Leaders, Laggers, and ASEAN 10 Performance in CPI, January 2022 Update

The Corruption Perception Index (CPI) January 2022 Update states that the scores of several democracies which used to top the index and champion anti-corruption efforts around the world are deteriorating. Many of the high-scoring countries with relatively "clean" public sectors continue to enable transnational corruption. Moreover, corruption levels have stagnated worldwide during the devastating COVID-19 pandemic in 2020-2021 (*Transparency International, 2022*).

Box 1
Factors Used in the CPI Assessment

Corrupt Behaviors in Public Sector	Mechanisms to Prevent Corruption
- Bribery - Diversion of public funds - Use of public office for private gain - Nepotism in the civil service - State capture	- Government's ability to enforce integrity mechanisms - Effective prosecution of corrupt officials - Red tape and excessive bureaucratic burden - Existence of adequate laws on financial disclosure - Conflict of interest prevention and access to information - Legal protection for whistleblowers, journalists, and investigators

Source of basic data: CPI Jan. 2022 Update, Transparency International

Box 1 presents the various factors used in the CPI assessment which look into the corrupt behaviors in the public sector and the mechanisms to prevent corruption. The CPI scale ranges from 0 = 'highly corrupt' to 100= 'very clean'. The CPI assessment reveals that out of 180 countries, more than 68% score below 50 while the average global score has been static at 43.

Table 1. Top 10 Countries, CPI
(By Score, 2012-2021)

Countries	2012	2014	2016	2018	2020	2021
Denmark	90	92	90	88	88	88
New Zealand	90	91	90	87	88	88
Finland	90	89	89	85	85	88
Sweden	88	87	88	85	85	85
Singapore	87	84	84	85	85	85
Norway	85	86	85	84	84	85
Switzerland	86	86	86	85	85	84
Netherlands	84	83	83	82	82	82
Luxembourg	80	82	81	81	80	81
Germany	79	79	81	80	80	80

Score scale: 0-highly corrupt; 100-very clean; Population-180 countries
Source of basic data: CPI Jan. 2022 Update, Transparency International

Table 1 shows the scores of the top 10 countries from 2012 to 2021. Denmark, New Zealand, and Finland consistently led in scores at 85 to 92 for the period. Overall, the least score which was attained by the countries in the Top 10 list is 79 (Germany, 2012-2014). Furthermore, the scores of this group are fluctuating except for Switzerland and Netherlands which continuously decreased from 86 to 84, and from 84 to 82, respectively.

Table 2. Bottom 10 Countries, CPI
(by Score, 2012- 2021)

Countries	2012	2014	2016	2018	2020	2021
Turkmenistan	17	17	22	20	19	19
Equatorial Guinea	20	-	-	16	16	17
Libya	21	18	14	17	17	17
Afghanistan	8	12	15	16	19	16
North Korea	8	8	12	14	18	16
Yemen	23	19	14	14	15	16
Venezuela	19	19	17	18	15	14
Somalia	8	8	10	10	12	13
Syria	26	20	13	13	14	13
South Sudan	-	15	11	13	12	11

Score scale: 0-highly corrupt; 100-very clean; Population-180 countries
Source of basic data: CPI Jan. 2022 Update, Transparency International

Table 2 shows the list of bottom 10 countries and their respective scores from 2012-2021. The least score which was attained by the countries in this group is 8, which was attained by Afghanistan in 2012, North Korea and Somalia in 2012 and 2014. The highest score garnered by the bottom 10 group is 26 by Syria in 2012.

Table 3 shows the scores of ASEAN 10 member-countries (AMCs) from 2012-2021. Singapore consistently leads the 10 AMCs from 2012-2021, with scores ranging from 84 (2014-2016) to 87 (2012). CPI reports that Singapore's modernized economy, efficient bureaucracy, and strong rule of law contribute to the country's success, but its decreasing scores manifest that it fell far behind on human rights such as freedom

of expression and association. Meanwhile, Myanmar registered the lowest score at 15 (2012). The Philippines, on the other hand, attained its highest score at 38 (2014) but its succeeding annual scores continuously decreased down to 33 in 2021. The CPI identifies the Philippines as a significant decliner having lost five (5) points since 2014.

TABLE 3. ASEAN 10 SCORES IN CPI (2012- 2021)

ASEAN 10 MC	2012	2014	2016	2018	2020	2021
Philippines	**34**	**38**	**35**	**36**	**34**	**33**
Brunei	55	NA	58	63	60	NA
Cambodia	22	21	21	20	21	23
Indonesia	32	34	37	38	37	38
Laos	21	25	30	29	29	30
Malaysia	49	52	49	47	51	48
Myanmar	15	21	28	29	28	28
Singapore	87	84	84	85	85	85
Thailand	37	38	35	36	36	35
Vietnam	31	31	33	33	36	39

Score scale: 0-highly corrupt; 100-very clean; Population -180 countries
Source of basic data: CPI Jan. 2022 Update, Transparency International

Table 4 shows the rankings in the CPI of the 10 AMCs from 2012-2021 out of 180 countries and territories. Among the 10 AMCs, Singapore tops the rankings from 2012-2021, followed by Brunei, but this country has not registered its scores and ranks for 2014 and 2021. On the other hand, Myanmar recorded the lowest ranks for 2012 and 2014, together with Cambodia for 2014. Cambodia continuously attained the lowest rankings from 2016-2021 among the 10 AMCs. Meanwhile, the Philippines ranked 3rd among AMCs for 2014; 5th for 2012 and 2018; 6th for 2016 and 2021; and 7th for 2020.

