



## WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE FOOD SECURITY RELATED INFORMATION

**No. 154**

**29 January – 4 February 2020**

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### Indonesia

**Central Tapanuli regency declared a state of emergency after severe floods and landslides hit the area.** Torrential rains triggered floods and landslides in six districts of Central Tapanuli regency, North Sumatra on 29 January 2020.

According to the Central Tapanuli Disaster Mitigation Agency (BPBD), there were seven people died and at least 22 injured while several homes and public infrastructure were damaged. As a result of the terrible disaster, the administration declared a state of emergency that would remain in effect over the next seven days.

The search and rescue team cooperated with the BPBD, the military and the police to rescue the remaining victims and also helped residents to construct emergency shelters.

The Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Agency (BMKG) in Medan city warned the public of heavy rain, strong winds and thunder that likely to occur across the province on 4 February 2020.

**Source:** Jakarta Post. (2020, Jan 30). *Central Tapanuli declares state of emergency after seven die in flood, landslides.*

### Malaysia

**Heavy rainfalls affected several parts of Johor state.** On 29 December 2020, heavy downpours caused deadly floods in four districts of Johor state, namely Kluang, Johor Baru, Pontian and Kulai.

A total of 211 people were evacuated to temporary flood relief centres after severe floodings.

In the meantime, the government agencies provided assistance to flood-hit areas in the state.

**Source:** Malaymail. (2020, Jan 30). *Over 200 displaced as floods hit Johor.*

### Philippines

**Volcanic activity of the Taal volcano has still persisted.** According to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS), the volcano has continued to spew steam plumes, rising 800 metres high while volcanic quakes has continued to jolt within the volcano island.

Alert level 3 has remained over the Taal volcano. It implies that sudden steam-driven and even weak phreatomagmatic explosions, volcanic earthquakes, ashfall, and lethal volcanic gas expulsions can still occur and threaten areas within the volcano island and nearby lakeshores.

The PHIVOLCS warned the public that entry into the Taal volcano island as well as into areas over Taal lake and communities west of the island within a seven-kilometre radius from the main crater must be strictly prohibited.

Residents were also asked to observe precautions due to ground displacement across fissures, frequent ash fall, and minor earthquakes.

**Source:** Manila Bulletin. (2020, Feb 3). *Phivolcs says Taal Volcano magmatic activity persists, warns of related hazards.*

## **Thailand**

**A minor earthquake struck Kanchanaburi province.** According to the Director of the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand's maintenance section, a 2.6-magnitude earthquake was recorded in Sri Sawat district, Kanchanaburi province on 30 January 2020 at 8:41 p.m. (local time).

The epicentre was in Sri Sawat district at a depth of 1 kilometre. It was about 55.58 kilometres north of Srinagarind Dam and 62.88 kilometres east of Vajiralongkorn Dam.

The tremor was not affected any of the dam's operation.

**Source:** Bangkok Post. (2020, Jan 31). *Minor quake in Kanchanaburi.*

## **Japan**

**An eruption of a volcano occurred in southwestern Japan island.** Mount Shindake on Kuchinoerabu island erupted around 5:30 a.m. (local time), releasing a pyroclastic flow as far as 900 metres southwest of the crater. The eruption also caused ash and smoke, rising to approximately 7,000 metres high and rocks were thrown about 600 metres from the crater, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA).

The agency maintained the alert level for the volcano at 3 on its scale, which peaks at 5, warning climbers to refrain from the mountain.

Also, the agency warned of the potential for big rocks being hurled into the air and further pyroclastic flows within 2-kilometre radius of the crater. Volcanic ash and small rocks can travel far downwind.

**Source:** Kyodu News. (2020, Feb 3). *Volcano erupts on Japanese island, no injuries reported.*

Gathered by the APTERR Secretariat  
Tel: +66 (0) 2579 4816-17 Fax: +66 (0) 2579 4840  
Email: [nattavadee@apterr.org](mailto:nattavadee@apterr.org)  
Website: <http://www.apterr.org/>

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