# Geographic Snapshot: Asia-Pacific



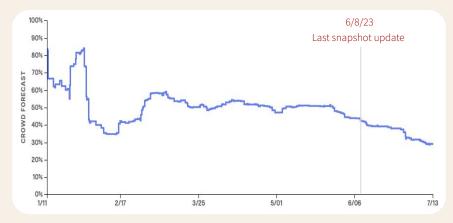
A summary of INFER forecasts on elections, diplomacy, and geopolitical events in the region. Data as of 13 July 2023

### East Asia & Pacific Region • South & Central Asia Region

Will Myanmar hold national elections on or before 31 December 2023?

29% chance



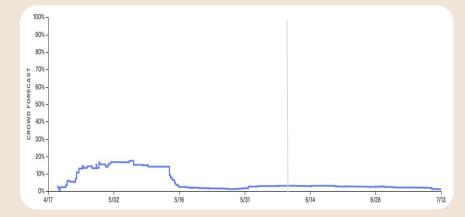


See detailed forecast rationales • See consensus trend and crowd profile

Will Prayut Chan-o-cha be re-elected as prime minister of Thailand by the Thai parliament after the next election and before 1 Jan 2024?

**1%** chance



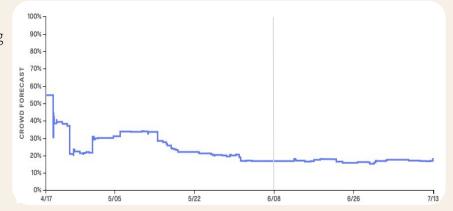


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Will the Global Protest Tracker record a significant antigovernment protest involving 10,000 or more participants in Thailand between April 2023 and April 2024?

18% chance



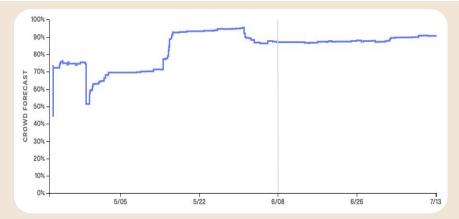


See detailed forecast rationales • See consensus trend and crowd profile

Will the Pheu Thai Party be part of a governing coalition in Thailand after the next election and before 1 Jan 2024?

91% chance

Up 4% from 6/8/23
Based on 138 forecasts

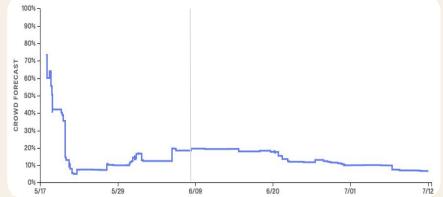


See detailed forecast rationales • See consensus trend and crowd profile

Will Imran Khan be re-elected as prime minister following Pakistan's upcoming general election?

 $7\%_{\scriptscriptstyle \mathsf{chance}}$ 

Down 12% from 6/8/23
Based on 124 forecasts



See detailed forecast rationales • See consensus trend and crowd profile



# APPENDIX: Forecaster Rationale Summaries

This section presents a high-level summary of forecasters' rationales for each question in the report, along with the crowd forecast and change in consensus since the last report (in parentheses). Rationales can be found in full by clicking "See detailed forecast rationales", and a list of sources linked within rationales can be found by clicking "See source links". The data in this report is from 1 June through 13 July 2023.

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# Will Myanmar hold national elections on or before 31 December 2023?

Crowd Forecast: 29% chance (+15%) | See detailed forecast rationales | See source links

#### Higher probability forecasts discuss...

legitimacy.

#### Promise of elections: The military junta has repeatedly stated its intention to hold elections in 2023, originally promising them by August 2023. The head of the junta views elections as important for establishing

- New election rules and technology: The junta has taken some steps that could prepare for elections, like implementing new election rules and testing electronic voting machines.
- Voting may happen only in junta strongholds: The question's criteria only require that voting occurs anywhere in Myanmar, even if canceled in some locations due to instability. The junta may be able to hold voting in areas it firmly controls.

