GEOPOLITICS - IMPLICATIONS FOR ASEAN INVESTORS



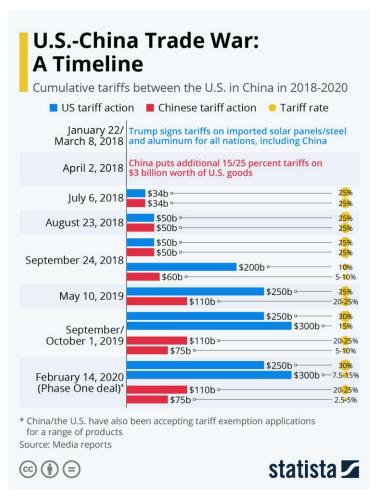


The sustainable investor for a changing world

Agenda

- Timeline and current state of US-China relationship
- Opportunities and risks with investments in the ASEAN region
- Role of ASEAN government policies in shaping investment opportunities

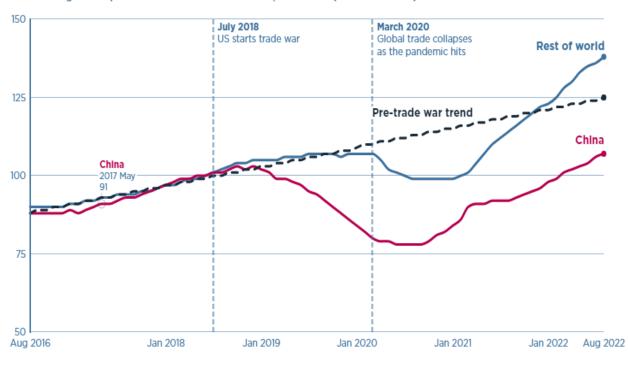




Source: Statista, August 17,2020

US imports from China have only recently returned to pre-trade war levels, while imports from the rest of the world are above trend





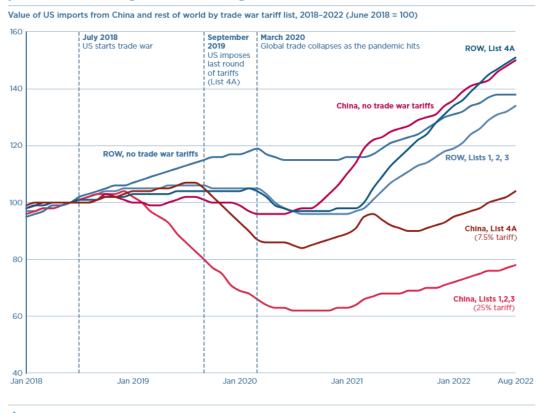


Notes: Indexed value of US monthly imports, not seasonally adjusted, 12-month trailing sums. Pre-trade war trend based on US imports from the world from August 2016 through June 2018.

Source: Four years into the trade war, are the US and China decoupling, Chad P. Bown, Peterson Institute for International Economics, Oct 20, 2022



US imports from China of products hit with tariffs remain low, while imports of products not facing tariffs have surged





ROW = Rest of world

Notes: Indexed value of US monthly imports, not seasonally adjusted, 12-month trailing sums. A "list" refers to the group of products subject to the US tariffs imposed on imports from China under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974.

Source: Four years into the trade war, are the US and China decoupling, Chad P. Bown, Peterson Institute for International Economics, Oct 20, 2022



High Offense Strategy

Constructive Competition

Offense

- Federal investment in infrastructure and 'new economy,' partly funded by progressive tax reforms
- Enacts 'Buy American' and supply-chain security focused legislation and executive orders

Defense

- US focuses trade barriers on acute security risks, reducing tariffs in pursuit of trade and cooperative goals

Low Defense Strategy

Passive Re-engagement

Offense

- Congressional gridlock hampers government investment in infrastructure and 'new economy' sectors

Defense

- US pursues parallel rollback of tariffs with China in perceived pragmatic self-interest
- Administration proves reluctant to incur economic costs of non-tariff barriers without clear end-goal

Competitive Confrontation [Current]

Offense

- Incentives to build out innovation pipeline in foundational science and emerging industries
- Federal investment in infrastructure and 'new economy' partly funded by progressive tax reforms

Defense

- Continuation and expansion of non-tariff barrier arrangements and policies to protect technology
- Enacts 'Buy American' and supply-chain security focused

High Defense Strategy

Fortress America

Offense

- Congressional gridlock hampers government investment in infrastructure and 'new economy' sectors

Defense

- Continuation of trade tariffs, with potential increase in frictions with other trade partners
- Security and ideological concerns see broader use of nontariff barriers and export and investment controls

