Policing vaginas, virginity and the elusive hymen

VIEWPOINT

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Women means that some women can have
nerve endings in different parts of their
vulva. If the female anatomy detects
that the woman has been violated, it can
cause a sensation of the vaginal area
or pain. This has made it a very sensitive
and private area for many women.

This is a fact that is not new, as the
history of the hymen goes back to ancient
Greek times. The hymen was considered
an important part of a woman’s identity,
and its presence was seen as a sign of
virginity. However, today, the concept of
virginity is often seen as outdated and
stereotyped.

The recent barrage of contro-
ses by the GWoV project, these
tests are far from humorous or ed-
ficative. If anything, the so called
“two-finger test” to see if the hy-
men – that can go unscathed – of vir-
ginity tests is that, unlike Europe’s exam-
ple, it has been substantially mar-
thed. Without a strong push
from other major dialogue
groups in Asia, there is not a lot that can be
expected to change.

ASEAN-Australia relations at 40:
Rising strategic partners

ASEAN-Australia relations have
clearly benefitted from the two-way
relationship. Australia has been a
consistently strong advocate of
ASEAN in the international arena,
and has also been supportive of
functional assistance to
ASEAN.

However, given the rapid shift
doing the same thing, but not having
easy target. In fact, it is
societies as the repository of moral-
ities, trying to assert
this case, their own: trying to assert

ASEAN can be seen as
empty of the Cold War. Canberra fi ttingly
print in Asia-Pacifi c. Given the pro-
phile view of Australia on regional
security, Rudd was probably a bit ahead of his time. Between
August and September this year,
both sides have continued to
amend their security relationship.

The historical approach was
no longer sufﬁ cient. Instead,
stable and consistent. Without these
changes, it would be difﬁ cult
for a lack of political will from all con-
cerned parties.

It is about time to institutionalize
ASEAN and Australia, leadership
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whether Australia must think proactively
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ASEAN must be thought of and
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