



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE FOOD SECURITY RELATED INFORMATION

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24 February – 2 March 2021

Indonesia

Several heavy rains brought deaths and destructions to Indonesia. Torrential downpours triggered floods and landslides in a number of provinces including Central Sulawesi, East Java, Central Java, West Java, West Nusa Tenggara and Banten during 22-24 February 2021.

In Central Sulawesi Province, a deadly landslide took place at an illegal mining site in Parigi Moutong Regency on 24 February 2021, leaving three persons to die and five still missing. The search and rescue operation for those missing as well as a full assessment on the situation were promptly carried out by the local disaster authorities.

On the same day, Pamekasan Regency of East Java Province witnessed a fatal landslide set off by heavy rainfall and killing five people and inflicting damages to at least 20 houses and schools. Likewise, torrential rain also caused inundation in West Nusa Tenggara Province, causing difficulties to about 8,000 locals and damages of around 2,000 houses.

Besides, more than 90,000 people in Semarang City of Central Java Province had been affected by severe floods since 23 February 2021. There was one casualty reported along with the massive

destruction of nearly 9,200 residences. Meanwhile, three persons were rescued after being struck by a landslide.

In addition, other provinces in Java Island including Central Java Province, Banten Province and West Java Province experienced a repeated inundation on 23 and 24 February 2021 after being ravaged by heavy rains a few days ago. Overall, almost 1,500 homes sustained damages, while 3,880 residents were affected. A total of 50 villagers had to evacuate from their homes.

Source: Floodlist. (2021, Feb 26). *Indonesia – 1 Dead, Over 90,000 Affected by Floods in Semarang City*; Floodlist. (2021, Feb 25). *Indonesia – 3 Dead, 5 Missing After Landslide at Illegal Mine in Central Sulawesi*; Floodlist. (2021, Feb 24). *Indonesia – Heavy Rain Causes Deadly Landslides in Pamekasan Regency, East Java*.

A volcano eruption in Indonesia revealed a calamitous image. The picture of a gigantic ash cloud, which had been blown up as high as seven kilometres up in the sky was shown after Mount Sinabung, located in Indonesia's North Sumatra Province, erupted on 2 March 2021.

The incident caused no injuries or casualties; however, the people in the vicinity areas were strongly advised not to go near a danger zone around the volcano as well as to wear masks for protecting themselves from smoke and to stay alert for potential lava flows.

The volcano has been placed under the level 3 alert status, the second-highest, by the Centre for Volcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation since 2009.

Source: Bangkok Post. (2021, Mar 2). *Indonesia's Mt Sinabung volcano spews hot ash 7km into sky*.

The Philippines

Two quakes struck some provinces of the Philippines. The earthquakes with magnitudes of 5.2 and 3.4 and jolted the provinces of Davao Occidental and Sultan Kudarat on 24 February and 1 March 2021 respectively as reported by the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs). While the stronger magnitude 5.2 quake had a depth of 79 kilometres, 318 kilometres away southeast of

Sarangani town, the epicenter of the magnitude 3.4 quake was recorded at a depth of one kilometre at seven kilometers southwest of Columbio town. No casualties, damages and aftershocks were expected from both quakes.

Source: Philippine News Agency. (2021, Mar 1). *Magnitude 3.4 quake rocks Sultan Kudarat province*; Philippine News Agency. (2021, Feb 24). *Magnitude 5.2 quake hits DavOcc*.

Thailand

Summer storms were expected nationwide. The Meteorological Department warned on 2 March 2021 that several provinces of Thailand could face the impacts of summer storms throughout 2-4 March 2021. The disturbance weather was a result of the convergence of a high-pressure system from China and humidity from the sea brought by southerly and southeasterly winds.

The influence of the storms was expected to prevail in the northeastern, central and eastern regions on the first day; then, it would reach the northern and southern regions on the second day. On the third day, the storms were forecast to remain in some provinces of northern, northeastern, central and eastern regions.

Source: Bangkok Post. (2021, Mar 2). *Summer storms warning*.

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