



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE FOOD SECURITY RELATED INFORMATION

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Cambodia

Serious drought is forecasted to hit Cambodia. According to the Mekong River Commission (MRC), apart from Cambodia, other three lower Mekong River Basin countries namely Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam are expected to be hit by the extreme drought from now until January. This could cause major harm to agriculture production in those countries.

So far, the drought has brought the Mekong level to its lowest point in at least 60 years.

Cambodia and Thailand will be the hardest hit countries compared with Lao PDR and Viet Nam.

The drought is caused by insufficient rainfall during the wet season with a delayed arrival and earlier departure of the monsoon rain and an El Niño event that has created an abnormally high temperature and high evapotranspiration.

Source: Bangkok Post. (2019, Nov 19). *Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam may face severe drought.*

Indonesia

Mount Merapi spewed a column of ashes with 1,500-metre high. On 17 November 2019, the volcano's eruption occurred at 10:46 a.m. (local time) and lasted for around 150 seconds.

The Volcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation Center (PVMBG) issued a warning of lahar (mudflow of volcanic material) and warned flights in the region of minor ash emission from the volcano.

People were also advised to be alert to the danger of volcanic ash from the hot clouds and explosive eruptions.

Source: Jakarta Globe. (2019, Nov 17). *Mount Merapi Erupts, Prompting Lahar Warning.*

More than 79 aftershocks following a powerful earthquake were recorded, before the tsunami alert was left. The Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Agency (BMKG) reported that a 7.1-magnitude earthquake jolted the areas in North Maluku and North Sulawesi at 11:17 p.m. (local time) on 14 November 2019. The epicenter of the quake was located about 134 kilometers northwest of Jailolo, North Maluku at a depth of 73 kilometres.

After the major quake, the BMKG recorded at least 79 aftershocks of vary magnitudes, ranking between 3.1 to 6.1.

The agency also issued a tsunami alert on 15 November 2019 for North Sulawesi and North Maluku, where were detected of small tsunamis of less than 1 metre before the alert was left a day after. There were no reports of casualties due to this disastrous calamity.

Source: The Jakarta Post. (2019, Nov 15). *More than 70 aftershocks after 7.1-magnitude earthquake in N. Sulawesi, N. Maluku*; The Jakarta Post. (2019, Nov 15). *Small tsunamis detected after 7.1-magnitude quake in North Sulawesi, North Maluku.*

Philippines

A tropical storm Kalmaegi triggered floods in Bicol Region. According to the National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (NDRRMC), the storm brought heavy rains, causing floods in Albay, Catanduanes, Camarines Nord and Camarines Sur provinces in Bicol Region, the southern part of Luzon Island.

About 3,200 people were affected, 16 houses and three roads were damaged.

However, no injuries or fatalities were reported.

Source: Floodlist. (2019, Nov 17). *Philippines – Houses Destroyed, Thousands Evacuate After Rain From Storm 'Kalmaegi' (Ramon).*

Bakidno, parts of Mindanao were struck by a moderately strong earthquake. As of 18 November 2019, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) recorded 138 tremors after a 5.9-magnitude quake jolted the area.

The quake occurred at 9:22 p.m. (local time) and located at about 8 kilometres northwest of Kadingilan town in Bukidnon.

There were several houses in Don Carlos town damaged by the tremor.

Source: ABS-CBN. (2019, Nov 18). *Magnitude 5.9 quake shakes Bukidnon, parts of Mindanao*; Manila Bulletin. (2019, Nov 19). *5.9-magnitude quake, 100 aftershocks hit Bukidnon, parts of Mindanao.*

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