



**ASEAN NEW ZEALAND  
BUSINESS COUNCIL INC**



## **ABOUT ASEAN**

News and Views from ASEAN Markets - October 2016

### [Philippines assumes ASEAN Chair as S&P qualifies its credit rating](#)

As Philippine President Duterte assumes the ASEAN 2017 [Chair](#) this report from [ASEAN and Beyond](#) says credit rating agency, Standard & Poore, has qualified its maintenance of a stable rating with a caution that the war on crime is threatening the Philippine economy and endangering its democratic institutions.

Meantime the World Bank has recently released this [report](#) (pdf) on doing business in the Philippines

### [Laos Summits discuss the weighty trade issues](#)

From strategic partner, ANZ's bluenotes comes this [report](#) from ANZ Laos CEO, Anna Green on the recent East Asia and ASEAN-BAC Business Investment Summits.

The three key issues were the future of TPP, protectionism and improving the ease of doing business in ASEAN.

### [East Asia Summit resolves to remove NTBs](#)

And Cosmetics Design Asia also reported on the member states' determination to remove non-tariff barriers from a cosmetics and personal care product perspective.

To read please [click here](#)

### [The ASEAN way may actually be working](#)

In this article [CNBC](#) argues that whilst "the ASEAN way" (requiring consensus of all ten states) may not appear to work for issues such as the South China Sea, it has been effective in the economic sphere

### [PM announces support for Laos](#)

Prime Minister John Key recently announced funding to assist the clearance of unexploded munitions in Laos, this year's ASEAN Chair.

For details please [click here](#)

### [Turnbull Government engaging big time in ASEAN but is business?](#)

Meantime his Australian counterpart is leading a major Government effort in ASEAN culminating in an invitation for all 10 ASEAN leaders to visit Australia in 2018.

But this [Australian Financial Review](#) article asks if Australian business is steadfastly following the leader when it has invested twice as much in 4 million population NZ to the South East than in 600 million ASEAN to the North West.

### [Timor L'Este stacks up for ASEAN](#)

Next year may see serious consideration of Timor L'Este's five year old application to join ASEAN.

It measures up – indeed outstrips some ASEAN states in per capita and other economic measures. But this [Foreign Policy](#) article suggests that resistance from two ASEAN Members may relate to the applicant's strong democratic and human rights advocacy.

### [China carrot stick approach to Myanmar](#)

In the light of USA's renewed wooing of Myanmar and the latter's suspension of a major Chinese funded hydroelectric project, China is adopting a stick and carrot approach to its relationship with Myanmar says this [South China Morning Post](#) article

### [CLMV emerge as FDI magnets](#)

The lesser developed ASEAN states have boosted an otherwise disappointing FDI tally with a 38% increase last year reports [Nikkei](#)

And [VN Express](#) adds that Viet Nam has surpassed Indonesia as USA's main FDI target in ASEAN.

### [Cambodians anxious to get Chinese rice sales moving](#)

Cambodia in the midst of a rice crisis as prices plummet is urging China quickly to implement a recent agreement to purchase its rice, reports the [Diplomat](#)

### [Who's barking up the wrong tree?](#)

Any changes to the NZ immigration policy are "unlikely to have much impact on the housing market", the authors of a Waikato University paper have concluded.

The study instead identifies the main drivers of rising prices in the city as low interest rates, investor demand, capital gains expectations and New Zealanders returning from overseas. Indeed cutting back immigration may hinder skilled labour availability to ramp up housing supply.

For more detail from NZ Herald please [click here](#)

### Sir Graeme Douglas RIP

A moment to reflect on the recent passing of a gentleman of NZ business, Sir Graeme Douglas.

Your Editor's memory is of taking ASEAN Heads of Mission some years ago to his West Auckland factory, where many Asian technicians and other staff worked in a clearly inclusive culture and where we were graciously and generously welcomed.

For NBR's obituary please [click here](#)

### ENZ strategy review as ASEAN numbers fall

The Education NZ July [dashboard](#) shows the number of ASEAN students to NZ falling. Its international strategy is being reviewed and there is an upcoming workshop near you. For details please [click here](#)

### Why Trump needs TPP

Parag Khanna of Singapore's Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy explains in language even a Presidential candidate could understand why opposing TPP would play into China's hands.

This is, [Khanna](#) points out, the China, Donald Trump regular accuses of killing USA in trade

### Singapore launches driverless taxis

The world's first driverless taxis were recently launched in Singapore.

Can't help feeling something in life will be missing without a chat with a Singaporean taxi driver as you cross Singapore to your next appointment!

For more detail please [click here](#)

### Air Asia attracts marketing guru rebuke

So Tony Fernandes offers ASEAN Olympic medallists free flights on Air Asia. Must be a win-win?

No say two SE Asian marketing "experts", it will not be consistent with brand identity.

To read some convoluted marketing pontification please [click here](#)

or maybe just move onto the next item.....

### Five networking tips

Networking's "about people enjoying other people, communicating passions and connecting with others who share those passions" says this article from Everidge IP.

Members constantly tell us the prime reason for joining is to partake in the networking

opportunities.

So Everidge gives us five tips for effective [networking](#)

[ASEAN plus three acknowledge need for inclusive active ageing](#)

Only half-hearted apologies from the Editor for ending with the ASEAN plus three (China, South Korea, Japan) recent [statement](#) on how it will economically assist and empower its ageing population.

May it rapidly extend to ASEAN plus six (before it's too late!)

