



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE FOOD SECURITY RELATED INFORMATION

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Cambodia

Nearly 2,000 buildings were destroyed by a vicious storm. A heavy storm generated strong winds, torrential rainfalls and hailstones in Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia, along with other 13 provinces during 4-6 May 2021. According to the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM), there were 1,700 buildings including houses, schools, healthcare facilities and public infrastructures, mostly located in Svay Rieng province, damaged. The NCDM further stated that at least one person was killed and five others sustained injuries. Having a storm with heavy winds and hailstones was rarely seen in Cambodia.

Source: Khmer Times. (2021, May 10). *Storm destroys 1,700 buildings across Kingdom*; Khmer Times. (2021, May 6). *Hail stones, storm winds and heavy rains wreak havoc on Kandal's Ang Snoul.*

Indonesia

Heavy rains triggered several disastrous calamities in Indonesia. During 6-8 May 2021, more than a thousand people from West Java, North Kalimantan and Aceh Provinces encountered difficulties from floods and

landslides due to moderate to high-intensity rainfalls triggering many rivers in

the areas to overflow. This resulted in a total of 79 people in Bogor Regency of West Java Province forced to flee their homes. Fortunately, there were no deaths or injuries reported.

Source: AHA Centre. (2021, May 3-9). *WEEKLY DISASTER UPDATE Week 18.*

The Philippines

Two moderate earthquakes jolted the country cautioning possible aftershocks. The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) stated that there were two earthquakes occurring in the southern provinces of the country. The first was a 5.1-magnitude quake centered in Davao del Sur on 6 May 2021, while the second one with a magnitude of 5.3 struck off the coast of Davao Occidental on 11 May 2021. No damages or casualties were expected from these events; Still, the Phivolcs warned about the possible aftershocks striking following the quakes.

Source: Philippine News Agency. (2021, May 11). *Magnitude 5.3 quake jolts DavOcc: Philippine News Agency.* (2021, May 6). *Magnitude 5.1 quake jolts Davao del Sur.*

Windstorms and tornado inflicted widespread damages across the country. Almost 200 houses in the province of Iloilo and Region 12, particularly Cotabato, South Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat received various degrees of damages caused by strong winds and tornado ravaging the areas on 6-7 May 2021. The disasters directly affected nearly 1,000 people and left a total of 22 houses completely destroyed. In relation to this, there were 37 families, all in Iloilo, having to evacuate from their homes and taking shelter at their relatives. Overall, no one was harmed due to these incidents.

Source: AHA Centre. (2021, May 3-9). *WEEKLY DISASTER UPDATE Week 18.*

Thailand

Summer storms left a trail of damages in two provinces of Thailand. Fierce

storms pounded Buri Ram and Nakhon Sawan provinces on 5 and 8 May 2021 respectively. In Buri Ram, several people, on 5 May 2021, experienced the impact of storm, gust and rain which damaged houses and drove some residents to spend the night at local shelters since their homes were destroyed. The gust also toppled trees and electricity poles causing a large-scale blackout for several hours. Likewise, in Nakhon Sawan, the storm damaged 15 houses. The storm brought torrential downpours and last about half an hour. Fortunately, there was no report of death and injury.

Source: Bangkok Post. (2021, May 9). *Villages ravaged by summer storm.*; Bangkok Post. (2021, May 6). *Storm pounds Buri Ram.*

China

Sandstorms blanketed numerous areas prompting the authority to renew warning. On 5 May 2021, China's National Meteorological Center renewed the alert for sandstorms to blue color, the fourth-highest level, as dense dust and sand particles swept through many provinces in northern China, especially some parts of Gansu and Inner Mongolia were hit by sandstorms. Later, on 6 May 2021, the effects of the sandstorm eventually reached the capital Beijing and heightened the concentration of PM10 to the level of "heavy pollution". With the influence of the Mongolian cyclone and strong winds, the dust remained persisted in the area until the night of the same day. In relation to this, the authority also elevated a strong wind warning to yellow color, the third-highest, in the area of Beijing.

Source: Xinhua. (2021, May 6). *Beijing on blue alert for sandstorm*; Xinhua. (2021, May 5). *China renews blue alert for sandstorms.*

Republic of Korea

A yellow dust covered most of the country, causing the dreadful air pollution. On 7 May 2021, the Air Quality Forecasting Center reported that a dust storm originated from the Gobi Desert in northern China and Mongolia had covered the capital, Seoul, and nearby areas driving the PM10 concentration above 600 micrograms per cubic metre. The yellow dust was then expected to cover the entire country on 9 May 2021.

The situation resulted in the issuances of the "third-highest" level of caution as well as the yellow storm warning over five islands located in the West Sea along with Seoul, Incheon, Gyeonggi Province and South Chungcheong. This was the first time in 13 years that such warning was issued in the inland region of the country.

Source: Yonhap. (2021, May 7). *(2nd LD) Yellow dust covers most of Korea; fine dust warnings issued for over half of country.*

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

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