Low Offense Strategy

Source: Morgan Stanley Research, "Seeking Security in the Multipolar World", Apr 23, 2023



- Different point of view and approaches have and will continue to make bilateral relationship volatile and fraught
- Accidents can throw things off
- Time is running out
- A delicate path for ASEAN political class as well



Implications

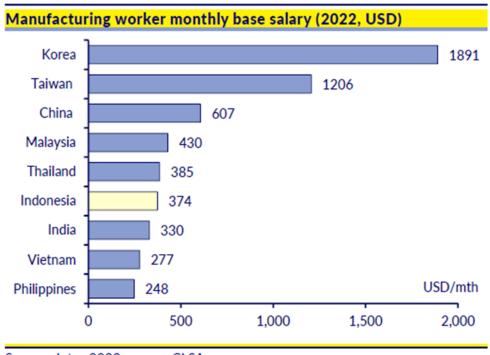
- Security has displaced cost as the determining condition for strategic sectors and supply lines
- China as the world's factory to "China + N" factories

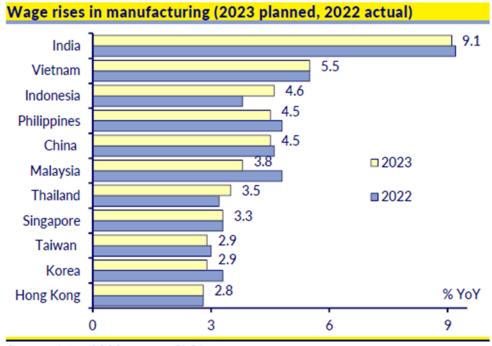


- Will focus on FDI and equity investments
- ASEAN has the ingredients of playing a significant role as part of the +N "factories"
- Competitive wage levels, generally decent infrastructure and existing base of production
- Also importantly general positive environment for investments



ASEAN Manufacturing wages



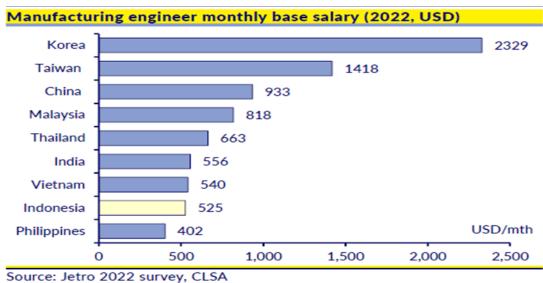


Source: Jetro 2022 survey, CLSA

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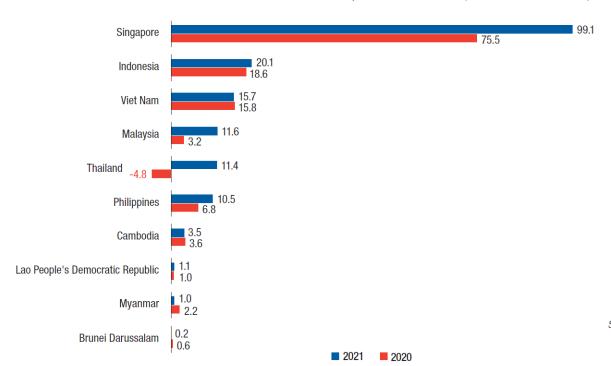


ASEAN Manufacturing wages

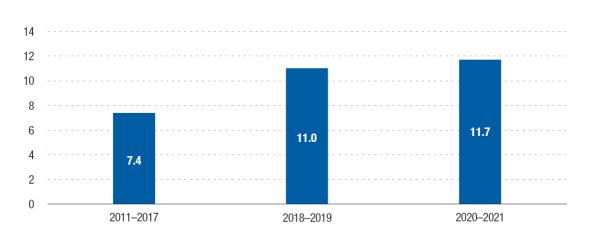




FDI inflows in ASEAN Member States, 2020 and 2021 (Billions of dollars)



ASEAN share of global FDI inflows (Percent)

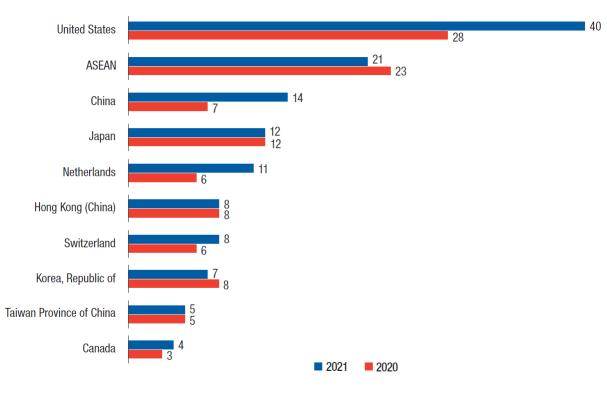


Source: UNCTAD, FDI/MNE database (https://unctad.org/fdistatistics).

