



SNAPSHOTS OF THE WEEK - Economic and legal interrogations

August 18, 2020

Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs embarks on Southeast Asia tour

The Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs, Toshimitsu Motegi, embarks on an extensive tour of Southeast Asia, offering medical assistance to help countries contain the spread of the COVID-19. Agreements are already in place for Japan to provide hospital beds and ambulances to some members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). In July, Japan said it will provide the equivalent of 11.6 billion yen (\$109 million) in medical equipment and other supplies to five countries along the Mekong River - Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.

Will Japan's "medical diplomacy" in ASEAN weaken China sway?

August 18, 2020

The seventh round of negotiations between the European Union and the United Kingdom starts in Brussels

The seventh round of negotiations between the European Union and the United Kingdom takes place from 18 to 21 August 2020, in Brussels. The latest round of negotiations between the EU and UK on their future relationship resulted in no breakthrough on key sticking points. If a deal is not reached, trade rules will revert to those set by the World Trade Organization. As the UK and the EU continued talks on their relationship after a post-Brexit transition period runs out at the end of 2020, there are hopes that a final agreement could be ready for an October 15-16 EU leaders' summit.

Can an agreement between the EU and UK still be reached by October?

August 19, 2020

World Humanitarian Day

On August 19, the world commemorates humanitarian workers killed and injured in the course of their work, and honours all aid and health workers who continue, despite the odds, to provide life-saving support and protection to people most in need. This year World Humanitarian Day comes as the world continues to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, which has been the biggest challenge to humanitarian operations around the world. The lack of access and restrictions placed by Governments has resulted in communities, civil society and local NGOs being the frontline of the response.

What drives humanitarians to continue despite conflict, insecurity, lack of access and risks linked to COVID-19?

August 20, 2020

Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative invests in over 15,000 women-led businesses amidst COVID-19 crisis

The Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (We-Fi) announces its third funding allocation comprising \$49.3 Million - expected to benefit over 15,000 women-led businesses and mobilize about \$350 million of additional public and private sector resources. We-Fi's latest round of allocations addresses the needs of women entrepreneurs created by the COVID-19 crisis, and encourages innovation and digital development, partnership development and the use of results-based mechanisms to facilitate greater access to financing for women entrepreneurs.

What actions and support reaching women entrepreneurs are needed in this time of crisis?

August 21, 2020

USA attempts to shut China out of shaping APEC data protection

The USA proposes separating a key international framework for data protection from the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum. APEC's Cross-Border Privacy Rules (CBPR) system is a certification that companies can join to prove they meet internationally recognized data protections, allowing them to transfer such personal information as names and payment histories across borders without the onerous requirements that normally apply. By moving the framework out from under APEC, of which China is part, the USA is seen trying to keep valuable data from making its way to Beijing.

How the future USA-China relations on technology looks like?

For further cross-examinations and detailed analysis, please contact: research@gicel.ch.