

Southeast Asia Navigates Global Tech Shifts: AI Boom, Chip Competition, and

Technology & Economy · Answer Key · 16 Questions

1. Which Southeast Asian nation is actively developing a national AI strategy and action plan, allocating approximately \$216 million in its 2023 budget for AI initiatives across 68 government agencies?

- A) Malaysia
- B) Indonesia
- C) Thailand**
- D) Vietnam

2. Amidst global trade tensions, Singapore's fintech sector saw a significant surge in investments in the first half of 2025. Which vertical attracted the highest number of deals in this period, despite a slight dip from the previous half-year?

- A) Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning
- B) Payments
- C) Digital Assets and Currencies**
- D) Wealthtech

3. The US-China chip competition is driving supply chain diversification. Which Southeast Asian country is noted for its increasing focus on high-value manufacturing in semiconductors, sensors, and AI hardware, attracting significant foreign investment for advanced infrastructure?

- A) The Philippines
- B) Vietnam**
- C) Malaysia
- D) Indonesia

4. Southeast Asia's digital economy is projected to reach substantial figures by 2030. According to the e-Conomy SEA 2024 report, what was the projected Gross Merchandise Value (GMV) for the region's digital economy by the end of that year?

- A) USD 600 billion
- B) USD 1 trillion**
- C) USD 1.5 trillion
- D) USD 2 trillion

5. In the clean energy sector, which three ASEAN countries were highlighted as emerging hotspots for renewable investment in 2024, collectively attracting \$4.6 billion in investment, and aiming for renewables to account for over half of their installed capacity by 2030?

- A) Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand
- B) Indonesia, Vietnam, the Philippines**
- C) Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore
- D) Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia

6. Malaysia's technology sector is experiencing strong momentum driven by AI and data center investments. In the first half of 2025, which vertical within the Malaysia Digital initiative contributed the most to total digital investments, reaching RM30.95 billion?

- A) AI Sector Investments
- B) Data Centre and Cloud Vertical**
- C) Semiconductor Manufacturing
- D) E-commerce Platforms

7. The ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA) aims to accelerate regional integration. What is the projected economic unlock for the region's digital economy by 2030 if DEFA is successfully implemented?

- A) USD 1 trillion
- B) USD 1.5 trillion
- C) USD 2 trillion**
- D) USD 500 billion

8. Despite its growing e-commerce market, the Philippines faces significant logistical challenges due to its archipelagic nature. What percentage of order value does the cost of shipping typically account for in the Philippines, according to a regional study?

- A) 5-10%
- B) 10-15%
- C) 20-30%**
- D) 30-40%

9. Vietnam's IT outsourcing market is experiencing growth, with a significant number of AI specialists. What is the projected market size for IT outsourcing in Vietnam by 2026, and what is its annual growth rate?

- A) \$0.5 billion, 8-12%
- B) \$0.98 billion, 12-17%**
- C) \$1.2 billion, 15-20%
- D) \$0.75 billion, 10-15%

10. In Southeast Asia's semiconductor industry outlook for 2025-2033, which country is identified as leading in high-value manufacturing, while another is emerging as a new center for packaging, testing, and AI chip design?

A) Malaysia and Vietnam

B) Singapore and Thailand

C) Indonesia and Malaysia

D) Vietnam and the Philippines

11. Indonesia's digital economy is projected to exceed a significant amount by 2025, driven by AI, fintech, and digital infrastructure. What is this projected value?

A) USD 72.53 billion

B) USD 130 billion

C) USD 146 billion

D) USD 200 billion

12. Globally, AI adoption is rapidly increasing. In Vietnam, the adoption rate of AI among businesses surged by what percentage year-on-year in 2025, highlighting AI's growing significance?

A) 20%

B) 29%

C) 39%

D) 49%

13. Singapore has established itself as a leading fintech hub. According to the Global Financial Centres Index (GFCI) 38 (issued in September 2025), what is Singapore's rank in the global financial centre ranking?

A) 2nd

B) 3rd

C) 4th

D) 5th

14. The semiconductor industry is a focal point of US-China strategic rivalry. Which Southeast Asian nations are mentioned as benefiting from an upturn in the global semiconductor and broader electronics cycle in 2024 due to supply chain diversification?

A) Indonesia, Philippines, and Vietnam

B) Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam, and Thailand

C) Malaysia, Indonesia, and Singapore

D) Thailand, Philippines, and Indonesia

15. Thailand's national digital strategy, 'Thailand 4.0,' aims to transform the country into a leading digital hub. Its 2023 budget allocated approximately how much for AI initiatives across government agencies?

- A) \$21.6 million
- B) \$216 million**
- C) \$2.16 billion
- D) \$21.6 billion

16. Amidst the global chip crunch, Southeast Asia is seen as integral to semiconductor supply chains. Which country has been a significant hub for semiconductor production since the 1970s, making it a key player in addressing the shortage?

- A) Vietnam
- B) Singapore
- C) Malaysia**
- D) Thailand