



## WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE FOOD SECURITY RELATED INFORMATION

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**22 – 28 March 2023**

### Indonesia

**A volcano eruption and landslide occurred in Indonesia.** Mount Ili Lewotolak in East Nusa Tenggara province erupted on 24 March 2023 releasing a column of smoke and ash 700 metres high into the sky. According to the Volcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation Center, a 2-kilometre no-go zone around the crater was imposed. Meanwhile, the residents were warned to be alert for potential lava flows and hot clouds, and wear face masks to protect themselves against the volcanic ash. However, there were no reports of injury or damage. The alert status of the volcano remained at its third-highest level after the eruption. Besides, a landslide triggered by torrential rains was reported in West Sumatra province on 25 March 2023. It damaged a worship centre and killed two people while they were inside.

**Sources:** The Jakarta Post. (2023, Mar 24). *Volcano erupts in East Nusa Tenggara, spews tower of smoke and ash*; The Star. (2023, Mar 26). *More rain havoc as two people killed in landslide in western Indonesia*.

### Malaysia

**Floods wreaked havoc in Malaysia.** Continuous heavy rains since 25 March 2023 caused floods in Taiping town forcing a total of 60 people from 14 families to evacuate to a relief centre while several houses were affected. Involved agencies and rescue teams were deployed to the affected area. Likewise, Sipitang town was also hit by flooding due to heavy rains. The police and civil defence force personnel monitored and conducted patrols in the affected area. Also, the Malaysian Meteorological Department (MetMalaysia) issued warnings of thunderstorms, heavy rains, and strong winds in the towns of Sipitang, Tenom, Kuala Penyu, and Beaufort.

**Sources:** New Straits Times. (2023, Mar 26). *Sipitang town hit by flash floods*; New Straits Times. (2023, Mar 26). *60 evacuated due to floods in Taiping*.

### Japan

**Northeastern Japan was struck by a strong earthquake.** According to the Japan Meteorological Agency, an earthquake of magnitude 6.1 jolted off Aomori prefecture in northeastern Japan at a depth of around 20 kilometres. The earthquake was measured at level 4, on the Japan's earthquake intensity scale ranging from 0 to 7, in parts of Hokkaido, Aomori, and Iwate prefectures. However, any fluctuations in coastal waters caused by the quake did not generate harm or damage.

**Sources:** Kyodo News. (2023, March 28). *M 6.1 quake hits off Aomori in northeastern Japan*.

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

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