

ASEAN News Update October 2026

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ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (20 October 2026)

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ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (28 October 2026)

Statements

- Manila Joint Declaration on the 20th Anniversary of the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting: Navigating Our Future, Together
- Joint Statement by the ASEAN Defence Ministers Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Signing of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia
- Joint Statement by the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus on Youth, Peace and Security

News

China accuses Philippines of setting up 'obstacles' to attending Asean defence meeting
South China Morning Post, 30 October 2026

Hegseth Seeks to Reassure Southeast Asia of US Security Commitment to the Region
The Diplomat, 29 October 2026

ASEAN Our Eyes evolves from counterterrorism to broader security cooperation
Indo-Pacific Defence Forum, Gusty Da Costa, 28 October 2026

ASEAN and Quad defense chiefs give the Philippines a 'diplomatic test'
Nikkei Asian Review, 28 October 2026

ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (20 October 2026)

- Joint Statement of the Twentieth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (20th AMMTC)
- Joint Statement Sixteenth ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime Consultation
- Joint Statement of the Thirteenth ASEAN Plus China Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (13th AMMTC + China) Consultation
- Joint Statement of the Eleventh ASEAN Plus Japan Ministerial Meeting on Transnational crime (11th AMMTC + Japan) consultation
- Joint Statement of the Seventh ASEAN Plus Republic of Korea Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (7th AMMTC + ROK) Consultation

1st ASEAN Prosecutors/Attorneys General Meeting (20 October 2026)

- Joint Communique of the First ASEAN Prosecutors/Attorneys General Meeting

9th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters (15 October 2026)

- Chair's Statement of the 9th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters

44th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting, Related Meetings (7 October 2026)

- Joint Media Statement of The Forty-Fourth ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting
- Joint Media Statement The Twenty-Third ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting Plus Three
- Joint Media Statement of the Twentieth East Asia Summit Energy Ministers' Meeting

Commentary

'We Have Friends, No Enemies': Timor-Leste's First Year in ASEAN
The Diplomat, (Interview of Timor-Leste's Vice Minister for ASEAN Affairs, Milena Maria da Costa Rangel), 27 October 2026

Singapore's job as ASEAN chair: fixing how the grouping decides
Lowy Institute, Prathap Latchmanan, 23 October 2026

What ASEAN Mediation Can and Cannot Do
Fulcrum, Melinda Martinus and Fannesa Adisty Laksmita, 16 October 2026

Mary Jane Veloso and Transnational Crime: Lessons for ASEAN
Fulcrum, Aaron Mallari, 22 October 2026

Geopolitics

The Quad-ASEAN Potential as an Anchor of Indo-Pacific Stability
RSIS Commentary, Arrizal Jaknanihan and Alfin Febrian Basundoro, 21 October 2026

Will the Cambodia-Thailand UNCLOS Compulsory Conciliation Prove Conciliatory?
ISEAS Perspective, Phattharaphong Saengkrai, 20 October 2026

Trump's second Asean summit presence comes at a price for region
South China Morning Post, Sam Beltran, 18 October 2026

ASEAN's Economic Future in an Age of Geoeconomic Competition
Fulcrum, (Interviewing) Mari Elka Pangestu, 9 October 2026

Can ASEAN continue to reap economic benefits from the US-China rivalry?
ThinkChina, Zhou Yifei, 6 October 2026

South China Sea

Laos Expected to Scuttle ASEAN's South China Sea Code of Conduct
The Diplomat, 27 October 2026

South China Sea Code of Conduct: A Deal Is Not Enough
The Diplomat, Abdul Rahman Yaacob, 23 October 2026

Myanmar

ASEAN Special Envoy Concludes Humanitarian Mission to Myanmar
The Diplomat, 30 October 2026

Rakhine's Contested Coast: Implications for ASEAN's Myanmar Re-Engagement
RSIS Commentary, Chong De Xian, 20 October 2026

Myanmar Establishes New Committee to Advance Normalization With ASEAN
The Diplomat, 16 October 2026

