



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE FOOD SECURITY RELATED INFORMATION

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Indonesia

The eruption of Mount Agung in Bali made some flight cancelled. The eruption occurred on 24 May 2019 for 4 minutes and 30 seconds. According to the Indonesian National Board for Disaster Management (BNPB), the mount sprayed lava and rock showers over a 2.5 to 3 kilometer radius.

The eruption disrupted many flights to and from Australia, even though it did not affect the operations of Bali's I Gusti Ngurah Rai International Airport. Volcanic ash was detected 4,000 to 5,000 meters above the airport area, according to the Transportation Ministry's airport authority for Bali.

Although ash fell over dozens of villages, no casualties were reported and no evacuations took place.

According to the head of the airport's Communication and Legal Section, there were 15 flights affected by the eruption, including 10 departures and four arrivals that were cancelled, while another had to be diverted.

Source: CNN (2019, May 25). Bali volcano: Flights canceled after Mount Agung erupts; The Jakarta Post (2019, May 25). Mount Agung eruption disrupts Australian flights.

Viet Nam

Thousands of households have suffered from the severe water shortage in Quang Nam due to the extreme and prolonged hot weather and drought.

Downstream section of the Dak Mi River in Phuoc Son and Nam Giang districts has been dry for long and people have had to dig the waterbed for the water stock.

According to A Lang Mai, chairman of Nam Giang District, this year the drought has lasted since February, and so many areas have been suffering from a water shortage. Unfortunately, the district has only one pumping station which supplies water only to some areas in its vicinity.

In this regard, Quang Nam Province and Da Nang City authorities asked hydropower plants to release water to mitigate the water shortage. The investment on restoration of waterworks was also considered as another means.

Source: Viet Nam News (2019, May 23). *Hot weather parches central province, residents suffer from lack of water.*

China

The first round of heat wave for this year arrived in northern China. A heat wave hit some provinces northern China with a soaring temperature of 40 degrees Celsius during 22 - 25 May 2019.

According to the National Meteorological Center, during four-day prediction, the temperatures in Hebei, Henan and Shandong provinces as well as Beijing would reach to 40 degrees Celsius.

The current heat wave was not expected to last too long and affected a smaller area than previous year. Still, it would threaten to agriculture and forest. The heat might negatively affect the growth of wheat and causing of forest fire occurrences.

Source: China Daily (2019, May 23). *Temperatures poised to 40 C in next few days.*

Due to rainstorms, there were 111 flights had to be canceled. On 26 May 2019, strong winds and heavy rainfall hit over Beijing. Rainfalls made cancelled 111 out of 436 scheduled flights at Capital International Airport.

The capital's meteorological bureau issued a yellow alert for lightning expected in the city on 23 May 2019 at 2 a.m. to 2 p.m. (local time) and also warned some areas might face gusts of wind and hail.

In addition, Southwest Guangdong, Fujian and Jiangxi provinces were also expected to experience the rainy weather in the coming day, along with some provinces in Northern China.

Source: China daily (2019, May 26). *Beijing airport cancels 111 flights due to rainstorms.*

Japan

Many people in parts of Japan suffered from heat wave. The town of Saroma in Hokkaido was recorded the highest temperature ever in the country for the month of May.

According to the Meteorological Agency, the temperature reached 39.5 degrees Celsius in the northeastern coastal Hokkaido town at 2:07 p.m. (local time) on 26 May 2019.

Because of the hot weather, two men in Hokkaido and Miyagi Prefectures died. Meanwhile, at least 575 people nationwide were taken to hospital due to suffering from symptoms that appear to point to heatstroke.

Source: The Japan Times (2019, May 26). *Two die, nearly 600 taken to hospitals nationwide as heat wave hits parts of nation.*

Earthquake hit Chiba Prefecture.

According to the Japan Meteorological Agency, an earthquake with an estimated magnitude of 5.1 rattled parts of Tokyo and its surrounding areas at 3:20 p.m. (local time) on 25 May 2019. Yet, there was no tsunami warning issued.

The epicenter of the quake was in the southern of Chiba Prefecture at a depth of around 40 kilometers. The quake at the

most registered a lower 5 on the Japanese seismic intensity scale at 7 in a town of Chonan while some other parts of the prefecture could feel the quake with an intensity scale of 4. Fortunately, there were no flights to or from Narita international airport located in the prefecture affected by the quake.

Source: The Japan Times (2019, May 26). *M5.1 quake hits Chiba Pref; no tsunami alert.*

Republic of Korea

The Korea Meteorological Administration (KMA) issued Seoul's first heat wave advisory of the year. On 24 May 2019 at 11:00 a.m. (local time), people in several areas including Gyeonggi, Gangwon, South Jeolla and South Gyeongsang Provinces felt the heat of higher-than-usual temperatures.

A heat wave advisory is issued when the daytime high is forecast to stay above 33 degrees Celsius for two straight days or longer reach 36 degrees.

Source: KBS News (2019, May 24). *Seoul Under First Heat Wave Advisory of Year.*

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