Source: ASEAN Secretariat.



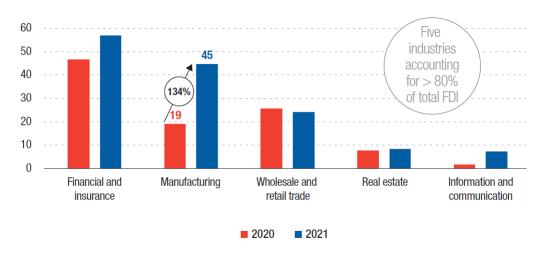
ASEAN: FDI inflows by top 10 investors, 2020-2021 (Billions of dollars)



Source: ASEAN Secretariat.

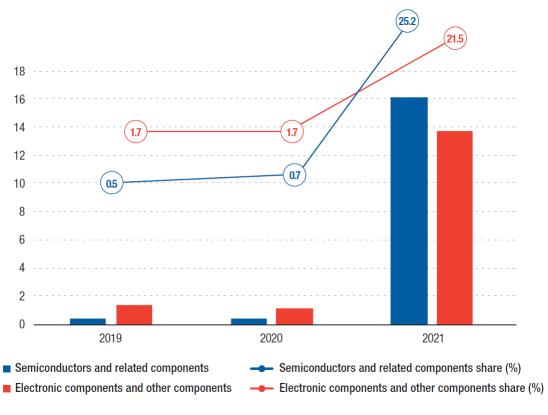


ASEAN: FDI by industry, 2020-2021 (Billions of dollars)



Source: ASEAN Secretariat.

ASEAN: announced greenfield investment in semiconductors and in electronic components, 2019-2021 (Billions of dollars and percent)



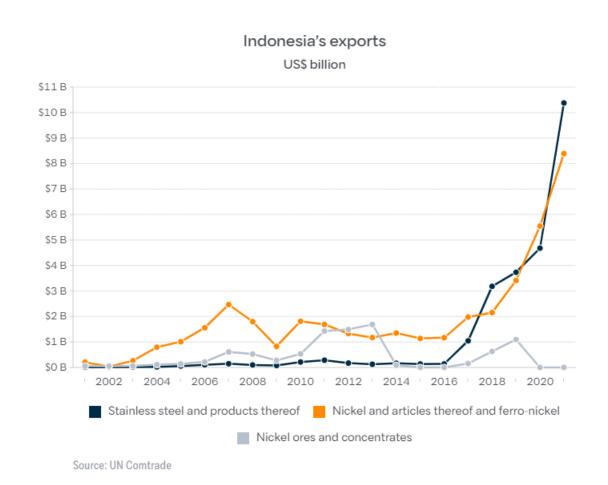
Source: UNCTAD, based on information from the Financial Times Ltd, fdi Markets (www.fdimarkets.com).



Role of ASEAN government policies in shaping investment opportunities

Indonesian example

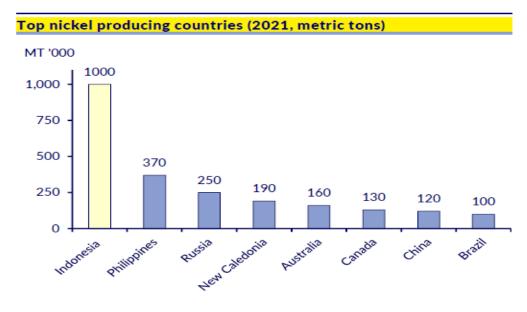






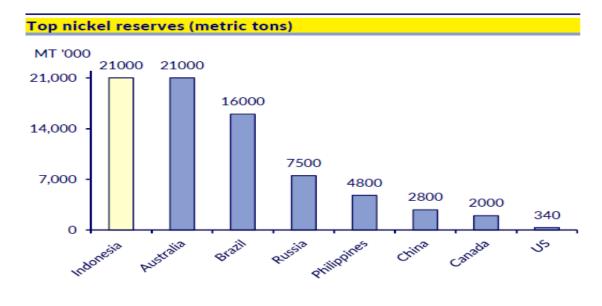
Indonesian – moving up the Nickel value chain

Top Nickel Production Countries



Source: Investing News Nickel INN, CLSA

Top Nickel Reserves Countries



Source: US Geological Survey, CLSA



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