



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE FOOD SECURITY RELATED INFORMATION

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24 – 30 May 2017

Indonesia

The 6.6-magnitude earthquake was reported at 38 km northwest of Poso, Sulawesi Tengah province. The earthquake was felt strong for 20 seconds. However, its intensity was measured at the weak level and did not trigger tsunami. There were no damages and victims.

Source: National Disaster Management Authority (BNPB) (2017, May 29). *Earthquake Magnitude 6.6 Centered at Land Hit Poso*. News.

Lao PDR

The World Food Programme (WFP)'s commitment is to support the Lao government to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) by ending malnutrition. The WFP has developed the nutrient gap analysis with details of nutrition dietary intake, food security, household food expenditure and socio-economic status. The analysis has been carried out to facilitate future decision making of the government to improve quality and access to nutritious food, especially during the critical period of the initial 1,000 days of life.

Source: Vientiane Times (2017, May 26). *First thousand days key as ministry, WFP seek child nutrition gains*.

Philippines

As of 29 May 2017, as many as 60,000 people have been displaced by conflict in Marawi City, Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). Of those, approximately 4,200 are staying in 11 evacuation centres while the rest are staying with relatives and friends. The national government has established a regional command and coordination centre in Iligan City, 37km north of Marawi City. The ARMM government is still evacuating citizens trapped within parts of the city where the conflict continues. Regional social welfare authorities are coordinating the distribution of relief items to those displaced. The national government has not made a request for international assistance.

Source: United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) (2017, May 29). *Asia and the Pacific: Weekly Regional Humanitarian Snapshot (23-29 May 2017)*.

Thailand

The Meteorological Department has continued to advise people of heavy rain. Meanwhile, according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, water situation in many areas are sufficient for agriculture due to the recent rainfall. The Ministry also ordered the Royal Irrigation Department to provide water management equipment and pumps for potential flooding in Chao Phraya Dam.

Source: National News Bureau of Thailand (2017, May 29). *Heavy rain continues across the country*.

Viet Nam

Countries in the Mekong River have been urged to stop building hydroelectric dams as alluvial soil and nutrients are being depleted. This posed a threat to regional water security and will affect agriculture in Viet Nam. Alternatives to save water are suggested by using wet and dry methods, reducing rice areas in the dry season, changing rice to crops requiring less water, storing water by wetlands and flood water retention. Viet Nam also needs to develop strategies attracting funds from public and private sectors for investment in irrigation and put these environmental issues in national education.

Source: Viet Nam News (2017, May 30). *Mekong basin dams pose danger: experts.*

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* This Weekly Update on ASEAN Plus Three Food Security Related Information is based on all available sources during the period. The APTERR Secretariat shall take no responsibility for data accuracy in this publication and any consequence of their use.

P.R. China

Juncao Technology, promoted by China-UN Peace and Development Trust Fund, was launched at the UN headquarters to help developing countries reduce hunger and explore renewable energy. This project provides an agricultural technology to cultivate edible and medicinal fungi by using wild grasses and herbal plants instead of trees or woods. This project is also used to produce clean energy generated from the burning of Juncao grown on one hectare of land which is equivalent to 50 tonnes of coal. This project has been brought to countries like Fiji and South Africa, helping them to improve food security, increase income for farmers and create environmental benefits.

Source: Xinhua (2017, May 27). *Project of China-UN development fund launched at UN headquarters.*