



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE FOOD SECURITY RELATED INFORMATION

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25 Dec 2019 – 7 Jan 2020

Indonesia

Several parts of Indonesia including Jakarta experienced massive floods and landslides. Continuous heavy downpours from 31 December 2019 until 1 January 2020, caused floods and landslides that forced thousands of people to leave from their homes and stay in temporary shelters. As of 6 January 2020, the death toll from flooding rose to 66 while two people have been missing.

During the two weeks, not only the greater Jakarta was flooded, but also in North Labuhan Batu regency, North Sumatra, Lahat regency, South Sumatra and Sangihe Island, North Sulawesi.

Search and rescue operations, involving military, police and disaster authorities were underway in affected areas.

The weather conditions were triggered by local and regional weather phenomena, including an Asian monsoon that increased rainfall across Indonesia.

Source: The Jakarta Post. (2019, Dec 30). *Five missing as flash flood hits villages in North Sumatra*. The Jakarta Post. (2019, Dec 30). *Flash flood destroys bridge, isolates villages in South Sumatra*. The Jakarta Post. (2020, Jan 04). *Two villagers killed in North Sulawesi flash flood*. CNN. (2020, Jan 6). *66 people now killed by flooding in Jakarta, and more rain appears to be on the way*.

Active volcanos in Sunda Strait and Central Java showed eruptive activities.

Anak Krakatau in the Sunda Strait had erupted on 30 - 31 December 2019, spewing a column of ash about 1,000 kilometres into the sky, according to The National Disaster Mitigation Agency (BNPB).

The volcano's alert level was level two of the four-tiered alert system, meaning that residents and tourists should stay away from the crater within a radius of two kilometres.

Meanwhile, Mount Merapi in Central Java spewed hot ash on 4 January 2020, causing ash rain over Boyolali regency.

The Boyolali Disaster Mitigation Agency (BPBD) had coordinated with the districts of Selo, Cepogo and Tamansari in anticipation of further ash rain and also distributed face masks to the residents.

Source: The Jakarta Globe. (2019, Dec 31). *Anak Krakatau Erupts on First Anniversary of Deadly Tsunami*. The Jakarta Post. (2020, Jan 05). *Central Java's Mount Merapi spews hot ash again*.

Thailand

Hailstorms hit Chiangmai on 29 December 2019. According to Doi Lo district's chief officer, more than 700 houses and about 100 rai of farmland in the Yangkram subdistrict of Doi Lo district were damaged by hailstorms.

District officials and military personnel surveyed the damage to resident's houses in the area and also provided assistance.

Besides, over 100 local residents had volunteered to help personnel from the Army District 33 and Natural Disaster Mitigation Center in repairing roofs.

*1 rai = 0.16 hectares

Source: The Nation. (2019, Dec 30). *Hailstorms damage over 700 houses in Chiang Mai*.

Drought situation across nearly half of Thailand is about to get worse. The Provincial Waterworks Authority (PWA) warned 31 provinces to prepare for severe drought this year. Also, the water levels in the Mekong River is at its lowest level since 1992.

The Prime Minister expressed concern over the water situation and instructed officials to assist people in affected areas, adding that farmers were encouraged to delay planting and follow the guidance of local officials.

The drought might affect 61 water production facilities covering 31 provinces. There were 15 provinces in northeastern, nine in the north, six in the south and one in the east. The facilities have started digging 524 wells to tap underground water as an alternative source, with the help of the Royal Irrigation Department according to the PWA.

Source: Chiang Rai Times. (2020, Jan 02). *31 Provinces in Thailand Warned to Brace for Severe Drought.*

The Republic of Korea

On 30 December 2019, a magnitude 3.5 earthquake rocked the southeastern region. According to the Korea Meteorological Administration (KMA), The quake occurred at 00:32 a.m. (local time) around 15 kilometres northeast of Miryang in South Gyeongsang Province. The epicentre of the quake was at a depth of 20 kilometres.

Tremors were felt across the entire province. However, there was no report of damages.

The earthquake was the second-strongest quake that occurred in the Republic of Korea this year.

Source: Yonhap. (2019, Dec 30). *(LEAD) 3.5 magnitude quake hits southeastern city.*

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