



WEEKLY UPDATE ON NATURAL DISASTERS IN ASEAN PLUS THREE

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2024

Brunei Darussalam

Heavy rains triggered widespread floods in Belait district. Several low-lying areas in Belait district, Brunei Darussalam including Kampong Sungai Teraban, Kampong Mumong, Kampong Panaga, Kampong Pandan, and the Suri Seri Begawan Hospital were submerged due to floodwaters caused by overnight heavy rains on 29 – 30 December 2023. Several clinics were also affected resulting in a temporary suspension of operations for repairing and cleaning.

Sources: Borneo Bulletin. (2023, Dec 31). *Floods hit Belait after overnight rainfall.*

Indonesia

Magnitude 4.8 quake struck West Java province. An earthquake of magnitude 4.8 with an epicentre at five kilometres in depth jolted Sumedang district of Indonesia's West Java province on 31 December 2023. There were 456 residents forced to leave their homes while 11 people were injured. Medical

personnel had to evacuate 108 patients in the Sumedang hospital to a safer area. The quake also damaged 248 homes. Later, two aftershocks were detected. The earthquake was a shallow crustal earthquake causing by the movement of an active fault in the area.

Sources: Antara. (2024, Jan 1). *Sumedang quake: 248 homes damaged, 456 people displaced.*

Malaysia

Floods hit Malaysia's Johor state. Continuous rains caused severe floods in Mersing district of Johor state, Malaysia on 27 December 2023. A temporary relief centre was opened to shelter 83 evacuees from 25 families. Floodwaters also cut off a road heading to Orang Asli Peta village while another route to Tenggaraoh Timur was impassable for all vehicles. The Mersing Civil Defence Force (APM) later initiated an observation for the flood-hit areas.

Sources: Malay Mail. (2023, Dec 27). *Mersing hit by floods following continuous rain in Johor.*

Japan

A catastrophic earthquake claimed many lives in Japan on New Year's Day. At least 48 people were killed and scores of people were injured after a powerful 7.6- magnitude earthquake struck Japan's Ishikawa Prefecture on 1 January 2024. It prompted tsunami waves hitting the western coast of the country. There were around 200 tremors recorded. The government ordered about 100,000 people to evacuate while over 50,000 people had to leave without power or water supply. The strong tremor also caused widespread damages to buildings and infrastructure. Many rail services and flights

were suspended. Search and rescue teams were rapidly dispatched to the quake-hit area. Yet, no irregularities were found at nuclear plants along the Sea of Japan. On 2 January 2024, almost half of those evacuated returned homes after the authorities lifted tsunami warnings.

Sources: Japan Today. (2024, Jan 2). *Rescue teams search for quake survivors in Ishikawa as death toll reaches 48.*

Republic of Korea

Tsunami was observed off South Korea's east coast. A tsunami with a maximum height of 85 centimetres was detected off South Korea's east coast following a massive earthquake of magnitude 7.6 in Japan on 1 January 2024. Meanwhile, smaller tsunamis were also observed along the east coast. Still, tsunami waves lower than 10 centimetres surged toward the east coast on 2 January 2024. Although, the tsunamis were gradually ebbing, people living in coastal areas needed to take caution.

Sources: Yonhap News Agency. (2023, Jan 2). *85-cm tsunami observed at S. Korea's east coast following Japan's earthquake.*

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