TABLE 4. ASEAN 10 RANKINGS IN CPI (2012- 2021)

ASEAN 10 MC	2012	2014	2016	2018	2020	2021
Philippines	104	84	105	99	115	117
Brunei	45	NA	43	31	35	NA
Cambodia	155	155	157	161	160	157
Indonesia	117	106	93	89	102	96
Laos	159	144	127	132	134	128
Malaysia	53	50	55	61	57	62
Myanmar	171	155	137	132	137	140
Singapore	5	7	7	3	3	4
Thailand	87	84	104	99	104	110
Vietnam	122	118	114	117	104	87
Philippines' Rank among AMCs	5	3	6	5	7	6

Ranking scale: 1-top; 180-bottom; Population -180 countries
Source of basic data: CPI Jan. 2022 Update, Transparency Internation

Table 5 shows changes in scores of the AMCs from 2012-2021. Positive score change increases the country's score leading towards "clean from corruption", while negative score change decreases the country's score resulting in "more corrupt" perception. Significant highest (10) and lowest (-6) score changes were registered in 2012. The Philippines registered the highest positive score change (10), while Singapore recorded the lowest negative score change (-6). Myanmar, in its case, registered its highest score change at 7 (2016) but went down to -1 (2020). Vietnam is the only AMC which registered sustained or positive change in scores from 2012-2021. Meanwhile, the Philippines also recorded decreases in scores of up to -3 for 2016. As of January 2022, the Transparency International records countries with statistically significant changes in scores (+, -), which includes the Philippines, Vietnam, and Myanmar.
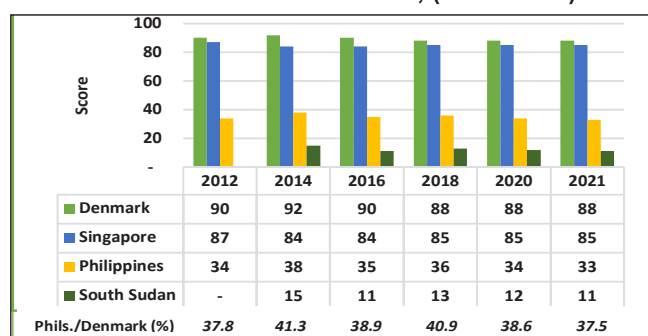
TABLE 5. CHANGE IN SCORE, ASEAN 10 (2012 - 2021)

ASEAN 10 MC	2012	2014	2016	2018	2020	2021
Philippines	**10**	**4**	**-3**	**1**	**-2**	**-1**
Brunei	0	NA	NA	5	-3	NA
Cambodia	1	-1	0	-1	1	2
Indonesia	4	2	3	1	-1	1
Laos	0	4	5	-1	0	1
Malaysia	5	3	-3	-2	4	-3
Myanmar	1	6	7	1	-1	0
Singapore	-6	-3	0	1	0	0
Thailand	2	1	-3	1	0	-1
Vietnam	4	0	2	0	3	3

Sources of basic data: CPI 2010 and Jan. 2022 Update, TI

Figure 1 presents a comparative score chart of topnotcher Denmark, bottom country South Sudan, AMC topnotcher Singapore, and the Philippines, from 2012-2021. In ratio, the Philippines' annual scores compared to Denmark are low. They are equivalent to 37.8% (2012); 41.3% (2014); 38.9% (2016); 40.9% (2018); 38.6% (2020); and 37.5% (2021). Singapore's ratios (scores compared to Denmark's) for the same period, on average, is 95.2%. Meanwhile, for 2012-2021, the Philippines' average ratio, comparing its scores to Singapore, is 41.2% only. All listed countries recorded lower scores for 2020-2021 during the pandemic.

FIGURE 1. PHILIPPINES VS. LEADERS AND LAGGER BY SCORE AND PERCENTAGE, (2012 -2021)

	2012	2014	2016	2018	2020	2021
Denmark	90	92	90	88	88	88
Singapore	87	84	84	85	85	85
Philippines	34	38	35	36	34	33
South Sudan	-	15	11	13	12	11
Phils./Denmark (%)	37.8	41.3	38.9	40.9	38.6	37.5

Source of basic data: CPI Jan. 2022 Update, Transparency International