperation](#)
- [ASEAN-New Zealand Joint Statement on Strengthening Regional Resilience](#)
- [Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-United Kingdom Dialogue Partnership \(2027-2031\)](#)
- [ASEAN-UK Joint Ministerial Statement on Cooperation on the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific: Advancing Together](#)
- [Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-Canada Strategic Partnership \(2026-2030\)](#)
- [Guidelines on the Modalities for Engagement of ASEAN with High Contracting Parties under the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia](#)

News

[ASEAN's Convening Power Meets Its Delivery Test: Lessons From the 59th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting](#)

Fulcrum, Huynh Trung Dung, Joanne Lin and Kristina Fong Siew Leng, 27 July 2026

[Myanmar's return to ASEAN fold remains 'far off,' Philippines says](#)

Nikkei Asian Review, 23 July 2026

[Partners vie for ASEAN trust as global divisions deepen](#)

The Jakarta Post, Yvette Tanamal, 23 July 2026

[ASEAN weighs benchmarks, longer-term envoy to revive stalled Myanmar peace plan](#)

The Straits Times, 21 July 2026

[ASEAN Foreign Ministers Call for 'Immediate Cessation' of Middle East Hostilities](#)

The Diplomat, 23 July 2026

[Rubio stresses US commitment to Asia at ASEAN meeting](#)

Nikkei Asian Review, 22 July 2026



[ASEAN Foreign Ministers Convene Meeting Under the Shadow of Iran War, Regional Crises](#)

The Diplomat, 21 July 2026

Geopolitics/Security

[Asean's next security challenge is cyber](#)

Bangkok Post, Thitinan Pongsudhirak, 31 July 2026

[The Quad and ASEAN's First Step Off The Fence](#)

The Diplomat, Vanshika Saraf and Amit Kumar, 29 July 2026

[Asean has the tools to ensure peace](#)

Bangkok Post, Kavi Chongkittavorn, 28 July 2026

[The ASEAN-Russia Commemorative Summit: Symbolism, Aspirations and Niche Cooperation](#)

ISEAS Perspective, Ian Storey, 14 July 2026

[Can Asean keep the Thailand-Cambodia peace?](#)

South China Morning Post, Sam Beltran, 5 July 2026

[How bitter Persian Gulf rivals can make peace the Asean way](#)

South China Morning Post, Richard Heydarian, 5 July 2026

Energy, Middle East Conflict

[ASEAN's nuclear choices, geopolitical consequences](#)

The Jakarta Post, Muhadi Sugiono, 31 July 2026

[ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Statement on the Evolving Situation in the Middle East](#)

ASEAN Secretariat, 21 July 2026

[ASEAN Oil Stockpile Ambition: Destined for the Same Old Fate?](#)

Fulcrum, Elbinsar Purba, 17 July 2026

[Southeast Asia Has Weathered the Hormuz Crisis](#)

The Diplomat, Abed el Razek, 15 July 2026



Myanmar

[Myanmar's Min Aung Hlaing criticises ASEAN, sets out government agenda](#)

Reuters, 31 July 2026

[East Timor's Myanmar war crimes case puts Asean non-interference to the test](#)

South China Morning Post, 30 July 2026

[Philippines' Lazaro Dismisses Criticisms Over ASEAN's 'Informal Meeting' With Myanmar FM](#)

The Diplomat, 20 July 2026

[Asean outreach may give Myanmar leaders legitimacy without results](#)

Bangkok Post, 14 July 2026

[ASEAN Breaks the Ice With Myanmar, But Skepticism Runs Deep](#)

The Irrawaddy, Nongluck Ajanapanya, 13 July 2026

[ASEAN offers Myanmar diplomatic olive branch but no concessions](#)

Nikkei Asian Review, Marwaan Macan-Markar, 12 July 2026

[Bangkok seeks to spearhead ASEAN re-engagement with Myanmar](#)

East Asia Forum, William J Jones, 9 July 2026

External Relations

[Canada's ASEAN deal is about more than market access](#)

East Asia Forum, Alan J M Bron, 29 July 2026

[Japan-ASEAN: Navigating our future, together](#)

The Jakarta Post, Motegi Toshimitsu, 24 July 2026

[ASEAN adds Turkey as dialogue partner as defense, trade ties grow](#)

Nikkei Asian Review, 27 July 2026

[Australia-ASEAN Cooperation on Emerging Technologies - Quantum Technology Research and Governance as a Case Study](#)

RSIS Policy Report, Justin V. Hastings, Karryl Kim Sagun Trajano, 10 July 2026

[The Importance of ASEAN for Japan's National Security](#)

The RUSI Journal, Alexandre Brans, 8 July 2026

[ASEAN-Russia Summit: A case for strategic autonomy](#)

The Jakarta Post, Evgeny Zagaynov, 7 July 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.



[Asean draws interest in Greater Bay Area](#)

Bangkok Post, Karnjana Karnjanatawe, 4 July 2026

[ASEAN must strike a balanced AI relationship with China](#)

East Asia Forum, Kelly Forbes and Cass Maughan, 3 July 2026

[Japan-ASEAN cooperation continues to evolve in an age of turbulence](#)

The Jakarta Post, Koji Yonetani, 1 July 2026

South China Sea

['Negotiation fatigue' risks stalling South China Sea code of conduct progress](#)

South China Morning Post, 30 July 2026

[The 2016 South China Sea Award and the Future of a Legally Binding Code of Conduct](#)

Fulcrum, Joanne Lin and Huynh Trung Dung, 29 July 2026

[Philippine, Chinese Foreign Ministers Exchange Protests Over South China Sea Clash](#)

The Diplomat, 23 July 2026

[Ten years on, can ASEAN finally put the South China Sea ruling to work?](#)

Lowy Institute, Maxine Nazaree Co, 10 July 2026

[US leaves South China Sea code talks to ASEAN, China](#)

The Jakarta Post, 9 July 2026

Haze

[Twenty-Seventh Meeting of the Sub-Regional Ministerial Steering Committee on Transboundary Haze Pollution](#)

ASEAN Secretariat News, 9 July 2026

ASEAN Economic Community

[Five Key Takeaways from AMRO's July 2026 Quarterly Update of the ASEAN+3 Regional Economic Outlook](#)

AMRO Asia, Kriti Andhare, 29 July 2026

[ASEAN's digital economy rulebook is nearly written](#)

Lowy Institute, Hilman Palaon, 23 July 2026

[Assessing Innovation in Southeast Asia: Policies, Progress and Persistent Gaps](#)

ISEAS Perspective, Tham Siew Yean, 21 July 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.



CIL ASEAN News Update

[Small States, Big Stakes: ASEAN's Narrowing Space for Collective Agency](#)

Fulcrum, Denis Hew, 13 July 2026

[Beyond commerce: Why DEFA matters for ASEAN health collaboration](#)

GovInsider Asia, Anis Fuad, 9 July 2026

[Asia's big trade pacts soften damage from Trump tariffs](#)

Nikkei Asian Review, Akane Okutsu and Akira Kitado, 3 July 2026

[Recalibrating ASEAN's economic security in a fractured world](#)

East Asia Forum, Denis Hew, 2 July 2026

[How the DEFA could translate into shared growth for Southeast Asia](#)

EY-Parthenon, Bingxun Seng, 2 July 2026