

# East Asia's Turbulent Week: Geopolitical Shifts, Economic Forecasts, and Def

East Asia News · Answer Key · 16 Questions

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**1. Which East Asian nation recently saw its government outline policy priorities aimed at strengthening economic momentum, expanding domestic demand, and ensuring stable development, with specific plans for 2026-2030?**

- A) South Korea
- B) Japan
- C) China**
- D) Taiwan

**2. In early June 2026, China imposed sanctions on which high-ranking Philippine official, citing remarks that harmed China's interests and bilateral relations?**

- A) Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.
- B) Philippine Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro**
- C) Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Maria Theresa Lazaro
- D) Philippine National Security Adviser Eduardo Año

**3. Which East Asian country is undergoing significant labor law reforms effective in phases starting April 2026, including measures on gender pay gap disclosure and prevention of customer harassment?**

- A) South Korea
- B) China
- C) Japan**
- D) Vietnam

**4. Taiwan's legislature recently passed a significant supplemental defense budget. Approximately how much is this budget, intended to run from 2026 to 2033, for purchasing critical U.S. arms?**

- A) USD \$40 billion
- B) USD \$25 billion**
- C) USD \$11 billion
- D) USD \$50 billion

**5. North Korea's state media recently unveiled images of a new nuclear facility. What did a recent summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and Chinese Communist Party General Secretary Xi Jinping in Pyongyang emphasize, with no public mention of denuclearization?**

- A) Economic sanctions relief
- B) Military relations and cooperation**
- C) Joint space exploration programs
- D) Cultural exchange initiatives

**6. As of early June 2026, South Korea's semiconductor export data shows a divergence where export revenue is sharply rising despite declining volume. This trend is largely attributed to increased demand for which type of high-value chips?**

- A) DRAM
- B) NAND
- C) HBM (High Bandwidth Memory)**
- D) SSDs (Solid State Drives)

**7. Which East Asian nation's 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-2030) emphasizes the integration of climate, industrial, and economic policies, with the Environmental Code set to take effect in August 2026?**

- A) Japan
- B) South Korea
- C) Taiwan
- D) China**

**8. Amidst escalating tensions in the South China Sea, China has asserted its claims over Nanhai Zhudao (South China Islands) and adjacent waters. On what basis does China primarily assert its sovereignty and historic rights?**

- A) A 2016 arbitration decision by the Permanent Court of Arbitration.
- B) Historical management and administration of the islands and waters, consistent with international law.**
- C) The principle of 'historical usage' as a basis for territorial sovereignty claims, as defined by China.
- D) A bilateral agreement signed with the Philippines in 2018.

**9. Japan's upcoming labor reforms, taking effect in phases from April 2026, include new disclosure obligations for employers with over 100 employees. What specific information will they be required to publicly disclose?**

- A) Employee salary ranges and bonus structures.
- B) Gender pay gaps and the ratio of women in managerial positions.**
- C) Details of employee training programs and career development plans.
- D) Company profit margins and stock performance.

**10. What is the primary focus of the IAIT2026 conference being held in Bangkok, Thailand, in June 2026, aiming to position Thailand as a digital gateway?**

- A) E-commerce and digital marketing strategies.
- B) Artificial Intelligence (AI) regulations and cybersecurity.**
- C) Blockchain technology and decentralized finance.
- D) Renewable energy and sustainable technology adoption.

**11. North Korea has recently stated that its status as a nuclear-armed state is 'irreversible.' This statement comes in response to renewed calls from which three countries for denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula?**

- A) South Korea, Japan, and China
- B) United States, South Korea, and Japan**
- C) United States, China, and Russia
- D) South Korea, Russia, and China

**12. The Philippines hosted the 48th ASEAN Summit in May 2026. Which ongoing global crisis took center stage, overshadowing other issues like the South China Sea, due to its significant impact on energy security for many member states?**

- A) The ongoing conflict in Ukraine.
- B) The war in Iran and the closure of the Strait of Hormuz.**
- C) The global semiconductor shortage.
- D) The rise of climate change impacts.

**13. Which East Asian nation is implementing significant amendments to its labor and occupational safety regulations, including measures to prevent customer harassment and support for employees balancing medical treatment and work, with key dates in April and October 2026?**

- A) South Korea
- B) Taiwan
- C) Japan**
- D) Singapore

**14. In June 2026, China's 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-2030) is expected to integrate climate, industrial, and economic policies. What is a key component of China's strategy for strengthening industrial competitiveness and economic security, as reflected in this plan?**

- A) Reducing domestic consumption of energy.
- B) Increasing reliance on fossil fuel exports.
- C) Decarbonization as a core component.**
- D) Prioritizing heavy manufacturing over technological innovation.

**15. South Korea's Ministry of Trade, Industry and Resources announced a streamlining of import procedures for which critical semiconductor manufacturing equipment, reducing delivery times significantly?**

- A) Lithography machines
- B) Etching tools
- C) Extreme Ultraviolet (EUV) equipment**
- D) Chemical Vapor Deposition (CVD) systems

**16. The recent ASEAN Summit in Cebu highlighted the importance of energy and food security. Which long-term infrastructure project was mentioned as needing to be built out to improve interconnectivity among ASEAN members, with the ultimate goal of linking all 11 countries' grids?**

- A) The Pan-Asian High-Speed Rail Network
- B) The ASEAN Power Grid**
- C) The Trans-Asian Super Grid
- D) The Southeast Asian Energy Pipeline