



WEEKLY UPDATE ON NATURAL DISASTERS IN ASEAN PLUS THREE

No. 359
13 – 19 March 2024

Indonesia

Indonesia experienced severe floods and landslides caused by torrential rains. A province of Central Java in Indonesia heavily poured with prolonged rainfalls. On 13 March 2024, floods and landslides ravaged several parts of Semarang, a provincial capital of Central Java, including the Old Town and the nearby Tawang railway station. According to the Indonesian Red Cross, over 250,000 individuals were affected in at least 10 regencies in Central Java and more than 2,300 forced to stay in temporary shelters as of 15 March 2024. Likewise, thousands of people in Demak and Kudus became displaced after floods had struck the regencies leaving at least five people dead reported as of 19 March 2024. The situation in Central Java became worsen as floods had damaged several dams and submerged the villages. Apart from Central Java, there was a report of landslide caused by a torrential downpour killing two foreign tourists in Bali. One of them was identified to

be an Australian woman while another's identity remained unknown.

Sources: The Jakarta Post. (2024, Mar 14). *Flooding inundates Semarang's Old Town, railway station*; Daily Express. (2024, Mar 14). *Bali landslide kills 2 foreign tourists*; Asia News. (2024, Mar 19). *Thousands flee homes as massive flooding grips Central Java*.

The Philippines

Vog alert around Taal Volcano was renewed. Volcanic smog, or vog, were observed around Taal Volcano again on 12 March 2024, affecting several municipalities including Agoncillo, Laurel, Balete, Sta. Teresita, Calaca, Mabini, Mataasnakahoy, Lemery, San Nicolas, and Talisay. One day earlier, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology recorded 6,837 tons of sulfur dioxide. The public were advised to limit outdoor activities, stay indoors, close doors and windows, wear N95 masks, and stay hydrated to reduce throat irritation and prevent eyes and respiratory tract discomfort.

Sources: Philstar. (2024, Mar 13). *Taal Volcano vog alert up anew*.

China

Sandstorms threatened China's northern regions. On 14 March 2024, China's National Meteorological Center reissued a blue alert, an initial tier of its three-tier color-coded weather warning system, for sandstorms in several regions in the northern and northwestern parts of the country. During 14-15 March 2024, areas including Xinjiang, Inner Mongolia, Qinghai, Gansu and Ningxia were anticipated to experience floating sand and dust. Residents were

urged to take precautions while drivers were advised to prepare for reduced visibility.

Sources: Xinhua. (2024, Mar 14). *China renews blue alert for sandstorms.*

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