



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE FOOD SECURITY RELATED INFORMATION

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16 - 22 January 2019

Indonesia

A 5.7 magnitude earthquake hit Aceh province, western Indonesia. The quake struck at 9:53 a.m. (local time) on Thursday, 17 January 2019.

According to the Meteorology and Geophysics Agency, the epicenter was located 202 kilometers northwest of Kota Sabang with a depth of 165 kilometers under the ocean floor. However, there was no report of casualties.

Meanwhile, a powerful earthquake with 6.2 magnitude struck East Nusa Tenggara province of central Indonesia at 6:59 a.m. (local time) on 22 January 2019.

Aziz Sugiarto, the official in charge of the Meteorology and Geophysics Agency, said that the epicenter was 103 kilometers southwest of Sumba Barat district with a depth of 10 kilometers under the sea bed, although there were no signs of tsunami.

The intensity of the quake was strongly felt at 4 to 5 MMI (Modified Mercalli Intensity) in Tambolaka town and 3 MMI in Waingapu town. The jolts were also felt in Sumbawa district and Bima town.

An aftershock of 5.2 magnitude struck off the province after the quake however, no damage was reported.

Source: Xinhua. (2019, Jan 17). *5.7-magnitude quake strikes off western Indonesia*; New Straits Times. (2019, Jan 17). *5.7 magnitude earthquake rattles Indonesia's Aceh*; Xinhua. (2019, Jan 22). *Powerful quake strikes off central Indonesia, no tsunami alert issued*.

The Meteorology, Climatology, and Geophysical Agency (BMKG) of Indonesia has warned of natural disasters due to rainy season. Potential natural disasters, such as floods, landslides and whirlwinds are forecasted to occur in Indonesia during the rainy season.

Areas including Riau, West Sumatra, South Sumatra, Bangka, Belitung, Lampung, Banten, Jakarta, West Java, Central Java, Yogyakarta, Kalimantan, South and East Sulawesi, Maluku and the Papua islands are predicted to face heavy rains.

Sea waves with a height of 2.5 to 4.0 metres are likely to happen in the coastal areas of Mentawai, Bengkulu, Enggano, Lampung, Indian Ocean, Sunda, South Java, Sumbawa, Bali, Lombok, South Alas, North Natuna, Kepupy Anambas, Makassar, Flores, Banda, Sangihe, Halmahera, Biak and the North Pacific Ocean.

Source: Vietnam Plus. (2019, Jan 18). *Indonesia meteorology agency warns natural disasters in rainy season*.

Landslides from torrential downpours struck Indonesia's Central Java province on 18 January 2019. The death toll from landslides rose to more than 32 people. Three were injured and another went missing.

The landslides damaged houses and roads in Magelang district.

The BMKG has warned the residents of various high-risk areas to stay alert to the threats of new landslides due to ongoing intense rainfall.

Source: Vietnam Plus. (2019, Jan 19). *Dozens of people killed in landslides in Indonesia*

A flood and landslide hit Indonesia's South Sulawesi province. the Regent of Gowa Regency said on 22 January 2019, six people were killed and ten others were reported missing by families in the affected areas.

The flood and landslide also damaged four bridges and resident houses in the regency, due to the result of a spillover of the Jeneberang river after several days of heavy downpour and strong winds.

Source: Xinhua. (2019, Jan 22). *6 killed, 10 missing in Indonesian flood.*

Malaysia

Heavy rain compounded by overflowing rivers caused flash floods in several parts of Kuching city, southern Sarawak. Kampung Sungai Batu and Kampung Sungai Lumut were the badly hit areas where around 50 houses were inundated.

As of 8:00 a.m. (local time) on 21 January 2019, the number of flood victims for several areas rose to 122 people from 29 families. These flood victims were provided shelter at four separate community halls, said the State Disaster Relief Committee.

Those affected were from around Sungai Lumut, Sungai Batu, Kampong Poan and Sekolah Kebangsaan Sebat, and the evacuation shelters were set up near these areas.

Source: The Star Online. (2019, Jan 19). *Parts of southern Sarawak hit by flash floods*, (2019, Jan 21). *Number of flood evacuees rise to more than 120 in south Sarawak*; The Straits Times. (2019, Jan 21). *Number of Kuching flood evacuees rises to 122.*

Philippines

An earthquake measured 5.9 magnitude struck the southern Philippines on Wednesday morning, 16 January 2019.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said the quake jolted around 4:03 a.m. (local time) at a depth of 48 kilometers and its epicenter located 149 kilometers southeast off Governor Generoso town, in Mindanao's Davao Oriental province.

The tremor was felt in the southern island of Mindanao and that it might result in aftershocks. However, so far, there has been no reported damage.

Source: Xinhua. (2019, Jan 16). *M-5.9 quake hits S. Philippines, no damage expected.*

Japan

A Volcano erupted on Kuchinoeraba island in southwestern Japan. According to the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA), the eruption occurred on Mount Shindake around 9:19 a.m. (local time) on 17 January 2019. Pyroclastic flowed reached 1.5 kilometers and columns of smoke rose more than 500 meters from the crater.

The alert level for volcano was at 3 on a scale of 5 which prohibited climbers from climbing the mountain, particularly near the cone, but there were no restrictions on residents' daily movements.

Local residents and visitors to the island were initially advised to ensure their safety and await further information.

Source: NHK. (2019, Jan 17). *Volcano erupts on Kuchinoerabu Island*; The Mainichi. (2019, Jan 17). *Volcano erupts on southwestern Japan island, residents safe*; Xinhua. (2019, Jan 17). *Volcano erupts on Kuchinoerabu Island in southwestern Japan, residents unharmed.*

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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