



WEEKLY UPDATE ON NATURAL DISASTERS IN ASEAN PLUS THREE

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Indonesia

Flash floods and a landslide claimed one life on Sumatra Island. Torrential rains triggered flash floods and a landslide in North Sumatra province on 1 December 2023. Residents of a hilly village near the Lake Toba were buried under tons of mud, rocks, and fallen trees. There was one dead while 11 people went missing. The disasters also damaged at least 35 houses, a church, a school, and a hotel, forcing around 55 families to seek refuge in temporary shelters.

Sources: VOA. (2023, Dec 3). *1 Dead, 11 Missing after Landslide, Flash Floods Hit Indonesia's Sumatra Island.*

Death toll from Indonesia's Mount Marapi volcano eruption increased. According to the confirmation on 5 December 2023 from the Padang Search and rescue agency, a number of climbers killed by an eruption of the Mount Marapi volcano in West Sumatra province, Indonesia was up to 22 as more bodies had been found. The volcano erupted on 3 December 2023 spewing 3,000 -metre volcanic ash to the sky. Earlier, 11 climbers found dead while several others were taken

to the hospitals. The authorities increased an alert to the second highest level and barred all activities within two miles of Marapi's crater from being carried out. This eruption was the deadliest eruption since 1971.

Sources: Aljazeera. (2023, Dec 5). *Death toll rises after Indonesia Mount Marapi eruption*, CNN. (2023, Dec 5). *13 climbers killed, 10 missing following Indonesian volcano eruption.*

Malaysia

Malaysia's Baling district suffered from flash floods. Prolonged heavy rain caused flash floods in three villages of Baling district, Malaysia on 5 December 2023. Those affected villages were Kampung Iboi, Kampung Sadek and Kampung Badan. Meanwhile, the water of Sungai Baling overflowed its bank and inundated the houses nearby the river. Civil Defence Force personnel were also deployed to the affected areas for monitoring the situation.

Sources: The Star. (2023, Dec 5). *Heavy rain causes flash floods in three villages in Baling.*

The Philippines

A major earthquake shook Mindanao Island. A magnitude 7.4 earthquake at a depth of 32 kilometres struck off the coast of Hinatuan municipality in Surigao del Sur province, Mindanao Island on 2 December 2023 triggering tsunami warnings. There were at least two people killed, and several injured. According to the report from the Office of the Civil Defense, 2,647 people were affected; some had to evacuate to a hospital and sought higher ground. Classes in Davao del Norte province were suspended due to the quake. Roads and bridges were

slightly damaged. There were four major aftershocks of magnitudes exceeding 6.0. The Philippine government promptly provided assistance to those affected and later lifted all tsunami warnings.

Sources: Manila Standard. (2023, Dec 4). *2 dead as magnitude 7.4 quake hits Mindanao*, GMA News. (2023, Dec 4). *2 killed in magnitude 7.4 Hinatuan earthquake-OCD-CARAGA*.

China

China's Yunan province was struck by a 5.0-magnitude earthquake. On 2 December 2023, an earthquake of magnitude 5.0 at a depth of 10 kilometres jolted Mangshi city in Yunnan province of southwest China. More than 1,900 people were evacuated to safer places. Houses, and power facilities were also damaged. The tremor was strongly felt in many parts of the province including Lincang City, Baoshan City, and Dali Bai Autonomous Prefecture. Yet, no casualties were reported.

Sources: Xinhua. (2023, Dec 2). *5.0-magnitude quake hits Yunnan*.

Japan

Small tsunami waves were seen in Japan after a major quake rattled the Philippines. The Japan Meteorological Agency reported that 40-centimetre tsunami waves were observed on 3 December 2023 in the Pacific Island of Hachijojima, about 290 kilometres south of Tokyo, while 20-centimetre waves were reported in Wakayama and, Kochi prefectures after the powerful earthquake struck Mindanao Island in the Philippines on 2 December 2023. Earlier, the wave had been expected to

reach one metre in height resulting in an issuance of tsunami advisories which were later lifted.

Sources: Asahi Shimbun. (2023, Dec 3). *Tsunami waves of 40 cm observed in Japan after Philippine quake*, The Japan Times. (2023, Dec 3.) *Japan lifts tsunami warning after strong quake jolts Philippines*.

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