



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE FOOD SECURITY RELATED INFORMATION

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Indonesia

Central Sulawesi was engulfed by flooding. On 3 March 2020, heavy rains caused floods in a mountainous area of Poso Regency in Central Sulawesi. The floods dragged mud, logs and debris into the affected area.

As a result of flooding, one person has been missing while 900 people were forced to flee from their homes. Over 60 houses were also damaged.

North Bolaang Mongondow Regency on the island of Sulawesi was also affected by flooding.

The floods affected Sangkub, Bintauna, East Bolangitang and West Bolangitang districts after heavy rain caused the collapse of river embankments. Residential and agricultural areas were submerged under almost 1.2 metres of water. Heavy rain also triggered landslides in the area.

Source: FloodList. (2020, Mar 4). *Indonesia – 1 Missing, 900 Displaced After Floods Destroy Homes in Central Sulawesi.*

The volcano alert level 2 was set for Mount Semeru. According to the Malang Disaster and Mitigation Agency (BPBD), Mt. Semeru spewed hot clouds as far as three kilometres. The agency issued a level 2 warning status for the volcano.

In the meantime, the agency also detected a 540-second earthquake, heading towards Besuk Kembar and Besuk Bang deltas.

The BPBD as well as the Center of Volcanology and Geological Hazards Mitigation (CVGHM) advised people to remain at a distance of 1-4 kilometres from the south and southeastern edges of the volcano's active crater.

Source: The Jakarta Post. (2020, Mar 4). *Mount Semeru spews hot clouds, public advised to be cautious.*

Lao PDR

A terrible storm lashed Sangthong district, Vientiane. On 2 March 2020, the storm brought thunder, rain, hail and strong winds to hit Sangthong district.

There were two people injured, 56 houses destroyed while a market, shops as well as warehouses were damaged.

The Meteorology and Hydrology Department advised officials and residents to prepare for the weather change.

Source: Vientiane Times. (2020, Mar 4). *Storm barrels through Sangthong, damaging 56 houses.*

Philippines

A series of earthquakes struck Eastern Samar. According to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS), three tectonic earthquakes hit the province of Eastern Samar on 9 March 2020.

A 4.7-magnitude quake was recorded in Dolores at 1:04 a.m. followed by an earthquake of magnitude 4.4 at 2:03 a.m. and magnitude 4.4 at 7:39 a.m. respectively.

However, there was no aftershock or damage reported.

Source: Manila Bulletin. (2020, Mar 9). *Series of quakes jolts Eastern Samar.*

Thailand

A strong storm pounded some parts of Thailand on 3 March 2020. Widespread damages in Muang district, Phitsanulok province were occurred after the storm brought heavy rains and gusty winds into the area.

A power transformer exploded causing blackout in a large section of the town. The antenna of the radio station also was fallen to the ground and damaged some nearby houses.

Provincial disaster prevention and mitigation officials were still assessing the full extent of the storm damages.

Meanwhile, the storm also hit Lat Yao district, Nakhon Sawan province destroying houses and causing power outage as 16 power poles were brought down.

Repair crews from the Provincial Electricity Authority were expected to have all homes reconnected on 4 March 2020.

Source: Bangkok Post. (2020, Mar 4). *Storm lashes Phitsanulok, woman dies in car crash*; Bangkok Post. (2020, Mar 4). *Storm brings down power poles.*

Drought hit 23 provinces of Thailand.

The Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) declared 23 provinces to be drought-hit areas. Those provinces are Chiang Rai, Phayao, Nan, Uttaradit, Sukhothai, Phetchabun, Nong Khai, Bueng Kan, Nakhon Phanom, Sakon Nakhon, Kalasin, Maha Sarakham, Nakhon Ratchasima, Buri Ram, Chaiyaphum, Si Sa Ket, Nakhon Sawan, Uthai Thani, Chai Nat, Kanchanaburi, Suphan Buri, Chachoengsao and Prachin Buri.

The DDPM cooperated with the army and related authorities to help drought victims

and also asked every sector to use water wisely and change the way of agriculture to suit the present situation.

Source: The Nation Thailand. (2020, Mar 10). *Drought disasters declared in 23 provinces.*

Viet Nam

Several provinces in Viet Nam were hit by severe storms. According to the Vietnam Disaster Management Authority (VDMA), a thunderstorms, heavy rains, strong winds and hail affected the provinces of Yen Bai, Ha Giang, Tuyen Quang, Lai Chau, Lao Cai, Cao Bang and Son La on 3 – 4 March 2020.

The storms ravaged wide swaths of crops in those provinces. More than 7,000 houses were damaged. Public buildings, vehicles, and roads were also badly affected. Roofs, trees, and electricity poles were toppled down causing power disruption to some areas, particularly in Yen Bai.

Moreover, there were five people confirmed dead and at least 17 people injured.

A weather agency forecasted that a cold spell is moving towards the northern area, dumping heavy showers, thunderstorms and strong winds. More rain is expected particularly in the northern-central and central regions in the following days.

Source: The Watcher. (2020, Mar 5). *Severe storms rip through northern Vietnam, leaving 5 people dead, over 350 homes destroyed and 6 800 damaged.*

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