



WEEKLY UPDATE ON NATURAL DISASTERS IN ASEAN PLUS THREE

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Indonesia

Indonesia faced catastrophic disasters.

An earthquake of magnitude 6.4 rattled several areas of East Java province on 22 March 2024. Gresik Regency was the most affected area. The epicentre was located 111 kilometres north of Paciran sub-district, Lamongan Regency in East Java province at a depth of 8.5 kilometres. An aftershock later was recorded with a magnitude of 5.4. More than 26,000 people felt the strong tremor. As of 25 March 2024, two people were injured, and a total of 144,520 people were affected. Meanwhile, the quake also damaged almost 4,679 houses and 183 public buildings. Aside from the quake, one person was killed due to a landslide in Bogor Regency of West Java province, and nine people went missing due to a flash flood and a landslide in West Bandung Regency on 24 March 2024.

Sources: Reliefweb. (2024, Mar 25). *Indonesia: Earthquakes, Floods and Landslides (USGS, GDACS, BNPB, ADINet) (ECHO Daily Flash of 25 March 2024).*

Malaysia

Several parts of Malaysia grappled with heatwave. The entire state of Perlis, and parts of Kedah and Perak were under Level 2 heatwave status, which was a condition of daily maximum temperatures ranging from 37 to 40 degrees Celsius for three consecutive days. Meanwhile, Level 1 heatwave alert, signifying daily maximum temperatures ranging from 35 to 37 degrees Celsius for three consecutive days, was set in several areas of Kedah and Perak states. The authority also suggested the schools situated in Level 1 heatwave areas to suspend all outdoor activities. The heatwave has occurred since the hot dry season began this year, exacerbated by El Nino.

Sources: The Star. (2024, Mar 23). *Heatwave: Eight localities in peninsula facing up to 40 degrees Celcius.*

Viet Nam

Whirlwind and hail severely hit Viet Nam's Son La province. On 22 March 2024, whirlwind and hail occurred in Muong Leo commune, Sop Cop district of Son La province, Viet Nam causing a property damage. Moreover, in the afternoon of the same day, the commune faced tornadoes and heavy rain while some areas were hit by hail. As a result, there were 531 houses and 6 schools damaged, and one cow killed. The authority later mobilised forces to help affected people.

Sources: Reliefweb. (2024, Mar 23). *Viet Nam, Storm and Winds in Sop Cop and Song Ma (Son La) (22 Mar 2024).*

Japan

A strong earthquake rocked nearby areas of Tokyo. An earthquake of magnitude 5.3 struck near Tokyo on 21 March 2024; however, no threat of tsunami. The quake was focused in southern Ibaraki Prefecture, eastern Japan at a depth of around 46 kilometers, and registered lower 5 on the Japanese seismic intensity scale of 7. Due to this, Hokuriku and Joetsu Shinkansen services connecting Tokyo and the central Japan cities of Nagano and Niigata were temporarily suspended.

Sources: Japan Today. (2024, Mar 21). *M5.3 earthquake hits Tokyo, nearby areas.*

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