



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE FOOD SECURITY RELATED INFORMATION

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Indonesia

Indonesia was hit by landslides, floods and flash floods during heavy downpours. The natural disaster took place at the North Sumatra province of western Indonesia just before midnight on 12 December 2018.

Two people were confirmed dead and six others missing from these occurrences. Sliding soil hit and buried three houses in Halado village of Toba Samosir district and the landslides also cut off road connecting districts in the region, said the spokesman of the national disaster management agency Sutopo Purwo Nugroho.

Source: Xinhua. (2018, Dec 13). *2 killed, 6 missing due to landslides in North Sumatra, Indonesia.*

Malaysia

The number of evacuees in Terengganu are increased by the monsoon floods. As the flood situation in Terengganu was worsen, the number of evacuees have risen up to 1,622 people from 506 families as of 14 December 2018, from 950 people (327 families) on the day before. There are 19 flood relief centres opening to cater for the increase of evacuees in the three flood-affected districts in the state, namely Hulu Terengganu, Kemaman and Setiu.

According to the Social Welfare Department's Info Bencana portal, Hulu Terengganu continued to record the highest number of evacuees totaling 1,161 people, followed by Kemaman with 448 people and Setiu, 13 people.

The Drainage and irrigation Department (DID), in the same portal, stated that the water level at all the main flood assessment points in the state has yet reached the danger mark.

However, The water level reading at several rivers in the state has exceeded the warning level such as Sungai Besut and Sungai Telemong in Kuala Ping, Hulu Terengganu; Sungai Dungun, Sungai Kemaman, Sungai Marang, Sungai Setiu and Sungai Nerus.

Source: Bemama. (2018, Dec 14). *More people evacuated in Terengganu due to floods.*

Thailand

Flash floods have hit the southern provinces of Thailand; Nakhon Si Thammarat and Surat Thani. In downtown Nakhon Si Thammarat, following two days of downpours on Sunday morning 16 December 2018, floods caused widespread damage - materially and economically. Almost every house along the street, along with minor roads, were under 30 to 70 centimetres of water. Officials said residents had to "move upstairs".

Hundreds of businesses, including banks and grocery stores, were forced to remain closed on Monday, 17 December 2018. Residents waded down the nearly deserted main street of Nakhon Si Thammarat town and 35 schools were closed.

Army chief Gen. Apirat Kongsompong led aid efforts in boats to hand survival kits to flood victims. Military doctors joined local officials in giving immediate help to villagers.

According to Mr Prinya, Head of Nakhon Si Thammarat's irrigation office, officials used

15 pumps and eight water-pushing boats to speed up drainage. However, their work was hampered by a large amount of garbage that became lodged in the machines.

In Surat Thani province, low-lying areas in seven districts of Tha Chang, Chaiya, Koh Samui, Muang, Kanchanadit, Don Sak and Tha Chana were also flooded and affected over 3,000 households.

Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Prawit Wongsuwan has ordered the three armed forces to head south with troops and equipments to help the areas hard hit by flooding.

The weather bureau has updated its forecast. The southern provinces will face more rain as well as heavy rain in some areas caused by the strong northeastern monsoon looming over the southern region and the Gulf of Thailand.

Source: Bangkok Post. (2018, Dec 18). *Floodwaters ravage Nakhon Si Thammarat*; The Tiger (2018, Dec 18). *Troops on stand-by to assist flooded southern provinces*.

Viet Nam

A flood caused by heavy rain in the central of Viet Nam, including the city of Da Nang. An extreme northeast monsoon has caused huge amounts of rain falling over the centre of the country since 8 December 2018. Da Nang and many central provinces have been severe flooded.

The death toll has risen to 14. The officials in Binh Dinh province reported six deaths as of 12 December 2018, while five bodies have been found in Quang Nam, two in Quang Tri and one in Thua Thien-Hue. The flood also damaged around 12,000 hectares of rice and crops, nearly 163,500 livestock killed and damaged 123 km of dykes and irrigation canals and over 128.7 km of roads.

The floodwaters are now receding. However, meteorologists warned more rain

is forecast to continue for the rest of the week.

Source: The Weekend Australian. (2018, Dec 12). *Death toll 14 from Vietnam flash floods*; Report News Agency. (2018, Dec 13). *Vietnam floods: 14 people killed*; The Watchers. (2018, Dec 13). *Massive floods hit Central Vietnam after extreme northeast monsoon dumps record-breaking rain*.

China

16 people were injured after a magnitude 5.7 earthquake hit Sichuan on 16 December 2018. At 5:30 pm on Sunday, 16 people had been reported injured in the earthquake, the ministry said. A total of 378 people have been evacuated and more than 300 rescuers have been sent to the quake site, according to the local government.

The earthquake hit the county of Xingwen in the city of Yibin, Sichuan Province, with a depth of 12 km. The epicenter was monitored 70 km away from Yibin and 270 km from Chengdu, capital city of Sichuan Province, the China Earthquake Networks Center said.

Residents in areas near the epicenter felt strong tremors, some houses collapsed and some roads were cut off by landslides.

Source: Xinhua. (2018, Dec 16). *Emergency response activated for earthquake in SW China*.

Gathered by the APTERR Secretariat
Tel: +66 (0) 2579 4816-17 Fax: +66 (0) 2579 4840
Email: nattavadee@apterr.org
Website: <http://www.apterr.org/>

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