



WEEKLY UPDATE ON NATURAL DISASTERS IN ASEAN PLUS THREE

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12 - 18 March 2025

Indonesia

Two volcanos in Indonesia dramatically erupted on the same day. Mount Semeru in East Java province of Indonesia erupted again on 17 March 2025. The height of volcanic eruption column was observed about 1,000 metres above the summit. Several types of seismic activity were also recorded. The activity level of Mount Semeru remained at level II or Caution, advising not to carry out any activities up to 8 kilometres from the summit. The public was warned to be wary of the potential hot clouds and lava flows along the river. On the same day, Mount Dukono in North Maluku province also erupted and spewed 600-metre gray ash into the sky. Although the volcanic activity increased, the alert status of Mount Dukono remained unchanged. People were advised not to approach or hike within a 4-kilometer radius of the Malupang Warirang Crater.

Sources: TEMPO.CO. (2025, Mar 17). *Mount Semeru Erupts 6 Times This Morning, Spewing Ash up to 1 Kilometer*; TEMPO.CO. (2025, Mar 17). *Indonesian Govt Designates Hazard Zones as Mount Dukono Erupts*.

Malaysia

Floods in Malaysia's Sabah state caused adverse impacts on daily life. Since 8 March 2025, deadly flooding had submerged six districts of Sabah state in Malaysia, namely Beaufort, Membakut, Keningau, Sook, Tenom, and Kemabong. The situation worsened after Tenom Dam was opened, causing further inundation. About 4,555 people from 1,493 families were displaced with the activation of 31 evacuation centres (PPS). Floodwaters disrupted daily life, damaged infrastructure, and triggered landslides. Also, schools, livelihoods, and agriculture were damaged. As of 16 March 2025, all PPS were officially closed, allowing displaced communities to return home. Still, humanitarian assistance was required.

Sources: Reliefweb. (2025, Mar 17). *MYS: Flood - 12-2025 - East Malaysia Monsoon Flood 02*.

Thailand

Heat index in Thailand hit dangerous to health. According to the Department of Health on 18 March 2025, temperatures was rapidly rising after the hot season settled in Thailand with the high heat index, hitting the orange level or dangerous to health. During 5 - 14 March 2025, the temperatures in some areas reached 42 - 51.9 degree Celsius while people in the southern, central, eastern, and northeastern regions were all at risk. The authority warned people to check the weather forecast, and avoid outdoor activities, if possible, together with drinking water more frequently during hot weather.

Sources: Bangkok Post. (2025, Mar 18). *Thailand's heat index reaches danger levels*.

China

A landslide in China left one dead while heating season was extended. A landslide, caused by continuous heavy rains, hit Nujiang Lisu Autonomous Prefecture, Yunnan province, China on 18 March 2025. It killed one person while four others went missing. Rescuers were underway to search for those missing. Besides, the capital Beijing experienced a rapid temperature drop on 15 March 2025. Many areas had seen rain-snow transitions with moderate to heavy snow, forcing the municipality authorities to extend the heating season for two days. Furthermore, the northern districts of Huairou, Yanqing and Miyun had to issue a yellow alert for icy roads.

Sources: Xinhua. (2025, Mar 15). *Beijing extends heating season amid cold wave, snowfall*; Xinhua. (2025, Mar 18). *1 dead, 4 missing in southwest China landslide*.

Republic of Korea

Heavy snowfall battered South Korea. On 18 March 2025, an unusual snowfall, triggered by a strong polar low-pressure system, severely blanketed South Korea. It caused major disruptions to commuters and flight delays across the country while icy roads also led to multiple traffic accidents. A heavy snow warning was issued for most regions, marking the first time in seven years to extend the alert nationwide in mid-to-late March, and the warning was the latest in the season ever recorded in 26 years of data collection in Seoul.

Sources: The Korea Times. (2025, Mar 18). *Unseasonal snow disrupts commuters, flights across Korea*.

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