



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE FOOD SECURITY RELATED INFORMATION

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Indonesia

In response of flash flood in Bima, West Nusa Tenggara, emergency relief period has been extended from 5 to 12 January 2016. There were at least 900 residents in temporary shelters while activities in schools and health centres have not returned to normal states because of damages on facilities and equipment along with lack of personnel. The joint clean-up team has not fully achieved clearing all flood debris, also.

Source: Nugraha, P. (2017, Jan 5). *Bima emergency relief work extended to Jan. 12.* The Jakarta Post.

Malaysia

Since 31 December 2016, floods in the Terengganu and Kelantan states caused over 25,000 displaced people but no injuries or fatalities were reported. In the state of Terengganu, there were 12,910 displaced people in 123 evacuation shelters and Hulu Terengganu district was hit worst. Search and rescues have been operated. Meanwhile, there were 12,615 displaced people from 4,298 families staying in 65 evacuation centres in the Kelantan state.

Source: Davies, R. (2017, Jan 4). *Malaysia – 25,000 Evacuate Floods in Terengganu and Kelantan.* FloodList.

Myanmar

Humanitarian aids to the northern Rakhine state must be approved through diplomatic channels and delivered by the government.

International donor organisations as well as ASEAN member countries must follow regulations and guidelines from the government earnestly for fair distribution of humanitarian assistances including food and emergency supplies in the state.

Source: Aung, N. L. (2017, Jan 6). *Govt insists Rakhine aid go through diplomatic channels.* Myanmar Times.

Philippines

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) strengthened coordination with the local government units for need assessment of families affected by Typhoon Nock-Ten. The DSWD has already supplied 15,000 family food packs to the local government of Marinduque and will deploy the quick response teams in the Bicol region for further help in relief operations.

Source: Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) of the Philippines (2017, Jan 6). *DSWD vows to strengthen coordination with LGUS to ensure recovery of over 2M locals displaced by 'Nina'.*

Thailand

There are concerns of drought to hit farmlands in the North and upper Central regions, following decreases in water levels in the Yom river and other natural sources. Parts of the Yom river running through Phichit have been dried up and a sandbar has been observed in the middle of the Chao Phraya River near Ang Thong. Rice farmers are advised to grow other crops requiring less water or dig ponds for planting rice off the rainy season. However, the advice on other crops has been argued as it is not realistic and worthy to improve livelihoods and rice farmers are forced to grow rice despite risks of facing drought and low rice prices.

Source: Sihawong, C. and Kebui, S. (2017, Jan 8). *Fears mount as Yom's water levels drop.* Bangkok Post.

From 1 to 6 January 2017, monsoonal floods were reported affected 9 southern provinces. Those affected provinces were Chumphon, Surat Thani, Nakhon Si Thammarat, Phatthalung, Trang, Songkhla, Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat. Preliminarily, floods were expected to damage 3,615 rai (578 hectares) of paddy fields or 41 percent out of the total 8,713 rai (1,394 hectares) of farmlands. Rice and relief items were distributed to victims in Narathiwat, Nakhon Si Thammarat, Phatthalung and Songkhla. In addition, assistances were by drainage as well as evacuation, feed and healthcare for livestock.

* 1 rai (Thai system) = 0.16 hectare

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives of Thailand (2017, Jan 6). *Report of disaster situation in agriculture (Thai Version)*.

Viet Nam

The Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs received requests for emergency rice supply for assisting people affected by disasters. Those requests came from 12 provinces such as Yen Bai, Nghe An, Quang Ngai and Dak Nong from the North down to the south-central part and central highlands, asking for 14,700 tonnes of rice in total. Besides, this ministry asked authorities to review situations for determining the number of residents for support before making more requests which are expected from the central region. Rice will be provided until 20 January 2017.

Source: Tuoi Tre News. (2017, Jan 4). *12 Vietnamese provinces request urgent rice support before Tet*.

China

An earthquake early response and warning system, consisting of 15,000 observation stations, will cover the country by 2020. Observation stations will be spread across the North, the southeastern coast and the North-South Seismic Belt covering the provinces of Sichuan, Gansu and Yunnan. The system is expected to alert people within seconds after earthquakes. This project requires startup investment of 2 billion yuan (290 million USD) and should serve public security and national strategies. Recently, anti-seismic design standard have been set for construction of nuclear, power and other major projects as well as earthquake preparedness in cities and rural areas. Houses will be either retrofitted or rebuilt for at least 18 million farmers by 2020, also.

Source: Huanxin, Z. (2017, Jan 6). *Earthquake monitoring network set*. China Daily.

Gathered by the Food Emergency Monitoring and Information (FEMI) Sub-Division of the APTERR Secretariat
Tel: +66 (0) 2579 4816-17 Fax: +66 (0) 2579 4840
Email: kanin.lao@apterr.org / kanin.la34@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.apterr.org/>

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