- Extended state of emergency: The junta extended the state of emergency in February 2023, constitutionally allowing them to delay elections until early 2024. They may extend it further.
- Unclear election logistics: The absence of an announced election date, lack of evidence that voter registration has begun, and challenges posed by territorial disputes and fighting raise logistical questions about whether nationwide elections can happen by the end of 2023.
- Junta lacks full control: The junta does not fully control the country. Parts are held by ethnic armed groups and resistance forces who oppose the military. Holding legitimate voting may not be feasible.



Will Prayut Chan-o-cha be re-elected as prime minister of Thailand by the Thai parliament after the next election and before 1 Jan 2024?

Crowd Forecast: 1% chance (+2%) | See detailed forecast rationales | See source links

Legal or political maneuvering: Prayut     Prayut's retirement: Prayut has made	igher probability forecasts discuss	Lower probability forecasts discuss
Chan-o-cha still has some support from conservative factions like the military and the courts. He could potentially get re-elected through legal maneuvers or with help from the military-appointed Senate.  Prayut's unpopularity: Pre-election opinion polls consistently showed Prayut lagging fabehind opposition candidates. His party performed poorly in the constituency vote, and as outgoing PM, Prayut would lack support to effectively govern even if re-elected by legal maneuvers  Opposition's election victory: The opposition coalition led by the Move Forward party has a majority in the House of Representatives. They are likely to elect the own preferred candidate for PM.  Withdrawn support from allies: The King and the military are signaling they will not strongly back efforts to keep Prayut in pow	conservative factions like the military and the courts. He could potentially get re-elected through legal maneuvers or with help from	<ul> <li>Prayut's unpopularity: Pre-election opinion polls consistently showed Prayut lagging far behind opposition candidates. His party performed poorly in the constituency vote, and as outgoing PM, Prayut would lack support to effectively govern even if re-elected by legal maneuvers</li> <li>Opposition's election victory: The opposition coalition led by the Move Forward party has a majority in the House of Representatives. They are likely to elect their own preferred candidate for PM.</li> <li>Withdrawn support from allies: The King and the military are signaling they will not strongly back efforts to keep Prayut in power. Without their active support, his re-election</li> </ul>



Will the Global Protest Tracker record a significant antigovernment protest involving 10,000 or more participants in Thailand between April 2023 and April 2024?

Crowd Forecast: 18% chance (†1%) | See detailed forecast rationales | See source links

#### Higher probability forecasts discuss...

# Party: The opposition Move Forward Party: The opposition Move Forward Party won the most seats in the May 2023 elections. However, the military-backed establishment has blocked Pita Limjaroenrat, the party's candidate for prime minister, from taking power with only 13 of the 249 military-appointed senators voting in support of his nomination. There is also a possibility of the Constitutional Court dissolving the Move Forward Party entirely on technicalities. All of these factors could trigger large protests by Move Forward supporters.

- Historical precedent: There is a history of large protests in Thailand, including one of over 10,000 participants in 2020 calling for democratic reforms. If the public feels their will expressed through elections is subverted, similar protests could occur.
- Evidence of protest preparation: Security
   officials are preparing contingency plans in
   case protests break out around the new
   government formation. After Pita
   Limjaroenrat was blocked from taking power,
   shipping containers were stacked and razor
   wire was laid out around Parliament,
   suggesting a real risk of unrest.

- No major protests: No major protests have occurred since the May 2023 elections. This may indicate that the public is willing to accept the new government even if it is not their preferred one.
- Party alliances: Move Forward was able to form a coalition with seven other parties, giving it over 300 seats in Parliament. While short of a majority, it reduces the chances of immediate conflict within the government.
- Mass polling: While there is dissatisfaction with the military's role in politics, surveys also show many Thais are "bored" with protests and want political stability. Over 75% said they would accept the new government even if it is not their choice.
- Weak historical precedent: Thailand has seen political instability and coups in the past, but protests topping 10,000 participants are still relatively rare historically. The 2020 protest was an outlier in the past decade.
- Lack of indicators: Some forecasts see a low probability of a 10,000+ person protest occurring in the next year given the lack of imminent catalysts or current momentum toward such an event.



Will the Pheu Thai Party be part of a governing coalition in Thailand after the next election and before 1 Jan 2024?

