



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE FOOD SECURITY RELATED INFORMATION

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Cambodia

A summer storm pounded Cambodia's village causing injuries and destruction. A forceful whirlwind coupled with thunder and lightning was seen wreaking havoc in the residential areas of Kralanh village in Cambodia's Pursat province on 17 April 2021.

The natural disaster caused damages to more than 30 houses and injured 13 people which one person was seriously wounded. In response to this, monks and the Cambodian Red Cross distributed food and money to assist affected people.

Source: Khmer Times. (2021, Apr 19). *Storm wreaks havoc in Pursat village.*

Indonesia

A major earthquake struck off Indonesia's coast, killing at least seven people. A magnitude-6.0 earthquake trembled the main Java Island of Indonesia in the afternoon of 10 April 2021. There were at least seven people died and hundreds of homes as well as government facilities, mosques and

schools across the region damaged in various degrees. A total of 12 people sustained injuries, which two of them got serious traumas.

The epicenter of the quake was at around 45 kilometres southwest off the shore of Malang City in East Java with a depth of 82 kilometres. Several aftershocks were recorded; however, no threats from Tsunami occurred.

Source: CNA. (2021, Apr 10). *At least 7 dead after earthquake strikes off Java in Indonesia.*

One fatality was recorded as floods and landslides battered Java. Torrential rainfalls triggered acute floods and landslides in the provinces of West and East Java located on the Java Island of Indonesia on 11 April 2021. The disastrous calamities resulted in at least one death after the landslide buried a house in Bandung Regency of West Java. Meanwhile, there were 125 people affected and 25 houses damaged from a severe inundation in Ponogoro Regency of East Java.

Source: Floodlist. (2021, Apr 13). *Indonesia – Floods and Landslides Affect Java Island.*

Malaysia

Floods and gusts caused chaos in Malaysia. There were numerous reports concerning the incidents of flash floods and gusty winds in many parts of Kuala Lumpur, Perak and Johor from 13 to 17 April 2021. In Johor, five people were successfully rescued by the Fire and Rescue Department after being trapped by heavy rain-induced floodwater on 17 April 2021. Among those rescued were two elderly people aged 80 and 70, whom were safely taken to a temporary relief centre. Meanwhile, people in many areas of Kuala Lumpur witnessed a number of flooding due to torrential downpours in the afternoon of 13 April 2021. Strong winds also caused many trees to fall down. Likewise, high-intensity wind during a storm uprooted trees and blew away roofs

from several homes in Perak. Fortunately, no one was harmed in these events.

Source: New Straits Times. (2021, Apr 18). *Two senior citizens rescued from flash flood in Johor*; New Straits Times. (2021, Apr 14). *Trees uprooted, roofs blown away by storm in Ipoh*; New Straits Times. (2021, Apr 13). *Flash floods strike several parts of Kuala Lumpur, outskirts*.

The Philippines

The powerful super typhoon slammed causing over hundred thousand people to be evacuated. More than 109,000 people in six provinces of Bicol Region had to evacuate from their homes as Super Typhoon Surigae, the strongest typhoon ever recorded in April, traveled close to the Philippines' eastern provinces. One person was killed due to a serious injured caused by a fallen tree.

Although the super typhoon was not expected to hit land, its incredibly fast wind speed along with its enormous size brought strong winds and high waves to many eastern coastal areas of the country on 19 April 2021. The situation prompted the official to issue warnings of flash flood and landslide as well as heavy rainfalls and severe wind.

Source: Bangkok Post. (2021, Apr 19). *Super typhoon kills 1 in Philippines, tens of thousands flee*.

Taal volcano increased its activities again. The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs), on 14 April 2021, observed the rise in Taal volcano unrests that included 238 episodes of volcanic tremor and 143 low-frequency volcanic earthquakes. This was significantly higher than the previous day's 158 volcanic quakes. Alert level 2 (increased unrest) is still registered for the volcano and the area around Taal Volcano Island shall remain strictly prohibited from entering.

Source: Philippine News Agency. (2021, Apr 14). *Phivolcs records increased unrest in Taal*.

Viet Nam

Northern region flash flood left some people for dead. At least three people were killed after a flash flood triggered by a downpour lashed Vãn Bàn District, in the northern mountainous province of Lào Cai on 17-18 April 2021. Two houses were completely swept away by the flood stream, while several others exposed to partial damages. In response to the situation, the local authorities promptly repaired the damaged houses as well as distribute essential relief items to affected people.

Source: Viet Nam News. (2021, Apr 19). *Flash flood claims three lives in northern mountainous area*.

China

Another round of sandstorm covered China's capital. The sandstorm, once again, blanketed all over Beijing, the capital of China, on 15 April 2021. Many pictures in the news displayed several cars or buildings coated by dust particles as well as people's livelihoods in the city affected. The blue alert for sandstorms was issued in the northern part of the country. The areas affected were Xinjiang, Qinghai, Gansu, Inner Mongolia, Ningxia, Shaanxi, Shanxi, Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei, according to the National Meteorological Center.

Source: Xinhua. (2021, Apr 15). *Sandstorm hits Beijing*; Xinhua. (2021, Apr 14). *China issues blue alert for sandstorms*.

Republic of Korea

Air quality plummeted as the dust storm reached the Republic of Korea.

The fine dust particles smaller than 10 micrometres in diameter, known as PM10, surged above the government-designated "very bad" level in Seoul as well as some other central and southern provinces from the evening of 16 April 2021. The situation continued to affect in almost all parts of the country on 17 April 2021. This happened as a result of the dust storm that originated in the Inner Mongolian region in northern China and in Mongolia.

This particular dust storm event hit the country after the same natural incident occurred only around two weeks before.

Source: Yonhap News Agency. (2021, Apr 16). *Yellow dust storm from China, Mongolia heading towards Korea.*