Asean must act against Myanmar
Bangkok Post, Zin Mar Aung, 15 October 2026

Japan's "Silent Diplomacy" in Myanmar: A Partner for ASEAN's Peace Process?
Fulcrum, Hirokazu Omatsu and Kyi Sin, 14 October 2026

Malaysia's Anwar backs Myanmar's ASEAN return after repatriation talks
Nikkei Asian Review, 8 October 2026

Beyond non-interference? Understanding the transformation of ASEAN's Myanmar policy since 2021
The Pacific Review, Yuhang Wei and Zhiqiang Sun, 1 October 2026

External Relations

Why is Russia redefining its ASEAN strategy by prioritising a new level of engagement?
Khmer Times, Stephen Rozario, 26 October 2026

Expanding the Diplomatic Toolbox: Southeast Asia at the New Delhi BRICS Summit
Fulcrum, Gurjit Singh, 21 October 2026

Co-Chairs' Statement on the 7th US-ASEAN Cyber Policy Dialogue
ASEAN Secretariat News, 15 October 2026

ASEAN-EU at 50: Turning Goodwill into Strategic Tech Cooperation
Fulcrum, Matej Šimalčík and Filip Šebok, 2 October 2026

Haze, Disaster Management

ASEAN haze: the tech is ready, the enforcement isn't
The Interpreter, Karryl Kim Sagun Trajano and Iuna Tsyrulneva, 26 October 2026

The Haze Is a Shared Problem. ASEAN Already Holds the Tools to Fix It
RSIS Commentary, Ong Keng Yong and Jemilah Mahmood, 20 October 2026

Commentary: ASEAN's quiet work before the next deadly disaster
Channel News Asia, Lim Junli and Ian Li, 20 October 2026

ASEAN to discuss tackling transboundary haze ahead of November summit
Reuters, 12 October 2026

Short-, Medium-, and Long-Term Rules-Based Cooperation Needed for a Worsening Haze Crisis in ASEAN
AsianSIL Voices, Yvette Foo, 11 October 2026

Two fire regimes, one regional challenge
East Asia Forum, Veerachai Tanpipat, 1 October 2026

Energy, Environment

Uncertainties in approvals and laws can significantly delay subsea cables for ASEAN Power Grid
The Straits Times, 28 October 2026

Southeast Asia must prepare for a nuclear future
Nikkei Asian Review, Jonathan Cobb, 15 October 2026

Environmental governance the 'ASEAN way'
International Affairs, Aarie Glas and Ernest Plange Kwofie, 7 October 2026

ASEAN Energy Security Review
International Energy Agency, 6 October 2026

Technology, Artificial Intelligence

Transparency Needed as Southeast Asia Pushes Ahead on AI
Fulcrum, Sarah Chan and Samuel Chng, 26 October 2026

Countering Misinformation: Where ASEAN Can Make a Difference
Fulcrum, Dien Nguyen An Luong, 23 October 2026

AI monetization in ASEAN 'nascent' but usage boosts e-commerce: report
Nikkei Asian Review, 21 October 2026

Co-Chairs' Statement on the 7th U.S.-ASEAN Cyber Policy Dialogue
ASEAN Secretariat, 15 October 2026

ASEAN Economic Community

Singapore leading long-term regional plan on food security in ASEAN (video)
Channel News Asia, 30 October 2026

ASEAN prepares QR payments, e-signatures for digital trade pact
Nikkei Asian Review, 28 October 2026

Asean wants a single digital economy. Will different state laws hobble its goal?
South China Morning Post, Vincent Tan, 22 October 2026

Philippine President Marcos looks to Singapore to build on ASEAN digital pact amid US-China rivalry
The Straits Times, 10 October 2026

ASEAN can leverage the Pinglu Canal to strengthen its industry
Nikkei Asian Review, Robin Hu, 6 October 2026

ASEAN's growth narrative rings hollow for underemployed youth
East Asia Forum, Hitishaa Goyal, Muh Afdhal Mubarak AS and Mirei Saneyoshi, 3 October 2026

Time for ASEAN to Revive its Customs Union Vision
The Diplomat, Sukegawa Seiya, 2 October 2026