



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE FOOD SECURITY RELATED INFORMATION

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15 – 21 March 2023

Indonesia

Indonesia's Mount Merapi continued to erupt. Mount Merapi, one of the world's most active volcanoes, erupted on 17 March 2023 generating footage of flaming lava and spewing a column of hot ash as high as 1,300 metres into the sky. Residents were advised to prepare for the disruption of volcano materials and be alert for the volcanic mudflow, especially when it rains.

Sources: The Manila Times. (2023, Mar 18). *Indonesia's Merapi volcano erupts anew, spews hot lava.*

The Philippines

Parts of Davao were struck by flooding and landslides. On 14 March 2023, a low-pressure area (LPA) brought heavy rains to hit Davao de Oro province of Davao Region causing floods and landslides in several municipalities. A total of 1,708 families or 6,984 people from 15 villages were affected. Meanwhile, 589 families or 1,932 people were evacuated to temporary shelters in five

evacuation centres. The Department of Social Welfare and Development provided emergency aid to those affected.

Sources: ReliefWeb. (2023, Mar 20). *DSWD DROMIC Report #5 on the Flooding Incident in Davao de Oro as of 20 March 2023, 6PM.*

China

Heavy pollution caused by yellow sand covered northern China. The largest sandstorms of 2023 from Mongolia and North China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, brought by the frequent cold air systems and high winds, blanketed northern China on 21 March 2023 and were expected to enter the capital city of Beijing on 22 March 2023 respectively. This caused a severe air pollution with the PM10 surpassing 1,400 microgram per cubic metre. The alerts for sandstorms and high winds were issued to remind people to be aware of possible falling objects. Earlier, China's National Meteorological Center (NMC) had issued a third-level yellow sandstorm warning in more than 10 provinces that the weather would be sandy and dusty during 21 – 22 March 2023. Besides the sandstorms in northern China, cold air also caused the largest scale of strong convective weather in Southern China this year.

Sources: Global Times. (2023, Mar 21). *Beijing reports heavy pollution as largest sandstorms of 2023 blanket northern China.*

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