



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE FOOD SECURITY RELATED INFORMATION

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Indonesia

Almost a hundred thousand suffered from rain-induced calamities. Around 80,000 people had fallen victim to the widespread floods and whirlwinds in several provinces of Indonesia namely East Java, West Java, Central Sulawesi, North Kalimantan, Central Kalimantan, West Nusa Tenggara, North Sumatera and Aceh throughout 24-27 March 2021.

These disastrous incidents happened due to the continuous high-intensity rainfalls, incorporated with the poor conditions of drainage systems and breached embankments in some areas that caused floods to break out. Flooding situations in some regencies of Central Sulawesi, West Java and Aceh were particularly severe that above 1,200 individuals had to flee from their homes and take shelter at safer places.

In addition, the calamities had caused damages to nearly 15,000 houses, around 70 public buildings, 10 roads and 150 ha of agricultural area.

Source: AHA Centre. (2021, Mar 22-28). *WEEKLY DISASTER UPDATE Week 12.*

Lao PDR

A series of earthquakes shook many provinces. Three northern provinces of Lao PDR namely Xayaboury, Saysomboun, and Luang Prabang experienced several minor tremors generated from four earthquakes that jolted the country on 29 March 2021.

Two out of them were reported in Saysomboun with magnitudes of 3.1 and 3.9, while the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology detected the 2.4 and 4.5-magnitude quakes in Xayaboury and Luang Prabang respectively. Fortunately, there were no damages or casualties as a result of the quakes.

Source: The Laotian Times. (2021, Mar 30). *Laos Reports Four Earthquakes in Northern Provinces.*

Malaysia

Massive floodwater forced over a hundred to flee from their homes. An unexpected torrential downpour starting from 23 March 2021 in the middle of a dry season had triggered a heavy flash flood in low-lying areas of Kuantan, a capital of Pahang state, on 24 March 2021. Floodwater up to 1 metre prompted the state authorities to urgently evacuate villagers in affected areas. As of 25 March 2021, the number of displaced persons residing in four relief centres went up to 101, compared to only 14 on the day before.

The flash flood was described by the state government as nothing unusual, as it always stands ready to manage the unavoidable inundation following the non-stop monsoon.

Source: New Straits Times. (2021, Mar 25). *Pahang govt, agencies on the ground assisting flash flood victims;* New Straits Times. (2021, Mar 24). *Flash floods force 14 to seek shelter at relief centre in Kuantan.*

China

China's capital was choked by enormous yellow dust. The residents in

Beijing, for the second time in two weeks, were heavily covered by the large sandstorm from Mongolia and northwestern China on 28 March 2021. This resulted in the sudden surge of hazardous particles in the air, as the amount of PM2.5 and PM10 rose surpassing the maximum level of Beijing's official air quality index. The surrounding provinces of Beijing including Inner Mongolia, Shanxi, Liaoning and Hebei were also badly affected by the sandstorm.

The meteorological office said that the factors attributed to the origination of the sandstorm in Mongolia were the warmer temperature and reduced precipitation, which could potentially cause the sandstorm to hit the capital again in April.

Source: CNA. (2021, Mar 28). *Beijing enveloped in hazardous sandstorm, second time in 2 weeks.*

A morning earthquake left three persons dead. A 5.4-magnitude earthquake killed three persons after it struck Aksu Prefecture in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region in the early morning of 24 March 2021. As many as 278 persons were swiftly relocated to safer places, while the quake together with its 10 aftershocks caused various degrees of damages to 65 residential units.

Source: Xinhua. (2021, Mar 24). *5.4-magnitude quake in Xinjiang kills 3.*

Republic of Korea

A gigantic yellow dust blanketed the entire country. The yellow dust warning had been issued for almost all parts of the Republic of Korea for the first time in a decade on 29 March 2021 as nearly all of its areas were covered by the extreme sandstorm originated from the inland deserts in northern China and Mongolia. The strong density of PM2.5 and PM10, that far exceeded the government-designated "very bad" air classification, caused the air quality in some areas to be the worst since 2010. The situation

prompted the authorities to advise vulnerable groups of people such as those with respiratory or cardiovascular problems and children to stay indoors. In relation to this, the very bad air condition was forecast to persist until 31 March 2021 and would be improved from 1 April 2021 onwards.

Source: Yonhap News Agency. (2021, Mar 29). (3rd LD) *S. Korea suffocated by worst yellow dust storm in a decade.*

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