



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE FOOD SECURITY RELATED INFORMATION

No. 137

25 September – 1 October 2019

Indonesia

Rapid assistance was instructed for assisting earthquake-hit victims. On 26 September 2019, an earthquake of 6.5 magnitudes battered parts of Maluku, causing at least 19 people died and hundreds of people injured while approximately 15,000 people were evacuated as tremors continued until 27 September 2019.

Indonesian President Joko Widodo called on authorities to speed up disaster relief efforts in the affected areas of Ambon city, Central Maluku and West Seram regencies.

According to the Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Agency (BMKG), the quake jolted the areas at 6.46 a.m. (local time) with an epicentre located about 40 kilometres northeast of Ambon at a depth of 10 kilometres. However, no tsunami alert was issued.

Source: Bangkok Post. (2019, Sep 27). *Jokowi orders for immediate response as 15,000 displaced in Maluku earthquake.*

Thailand

The upper region of Thailand was warned of cold weather. The Meteorological Department warned of unseasonal cold and windy weather in the upper part of the country until 1 October 2019 due to a high-pressure system from China.

On 26 September 2019, temperatures in the north, the northeast, the central plains and the east dropped by 2 – 4 degrees Celsius.

Provincial governors advised people in those areas to wear a winter jacket.

Meanwhile, heavy rains were forecasted in the south, including its eastern coast due to easterly winds in the Gulf of Thailand.

Source: Bangkok Post. (2019, Sep 26). *Unseasonal cold weather warning for upper regions.*

Japan

The government warned the people in the southwest of Japan to be ready for Typhoon Mitag approaching the areas during 2-3 October 2019.

According to the Meteorological Agency, southwestern Japan might be hit by the typhoon travelling west-northwest off the east of the Philippines at a speed of 20 kilometres per hour.

The typhoon was expected to gather strength on 30 September 2019, and move closer to Okinawa Prefecture.

The people in those areas were advised to be careful of heavy downpours and lightning strikes. The risks for landslides were also concerned.

Source: Japan Times. (2019, Sep 29). *Weather agency warns southwestern Japan to ready for possible typhoon later this week*; The Mainichi Shimbun. (2019, Oct 1). *Typhoon Mitag to lash western Japan with heavy rain on Oct 2-3: weather agency.*

Republic of Korea

Typhoon Mitag was predicted to hit South Korea. According to the Korea Meteorological Administration (KMA), the typhoon was expected to reach the mainland of South Korea around midnight on 2 September 2019, earlier than previous expected, due to the changes in regional atmospheric pressure.

Then, it would pass over the nation's southern regions before exiting to the East Sea on the next day. The typhoon might make landfalls in the southwest of the country.

The typhoon was heading north along the edge of the North Pacific high pressure. Due to a slight contraction of the high pressure, the degree of the typhoon heading west was weakened, thus cutting short its route towards the Korean Peninsula.

Under the influence of the typhoon, the KMA warned of strong wind, heavy rains and precipitation in Jeju Island and many other areas.

Source: Yonhap News Agency. (2019, Oct 1). (3rd LD) *Time of Typhoon Mitag's landfall in S. Korea advanced to midnight Wednesday.*

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