

Ruth's Rankings 42 ASEAN – A Special Analysis of ASEAN Nations -Appendix A – Current News on educational events (<https://librarylearningspace.com/ruths-rankings-42-asean-special-analysis-asean-nations/>)

Below are sample stories on tertiary education making the English language news in ASEAN countries.

Brunei Darussalam has four accredited universities although only three appear in any rankings. Religion and government are part of the groundwork for Brunei's higher education policy. The *Borneo Bulletin* is a good source for up-to-date news. The article about UBD (University of Brunei Darussalam) states that UBS's "core mission is to produce future ready graduates who are guided by the values of Malay Islamic Monarchy" (UBD) and includes other information about the university's strategies (UBD).

Cambodia and Laos are countries least represented in any rankings. According to Hayden (2019) they face three challenges: public sector institutions need more autonomy from central government bureaucracies, because they are low-budget countries, there is a shortage of resources for tertiary education as they try to improve the pre-tertiary sectors. The third challenge is quality. Faculty qualifications are poor, and they are expected to publish but do not have the research skills. Last year (Sen) Cambodia's government announced plan to reform its education system with help from the World Bank.

Indonesia, with the fourth largest population in the world does not have enough quality universities to meet the needs of their students who are studying abroad. To meet the needs within Indonesia, Indonesian's president Widodo is backing a controversial 2018 law that will allow branch campuses (Dzulifkar, Sutriso).

Ruth's Rankings 24: Malaysia Higher Education – "Soaring Upward" or Not? was based on 2017 Malaysian news articles that chronicled the changes in funding to Malaysia's premier research universities, which have since been revisited. In October 2018 Clarivate Analytic in conjunction with Malaysian governmental organizations published a report on innovation and performance of Malaysian universities (See). The 2018-year end report on the education system (Rahman) reports on increased output and higher rankings from Malaysia's research universities.

Myanmar (referred to as Burma by the US government and in Webometrics) requires only nine years of schooling. With assistance from the EU, they are investing in improving primary, secondary and vocational and technical education. They are looking to private universities from English speaking countries to come in and offer more university education (Myanmar 2019). The US government is promoting the education industry in [Export.gov](https://www.export.gov) (Burma, 2019).

The Philippines instituted free college education in national universities in 2018 (Ma) and added local colleges and universities as well in 2019. Extensive statistical data on male and female participation in Philippines education is available in a report by the Philippine Statistics Authority (San Buenaventura).

Singapore has two of the world's highest ranked universities while the other universities are unranked by many major rankers. About 25% of Singapore's research output is from universities

compared to a world average of about 50% (Incites data, Oct 18, 2019). The country also promotes global talent at the expense of local talent and relevance to country (George, Pang).

Thailand's universities are struggling from an oversupply of seats due to an aging population and a significant drop in the birth rate. One strategy they are using is to attract more Chinese students.

Vietnam (presented as Viet Nam or Vietnam, even by the government) faces very different problems from Thailand. It does not have adequate spaces for all its students seeking admissions. It has been hampered by tight control by MOET (Ministry of Education and Training) and an adherence to rote learning and regurgitation (Temmerman).

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