



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE FOOD SECURITY RELATED INFORMATION

No. 117
8 - 14 May 2019

Indonesia

Cyclone Lili caused floods and strong winds in Maluku province. According to the National Disaster Mitigation Agency (BNPN), the tropical cyclone Lili was emerged from the Banda Sea in Maluku and struck several villages in the province.

Water as deep as 1.5 meters on average had reportedly inundated three villages in three separate districts in the province consisting of Laitutun village in Letti Island district, Tounwawan in Moa Lakor and Luang Timur in Mdon Hiera. A number of houses and public facilities were damaged.

The Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Agency (BMKG) had previously warned residences to stay alert and prepare for potential heavy rain after an early sign of a tropical cyclone in the water had been detected.

Source: The Jakarta Post (2019, May 10). *Cyclone Lili causes floods, strong winds in Maluku.*

Floods hit residential areas located on the banks of the Bekasi River in the West Java. On 11 May 2019, the water volume increased after heavy downpours from the upstream areas.

The water volume reached the 6.8 meters in depth in Jatiasih. It was the highest ever been during the rainy season. Normally, it is only 3 meters. The floods hit the residential areas about 4 hours before starting to decline.

Bekasi Disaster Mitigation Office (BPBD) deployed personnel and rubbers boats to those flood-affected areas to provide an assistance to the people.

Source: The Jakarta Post (2019, May 11). *Floods hit residential areas in Bekasi.*

Malaysia

Penang was hit by flash floods. Because of heavy rains, flash floods struck in various part of Penang forcing many residents to evacuate to relief centers on 9 May 2019. Sungai Dua and Butterworth areas were the most flood-affected areas and about 51 people had to leave their homes.

Meanwhile, several homes in Teluk Kumbar and Balik Pulau on Penang island were also affected by rising waters. However, the flood level was only ankle-high and no one was moved to evacuation centers.

Source: The Straits Times (2019, May 10). *Penang hit by flash floods, dozens evacuated.*

Philippines

Heavy rainfall struck Metro Manila causing floods in some areas. On 8 May 2019 at 7:40 p.m. (local time). Banawe corner Retiro, Retiro corner Biak na Bato, Biak na Bato coner Samat, Retiro corner Sto. Domingo and Calamba corner Sto. Domingo faced knee-level floods while some portions of limited access circumferential highway Epifanio de los Santos Avenue (EDSA) were also facing gutter-deep.

Earlier, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration advised the people in Metro Manila and some provinces to take precautionary measures against the

Impacts associated with these hazards which include flash floods and landslides.

Source: CNN Philippines (2019, May 8) *Heavy downpour causes floods in portions of Metro Manila.*

Thailand

Thailand's central province Nakhon Sawan was effected by drought threatening a decline of fish in the country's largest freshwater swamp.

According to the Nakhon Sawan Fisheries Provincial Office, authorities scrambled to divert water into Bueng Boraphet as the drought caused the volume of water in Bueng Boraphet to fall to only 13 million cubic meters. This was one meter below the crisis point.

Moreover, the heat caused water in the swamp to quickly drop than the same period of last year.

Regarding observers, Nakhon Sawan located in the country's Central Plains is expected to be hit by the worst drought in a decade. In the meantime, the Department of Fisheries has carried out surveillance measures to protect those fish and prevent illegal fishing.

Source: Bangkok Post (2019, May 10). *Fish suffer as swamp level decline.*

Viet Nam

Saigon's expat district was wallowed by heavy floods. Several streets in Thao Dien area, where is the largest expat community in Saigon, were struck by heavy rains on 9 May 2019. Many vehicles had to wade through a flooded street. The residents have been struggling with floods during monsoon season.

Still, any measure has not been taken seriously to solve the problem yet. Rapid development and overpopulation are among major causes of frequent floods in the city.

Recently, Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC) signed a rental deal to install a water pump on Nguyen Huu Canh Street with private company to prevent the flood. HCMC,

known as its former name Saigon, will pay to company about 608,400 USD a year for the pump if the pump proves effective to prevent the flood. The pump will have a capacity of 97,000 MT per hour.

*1 USD = 23,057 VND

Source: VnExpress (2019, May 10). *Saigon expat district wallows in flood waters again.* VnExpress (2019, May 12). *Saigon signs \$608,000 pump rental deal for flood prone street.*

China

Yunnan Provincial Meteorological Bureau issued an orange alert for drought due to a decreasing precipitation and abnormal high temperature. Part of Yunnan has been affected by heavy drought with severe drought hitting some areas in Pu'er, Xishuang-banna, Kunming and other places. The bureau also warned of forest fire in parts of the province.

Additionally, precipitation has been less than normal in Yunnan and dropped by 37.1 percent since March.

Regarding the severe drought in Yunnan, Meteorological experts suggested measures to be taken for ensuring an available water supply for local residences as well as cash crop irrigation.

Source: Xinhua. (2019, May 10). *Yunnan issues orange alert for drought.*

Japan

The earthquake with an estimated 6.3-magnitude struck southwestern Japan.

On 10 May 2019 at 8:48 a.m. (local time), a quake occurred in the sea off Miyazaki Prefecture at a depth of about 25 kilometers while minor jolts were felt in wider areas including western Japan, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency.

Following the jolt in Oita Prefecture, there was a 79-year-old man taken to hospital due to tumbling from a stepladder.

Moreover, the quake disrupted local transportations by briefly suspending the shinkansen bullet train services on the island of Kyushu. However, there was no report of damages at airports in Miyazaki, Kumamoto and Kagoshima Prefectures after safety checks.

Source: The Mainichi Shimbun. (2019, May 10). *Strong quake hits off southwestern Japan, 1 injured.*

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