



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE FOOD SECURITY RELATED INFORMATION

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18 - 24 December 2019

Indonesia

Authorities declared a state of emergency in the province of Riau. As of 20 December 2019, the overflowing waters from the rivers namely Kampak, Siak, Rokan and Indragiri inundated more than 216 villages in the regencies of Rokan Hulu, Kampar, Rokan Hilir, Pelalawan, Kuantan Singingi and Indragiri Hulu.

There were at least six people died and 62,630 affected. Meanwhile, the floods damaged 8,798 houses and 94 schools in those regencies.

The emergency status has been applied for 11 days during 20-30 December 2019.

Source: The Jakarta Post. (2019, Dec 20). *Riau declares state of emergency as disasters affect over 62,000, killing six.*

Malaysia

The second wave of floods hit Peninsular Malaysia and parts of neighbouring Thailand while, more floods have affected East Malaysia.

As of 20 December 2019, more than 2,000 people in parts of Peninsular Malaysia evacuated to relief centres as several villages were inundated by floodwater up to 1.5 metres. In the neighbouring of Pahang, about 316 people were displaced by flooding.

This natural calamity also affected the provinces of Yala and Narathiwat in southern Thailand. Over 6,000 people in six districts including Sukhirin, Si Sakhon, Waeng, Rueso, Ra-ngae and Su-ngai Kolok have been suffering from floods. Approximately 250 people were evacuated to safer areas.

Meanwhile, further flooding has affected around 800 people in parts of Sabah State, East Malaysia.

Source: Flood List. (2019, Dec 20). *Malaysia and Thailand – Thousands Displaced After Second Wave of Floods.*

Philippines

Typhoon Phanfone struck the central Philippines on the Christmas Eve.

According to the weather bureau Pagasa, the tropical storm Phanfone, locally named Ursula and later updated to typhoon, made landfall in Eastern Samar province on 24 December 2019. It brought sustained wind of 120 kilometres per hour and gusts of 150 kilometres per hour. This caused authorities to advise residents in the affected areas to leave their houses.

Philippine Airlines and Cebu Pacific Air cancelled some domestic flights and the coast guard banned sea travel in some areas. There were about 24,000 passengers stranded in various seaports.

More than 40 areas in Luzon and Visayas were placed on a storm warning. Metro Manila, placed under signal 1 or the lowest in a five-step warning system, was forecasted to experience moderate to strong winds on 25 December 2019.

Source: Bloomberg. (2019, Dec 24). *Typhoon Hits Philippines on Christmas Eve, Disrupting Travel.*

Japan

An earthquake of 5.5 magnitude shook the coast of Aomori Prefecture.

According to the Japan Meteorological Agency, the earthquake occurred at around 3:21 p.m. (local time) with an epicenter off the coast of Aomori Prefecture, Japan's northernmost part of Honshu Island.

The tremor was measured lower 5 on the Japanese seismic intensity scale to 7 in Aomori, 4 in Iwate Prefecture and 3 in other parts of Aomori and Akita prefectures

However, there was no immediate report of injuries or major damage.

Source: Xinhua. (2019, Dec 19). *5.5-magnitude quake strikes off Japan's northern prefecture, no tsunami warning issued.*

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