



WEEKLY UPDATE ON NATURAL DISASTERS IN ASEAN PLUS THREE

No. 404

29 January – 4 February 2025

Indonesia

Disaster emergency status was declared in Indonesia's Bima regency. The local government of Bima regency on Sumbawa Island, Indonesia's West Nusa Tenggara province, officially declared a disaster emergency status on 4 February 2025 following severe flash floods and landslides. These disasters occurred on 2 February 2025, killing three people, and sweeping several houses and eight people away. Rice fields were also submerged. The emergency status would be effective from 4 to 17 February 2025. Besides, a magnitude 5.1 earthquake struck East Kolaka regency, Southeast Sulawesi province on 29 January 2025. The tremors were felt strongly in the regency with an intensity scale of IV-V MMI (Modified Mercalli Intensity). This event marked the 125th earthquake in a series of tremors that hit the area since 24 January 2025.

Sources: TEMPO.CO. (2025, Jan 29). *A Series of Quakes: M5.1 Earthquake Strikes Indonesia's East Kolaka*; Xinhua. (2025, Feb 4). *Indonesia's Bima regency declares disaster emergency status following deadly flash floods, landslides.*

Malaysia

Floods wreaked havoc in Malaysia.

The flood situation in Sarawak state, Malaysia was gradually improved on 2 February 2025. However, the number of flood victims from 62 temporary evacuation centres (PPS) exceeded 12,000 people. Meanwhile, the number of flood-affected people in Sabah state reached 1,651. Tongod district, which had just recovered from floods on 1 February 2025, was hit by flooding again, forcing other two PPS to reopen.

Sources: The Star. (2025, Feb 2). *Floods: Over 12,000 still displaced in Sarawak, evacuations increase in Sabah.*

Japan

A record-breaking snowfall blanketed Japan's Hokkaido prefecture. Obihiro city, in Japan's eastern Hokkaido prefecture was struck by 12 hours of record-breaking snowfall on 4 February 2024. The snow depth reached 1.29 metres, leaving vehicles stranded. Heavy snowfall was also recorded in Kushiro and Sapporo prefectures. Officials urged residents to avoid non-essential travel. Meanwhile, the Japan Meteorological Agency issued warnings for heavy snow, snowstorms, and high waves. People were advised to stay alert for power outages, fallen trees, and avalanches. Additionally, an accumulation of snow had not exceeded 1.2 metres for 53 years.

Sources: The Watchers. (2025, Feb 4). *Japan sets new national 12-hour snowfall record with 1.29 m (4 feet) in Hokkaido.*

Republic of Korea

Severe cold wave engulfed South Korea.

On 4 February 2025, extreme cold weather conditions, caused by a high-pressure system from northern China, swept across South Korea. Consequently, the country experienced a significant drop in temperatures. The lowest temperatures in the morning fell between minus 18 degrees Celsius to minus 4 degrees Celsius while Seoul recorded a low of minus 12 degrees Celsius. In Jeju and the southern regions, heavy snow was forecast to fall in many places. Meanwhile, damages from burst water meters, and icy roads were reported in many areas. Access to Hallasan Mountain, and mountain roads was also restricted.

Sources: Chosun Biz. (2025, Feb 4). *Severe cold wave hits Korea, brings heavy snowfall and freezing temperatures.*

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