



WEEKLY UPDATE ON NATURAL DISASTERS IN ASEAN PLUS THREE

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Indonesia

Indonesia handled with volcanic ash and floods at the same time. The spread of volcanic ash from Mount Semeru in East Java province, Indonesia was detected causing the operations at Abdulrachman Saleh Airport to be temporarily closed for safety on 12 January 2024. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Transportation continually monitored and evaluated the situations. Furthermore, the Bandung district government of West Java province declared an emergency response status for floods during 13 – 20 January 2024. It helped involved agencies to provide assistance to flood-affected people easier and faster. The district had faced the impacts of floods and other hydrometeorological hazards since 11 January 2024.

Sources: Antara News. (2024, Jan 12). *Abdulrachman Saleh Airport closed due to Mt. Semeru's volcanic ash*; The Star. (2024, Jan 15). *Indonesia's Bandung declares flood emergency until Jan 20*.

Malaysia

Malaysia's Sibul city was inundated by flooding. Flash floods triggered by downpours on 11 January 2024 hit several low-lying areas in Sibul city of Sarawak state, Malaysia. Many roads were submerged by floodwaters resulting in heavy traffic congestion in some areas. The Department of Irrigation and Drainage later advised those living in low-lying areas to be more vigilant during rainy season.

Sources: Malay Mail. (2024, Jan 11). *Low-lying areas in Sibul inundated following downpour*.

The Philippines

Volcanic unrest was detected on Luzon Island of the Philippines. An increase of Bulusan Volcano's seismic activity on Luzon Island, the Philippines was observed on 11 January 2024. There were 71 volcanic tectonic earthquakes, ranging between magnitude 0.3 to 2.2, associated with rock fracturing recorded. Besides, degassing from the summit crater spewed weak to moderate plumes of smoke while shallow hydrothermal activity was underway. The entry into the 4-kilometre radius permanent danger zone was prohibited. The Bulusan Volcano remained under the alert level 1 meaning a low-level unrest with increased chances of steam-driven or phreatic eruptions.

Sources: Philippine News Agency. (2024, Jan 11). *Increased seismic activity recorded in Bulusan Volcano*.

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