



## WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE FOOD SECURITY RELATED INFORMATION

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### **Brunei Darussalam**

***Two hundred flood victims from Temburong District received financial assistance from the government on 31 March 2018.*** This flood was due to heavy rainfall at the end of last year and affected 23 villages from Bangar, Amo, Bokok and Batu Apoi. The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports provided financial assistance whereas food packages and rations were delivered by the Community Development Department to flood victims.

**Source:** Borneo Bulletin (2018, Apr 1). *Flood victims receive financial assistance.*

***Due to the monsoon cycle from April to May 2018, the country will face active thunderstorms over inside areas towards coastal areas.*** Strong winds and flash floods due to heavy rain may occur during the period. The Brunei Darussalam Meteorological Department will continue to monitor weather conditions and to issue weather advisory as well as warnings if necessary.

**Source:** Borneo Bulletin (2018, Mar 29). *Rains, thunderstorms possible in April-May.*

### **Indonesia**

***Floods and landslides affected North Sumatra, West Sulawesi and East Kalimantan Provinces from 21 to 26 March 2018.*** In North Sumatra, there were two deaths, one injury and three damaged houses. In West Sulawesi, there were seven injuries, above 3,000 affected people and 1,089 submerged houses. Simboro and Mamuju Regencies were affected most. In East Kalimantan, there were 9,300 affected people and the Mayor of Samarinda City declared emergency status to help expedite disbursement of relief and recovery funds. Moreover, the National Disaster Management Authority (BNPB) reported that people have died by landslides more than other disaster types. Since 1 January 2018, there have been 197 landslides causing 53 deaths, 60 injuries and 1,369 damaged houses.

**Source:** FloodList (2018, Mar 28). *Indonesia – Thousands Affected by Landslides and Floods in 3 Provinces.*

***Volcanic activities of Mount Ijien located in East Java Province released hazardous gas on 22 March 2018.*** This event led to 30 injuries, 3,500 affected people and 178 evacuees. Injured people were treated in Health Centres whereas evacuees stayed at Sempol Mosque in Bondowoso Regency. The Local Disaster Management Agency and related units prioritised public evacuation and provided masks as well as ambulances. Besides, access to Mount Ijien was closed and the Alert Level I was maintained, signifying a normal situation.

**Source:** ASEAN Humanitarian Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) (2018, Mar 22). *Indonesia, Mount Ijien volcanic activity releases toxic gas.*

## Malaysia

***The Malaysian Meteorological Department advised the public to be mindful of serious weather due to a monsoon season.*** This monsoon will shift from northeast to southwest from 27 March to the first week of May 2018 and its peak will be in April 2018 causing heavy rains and strong winds. In addition, erratic weathers will occur at the west coast and inside areas of the Peninsular, the west coast of Sabah as well as the west and central Sarawak.

**Source:** New Straits Times (2018, Mar 28). *Avoid open spaces during monsoon shift, Malaysians told.*

## Philippines

***Due to the situation of Mayon volcanic eruption in Albay Province, evacuees returned homes whereas the alert level was lowered to the level 2 signifying moderate unrest on 29 March 2018.*** The governor of Albay ordered through the provincial and local disaster management councils that remaining evacuees in Camalig, Guinobatan, Malilipot and Tabaco Municipalities to return to homes. Yet, people are reminded to avoid entry into the 6 kilometres of permanent danger zone due to possible eruptions. The alert level would be raised again if the situation is imminent. Provincial authorities are concerned of heavy rains and typhoon causing volcanic material mudflow. Crop damages were reported at 5,000 hectares of 7,000 farmers accounting for 185 million peso (3.5 million USD). Relief goods and services have been already provided to evacuees by UN agencies, NGOs and the private sector.