Crowd Forecast: 91% chance (†4%) | See detailed forecast rationales | See source links

#### Higher probability forecasts discuss...

# Pheu Thai Party an important player: Pheu Thai won a significant number of seats (141) in the House of Representatives in the May 2023 election, making them an important partner for forming a governing coalition. Some forecasts cite the electoral math making it difficult to form a government without Pheu Thai.

- Alliances forged: Pheu Thai and the Move Forward Party signed a memorandum of understanding with other parties after the election agreeing to form a coalition opposing the current military-backed government. This coalition holds a majority of seats in parliament.
- Political incentives: Some forecasters argue that Pheu Thai wants power and influence, so they have incentive to be part of the governing coalition rather than the opposition. Their concessions on issues like the House speakership indicate a willingness to compromise to make the coalition work. Further, forecasters note that Pheu Thai would likely take the lead in the coalition if the Move Forward Party was disqualified or if its leader Pita Limjaroenrat once again fails to become prime minister.
- Leverage: Pheu Thai is still politically powerful and backed by former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra. The party has a strong political base they can leverage in coalition negotiations.

- Uncertain future of allies: There is uncertainty around the future of Move Forward and its leader Pita Limjaroenrat, who has been blocked from becoming prime minister by the conservative establishment. In the event the establishment creates an alternative coalition excluding Move Forward, Pheu Thai's role in the governing coalition is even less certain.
- Political risks: There are concerns Pheu Thai may abandon Move Forward if they see the party's progressive stances as politically risky. This could lead to Pheu Thai forming a more conservative coalition without Move Forward
- Passage of time: There is still time before the new government is formed in August. If negotiations fall apart, Pheu Thai could be left out of the governing coalition.
- Status quo: There are concerns that the current government leaders will not accept changes in power and are working behind the scenes to maintain the status quo. Some forecasts see the current government and military lingering on in power by blocking Pheu Thai's inclusion in government.



# Will Imran Khan be re-elected as prime minister following Pakistan's upcoming general election?

Crowd Forecast: 7% chance (+12%) | See detailed forecast rationales | See source links

#### Higher probability forecasts discuss...

- Grassroots popularity: Khan is very popular among large segments of the Pakistani public. Some polls and analysts suggest he is the most popular political leader in the country. His popularity stems from his image as an anti-corruption crusader and his appeals to Pakistani nationalism.
- Khan's dedicated support base: Despite the government crackdown, Khan has a strong base of passionate supporters who have protested against his arrest and the pressure on his party.
- Skilled campaigner: Khan is an effective campaigner and orator who can rally his base. His positioning as an anti-establishment, populist leader appeals to many voters frustrated with the status quo.
- Potential benefits of delayed election:
   Delays in the upcoming general election could work in his favor if it allows memories of the recent crackdown to fade and his party to regroup.

- Legal troubles: The military and current government strongly oppose Khan and will look for ways to disqualify him as a candidate. He faces numerous legal charges that could prevent him from running.
- Loss of military support: Imran Khan's calls for mass protests and accusation that the military was behind his ouster have angered the military establishment. Without the backing of the military, who many see as kingmakers in Pakistani politics, his path to victory is very difficult.
- Party defections: Khan's party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), has seen mass resignations and defections after the government crackdown, weakening its viability and Khan's chances if he runs.



# B. The Forecasters

The forecasters who have participated thus far in these questions have the following profile:

- 108 total forecasters
- 53% are "INFER Pros" participants in INFER's Pro Forecaster Program, who were selected based on their accuracy track record of at least 1 year on INFER or other similar forecasting sites or programs.

#### **Demographics**

Country	Ratio
USA	42%
Canada, UK, Australia, New Zealand	11%
Europe	18%
Latin America, Caribbean	16%
Asia	12%
Africa	2%



# C. Report Methodology

Rationales of INFER forecasters have been selected and summarized by Claude, an Al assistant tool created by Anthropic. To build the rationale summaries presented in this report, we provided forecasts (probabilities and narrative rationales) to Claude to summarize into bulleted lists of arguments. We then manually edited the bulleted summaries for accuracy and readability to ensure that each list item accurately represented forecasters' rationales and was assigned to the proper list.

Each question in the report also includes links to the crowd forecasts, rationales, and source links used by forecasters.