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**SOUTH CHINA SEA TENSIONS AND MYANMAR VIOLENCE TOP AGENDA FOR SOUTHEAST ASIAN ENVOYS MEETING IN LAOS**

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David Rising

*Chinas growingly assertive posture in the South China Sea and escalating violence in Myanmar topped the agenda for Southeast Asian diplomats meeting in Laos on Monday.*

The gathering is the first high-level meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations since Laos took over the rotating chairmanship.

The diplomats for the 10 nations with a combined population of nearly 650 million and GDP of more than \$3 trillion will work to strategize on issues of regional peace, security and stability. They were also discussing economic cooperation and other issues under the years theme enhancing connectivity and resilience.

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Kaynak/Source: