

Southeast Asia's Shifting Alliances: Navigating Cross-Border Diplomacy in 2024

Geopolitics · Answer Key · 16 Questions

1. In 2024, which two Southeast Asian nations signed memoranda of understanding (MOUs) to enhance cooperation in the South China Sea, including incident prevention and maritime cooperation between their coast guards?

- A) Philippines and Vietnam**
- B) Indonesia and Malaysia
- C) Thailand and Cambodia
- D) Singapore and Brunei

2. Which country is set to become the 11th member of ASEAN in October 2025, marking the first new entrant in nearly 25 years?

- A) Timor-Leste**
- B) Papua New Guinea
- C) Bangladesh
- D) Sri Lanka

3. What major economic initiative, part of China's Belt and Road Initiative, involves enhancing connectivity, trade, and investment between China and Laos, with the Boten-Vientiane railway as a key component?

- A) China-Laos Economic Corridor**
- B) Greater Mekong Subregion Economic Cooperation
- C) Trans-Asian Railway Network
- D) Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation

4. The South China Sea disputes in 2024 saw increased tensions, particularly between China and which other claimant nation, involving multiple incidents with coast guard vessels near Second Thomas Shoal?

- A) Philippines**
- B) Vietnam
- C) Malaysia
- D) Brunei

5. In February 2025, the Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of Indonesia visited Malaysia to discuss outcomes of the Indonesian presidential state visit and bilateral issues. Which sectors were highlighted for potential strengthened cooperation?

- A) Trade and Investment**
- B) Defense and Security
- C) Cultural Exchange and Education
- D) Environmental Protection and Climate Change

6. In 2024, Singapore and Brunei celebrated a significant anniversary of their diplomatic relations. What year were these relations formally established?

- A) 1984**
- B) 1994
- C) 2004
- D) 2014

7. Which two Southeast Asian nations experienced an escalation of border disputes in the latter half of 2025, leading to armed confrontations and significant civilian displacement?

- A) Thailand and Cambodia**
- B) Myanmar and Thailand
- C) Vietnam and Cambodia
- D) Laos and Vietnam

8. In 2024, the Philippines enacted new laws, the Maritime Zone Act and the Archipelago Sea Lanes Act, which align with which significant international legal precedent concerning maritime claims?

- A) The 2016 South China Sea Arbitration Award**
- B) The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)
- C) The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea rulings
- D) The Permanent Court of Arbitration decisions

9. What was the total bilateral trade volume between Laos and China in 2024, representing a significant increase from the previous year?

- A) USD 8.23 billion**
- B) USD 5.68 billion
- C) USD 7.09 billion
- D) USD 10 billion

10. In January 2024, the Philippines and Vietnam signed MOUs aimed at boosting cooperation. One of these MOUs specifically focused on what aspect of their maritime interactions?

- A) Incident prevention and management in the South China Sea**
- B) Joint fishing rights and resource exploration
- C) Naval joint patrols and surveillance
- D) Cultural exchange and tourism

11. The inauguration of Prabowo Subianto as Indonesia's president and Anwar Ibrahim as Malaysia's prime minister in 2024 presented an opportunity to redefine the relationship between the two nations. What historical event, occurring between 1963 and 1966, was a period of significant tension between them?

A) Konfrontasi

- B) The Malacca Strait Crisis
- C) The Aceh Conflict
- D) The East Timor Dispute

12. In late 2024 and early 2025, the Myanmar military has reportedly received armament boosts from which two countries, enhancing its air capacity for strikes?

A) China and Russia

- B) India and China
- C) Russia and Vietnam
- D) China and North Korea

13. What is the primary focus of the inaugural Singapore-Brunei Darussalam Joint Committee Ministerial Meeting (JCMM), held in September 2025?

A) Advancing economic cooperation in strategic areas like food supply and low-carbon energy

- B) Joint military exercises and defense strategy
- C) Cultural exchange programs and educational initiatives
- D) Environmental conservation and disaster management

14. Which event, held in October 2024, saw India and ASEAN commemorate a decade of the India's Act East Policy and reaffirm their Comprehensive Strategic Partnership?

A) The 21st ASEAN-India Summit in Vientiane, Laos

- B) The ASEAN Regional Forum in Singapore
- C) The East Asia Summit in Jakarta, Indonesia
- D) The ASEAN-China Ministerial Meeting in Beijing

15. In 2025, the Philippines expressed interest in working with Vietnam on a 'joint submission' to a United Nations commission concerning what specific maritime aspect?

A) The limits of continental shelves

- B) Joint resource exploration in the South China Sea
- C) Maritime boundary delimitations
- D) Environmental protection measures

16. The 2016 South China Sea Arbitration Award invalidated which of China's claims as a basis for claiming exclusive resource rights within the nine-dash line?

A) Historic rights

B) Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) claims

C) Territorial sovereignty over islands

D) Fishing rights in international waters