\* 1 USD = 52.86 peso

**Source:** United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (2018, Apr 3). *Humanitarian Bulletin Philippines Issue 3 April 2018.*

***The Philippines will experience warm temperature and thunderstorms in the next few days.*** The temperature will range from 23 to 32 Celsius in Metro Manila, 14 to 24 Celsius in Baguio City and 24 to 34 Celsius in Metro Davao. However, the onset of the dry or summer season has yet to be declared because the cold northeast monsoon still prevails over parts of Luzon. Meanwhile, Samar Province experience cloudy skies with scattered rains and thunderstorms due to Tropical Storm Jelawat.

**Source:** The Philippine Star (2018, Apr 2). *Warm weather, thunderstorms ahead.*

## Singapore

***The government will support the cleanup and rebuilding efforts of Lim Chu Kang farmers due to damages by heavy rain and strong wind.*** Farms of Chew's Agriculture, Williton Orchids, Koon Lee Nursery and Goh Swee Hoon fish farm were the hardest hit. In addition, there were reports of damaged buildings and toppled trees along Murai Farmway while there were broken water pipes and electric cables cutting farm water filtration system of Sevenses fisheries. However, the Singapore Land Authority and the Building and Construction Authority along the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority and the National Parks Board will step up to help.

**Source:** The Straits Times (2018, Apr 1). *Govt to help with cleanup, rebuilding of damaged farms.*

## Thailand

***The upper part of Thailand is warned of the high-pressure area from P.R. China, causing tropical storms from 4 to 8 April 2018.*** Thunderstorms, strong winds and hailstorms are expected in the northern, northeastern and central regions of the country. Provinces such as Chiang Mai, Roi Et and Sa Kaeo are under monitoring of the situations.

**Source:** Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, the Ministry of Interior of Thailand (2018, Apr 2). *Disaster Report (Thai Version).*

***The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives of Thailand is preparing water reserves for the upcoming dry season and will closely monitor drought-prone areas in 23 provinces.***

Based on the national water management plan from 1 November 2017 to 30 April 2018, 82 per cent or 20.68 billion cubic metres of water has been used. The Chao Phraya River used up above seven billion cubic metres or 93 per cent of the region's allotment. More than two million hectares of farmland is conducting off-season rice planting which is considered manageable and is expected to produce around eight million metric tonnes of rice. Meanwhile, there are 74 districts across 23 provinces that are prone to drought effects as those areas are beyond the zones of the Royal Irrigation Department. Yet, those areas are not at risk of household consumption and local farmers are encouraged to plant water-saving crops and to monitor drought effects closely.

**Source:** National News Bureau of Thailand (2018, Apr 2). *Agriculture Min prepares for upcoming drought season.*

## **Viet Nam**

***Farmers in the Mekong Delta began to restructure cultivation plans due to the effects of climate change and salinity intrusion.*** The saltwater has damaged thousands of hectares of rice in An Bien and An Minh Districts, Kien Giang Province as well as other Mekong Delta Provinces. Farmers are breeding shrimps along with rice and many farmers in the Delta are encouraged by local authorities to combine aquaculture and cultivation of organic rice. According to the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, the districts plans to reduce area for the two annual rice crops to 2,900 hectares by 2020 and to increase the combined rice and aquaculture areas to 25,000 hectares. This department also worked with other agencies to organise workshops and to support low-interest bank loans.

**Source:** Viet Nam News (2018, Mar 31). *To cope with climate change, farmers switch crops.*

***Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc ordered ministries, sectors and localities to use their resources for better coping with natural disasters which are more frequent and severe due to climate change while chairing the meeting of the National Steering Committee on Natural Disaster Prevention and Control on 29 March 2018.*** PM urged for a person working in a sector tasked with coping with natural disasters to be well-trained, dedicated and responsible. PM also pointed about officers' responsibilities for coping hunger during natural disasters and for taking prompt actions to minimise disaster damages and reshaping agriculture to adapt for natural disasters. Reportedly, natural disasters killed 386 people and incurred losses of 60 trillion dong (2.6 billion USD) in 2017. The losses were estimated to equal 1 – 1.5 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product.

**Source:** Viet Nam News (2018, Mar 30). *PM puts focus on natural disasters.*

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