



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE FOOD SECURITY RELATED INFORMATION

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Myanmar

Floods and landslides struck southeastern Myanmar bring a death toll up to 59 and forcing tens of thousands of people to evacuate. Mon state has been seriously hit by the monsoon downpours. Many townships, especially Kyaikmaraw and Ye townships were under water. In the meantime, the landslides, occurred on 9 August 2019 following severe rains, destroyed 27 homes in Paung township and killed 59 people.

The Ministry of Health and Sports issued an announcement urging people in flood-hit areas to watch out for more rain, potential landslides, electrocution risks and snakes.

According to the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), there are more than 80,000 people staying at the evacuation sites across the country due to heavy floods and landslides caused by seasonal monsoon rains.

Bago and Tanintharyi regions as well as Kayin state have also been severely affected due to the seasonal rains.

Source: Voice of America. (2019, August 12). *Tens of thousands flee homes in flood-hit Myanmar as landslide toll*

hits 59; and Myanmar Times. (2019, August 13). Flooding handled poorly, says senior Mon official.

Thailand

Several provinces in Thailand were threaten by flash floods and landslides due to continuous downpours. According to the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, the North, East and South had faced heavy rains causing rapidly increasing water level in rivers and canals. In this regards, people in nine province of those regions were warned of flash floods and landslides during 10-11 August 2019. The authority also urged local residents to follow the weather forecasts and take precaution.

Particularly in Kanchanburi province, increasing water level of Song Kalia river in Sangkhla Buri district badly hit a village and destroyed paddy fields and sugarcane plantations as well as people's houses. Patients at the local hospital were evacuated to the new safe building while the medical equipment was moved to higher ground after a canal behind the hospital breached its banks following 10 consecutive days of rain.

The Surasi military task force deployed a team of soldiers to the hospital for assisting the evacuation.

Source: Bangkok Post. (2019, August 10). *Nine provinces warned of flash floods, landslides;* and Bangkok Post. (2019, August 12). *Heavy rain raises flash flood risk.*

Viet Nam

Continuous torrential rains, brought by Typhoon Wipha, hit Phu Quoc Island causing many houses submerged. As of 11 August 2019, the water level had declined allowing many families to return to their homes. However, after facing the worst flood in its history this month, the local authorities realised on a need of find permanent solution to handle the flood problem.

The Secretary of Party Committee and Chairman of the People's Committee of Phu Quoc district believed climate change was one of reasons causing this worst flood situation in the island where is a tourist hotspot in the Mekong Delta province of Kien Giang.

According to Phu Quoc district's Steering Committee for Disaster Prevention and Rescue, there were 8,424 houses flooded and 24 other were destroyed or without roofs while a large areas of crop were devastated. The total damage was estimated at over 107 billion VND (4.6 million USD).

Rescue teams and soldiers were deployed to evacuate nearly 2,000 people. In the meantime, thousands of meals were freely provided for flood-affected people

Source: Vietnam Plus. (2019, August 12). *Phu Quoc needs permanent solution after historic floods.*

Japan

People in the west of Japan were warned to beware of powerful Typhoon Krosa hitting the country. According to the Meteorological Agency, the season's 10th named storm was expected to travel slowly through western regions during 14 – 15 August 2019 threatening heavy floods and rising water level of rivers in western and eastern areas.

For 24-hour forecast period until 6.00 pm. (local time) on 14 August 2019, the Tokai region would be expected to face 300 millimetres of rain while the Kinki, Shikoku and Kyushu regions might receive 200 millimetres of rain.

The typhoon, with an atmospheric pressure of 965 hectopascals at its center, was packing winds of up to 144 kilometers per hour as of 13 August 2019 at 9 p.m. (local time). The disaster management minister instructed ministries and government agencies to work closely with the local government to be ready for handling with severe rains.

Due to the power typhoon, Japan's airlines decided to cancel around 100 flights on 14 August 2019 to and from Miyazaki and other prefectures in Kyushu affecting more than 8,000 people.

Source: The Japan Time. (2019, August 13). *Powerful Typhoon Krosa set to wallop western Japan.*

The Republic of Korea

Heatwave warnings were issued after typhoon Francisco passed over the Korean peninsula. On 8 August 2019, the Korea Meteorological Administration issued heatwave warnings for Seoul and parts of surrounding Gyeonggi province. Besides, almost all other parts of South Korea, including Busan, Daegu, Daejeon and Gwangju, have already been put under heatwave warnings.

At 2 p.m. (local time), the daily high temperature soared to 37.4 degree Celsius in Guri and east of Seoul, 36.3 degree Celsius in Gapyeong, 35.4 degree Celsius in Anseong and 33.9 degree Celsius in Busan. Heatwave warnings and advisories are issued when daytime highs are projected to exceed 35 degree Celsius and 33 degree Celsius, respectively, for at least two days.

Source: The Korea Herald. (2019, August 8). *Heat wave warnings issued nationwide.*

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