



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE FOOD SECURITY RELATED INFORMATION

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Indonesia

Mt. Sinabung in North Sumatra erupted and spewed volcanic materials up to 4 kilometres in the air. The Volcanology and Geological Disaster Mitigation Centre has maintained the alert status at level IV, in anticipation of further eruptions. The centre called on visitors to stay away from a 3-kilometre radius of the mountain top and warned residents living near river to anticipate the danger of hot lava floods.

Source: The Jakarta Post (2017, May 18). *Mt. Sinabung erupts, spews ash 4 km in air.*

Lao PDR

The International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and the government of Lao PDR have reinforced partnership in research by expanding the role in increasing food and nutrition security. Current initiatives include the Consortium for Unfavorable Rice Environment (CURE) for empowering farmers in challenging environments to improve rice production and livelihoods. Reportedly, Lao PDR achieved self-sufficiency as rice production was above 2 million tonnes in 1999.

Source: The Laotian Times (2017, May 9). *Laos and IRRI Maintains Partnership in Food Security.*

Myanmar

There are 500 displaced people due to heightened tensions in Shan State. Some 300 displaced people are staying in a monastery in Namtu town, where they received assistance from the government and local community groups. In addition, close to 200 people from Maukmae Township, southern Shan, were displaced to a nearby monastery, where they are receiving basic assistance from the government and civil society organisations.

Source: United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) (2017, May 22). *Asia and the Pacific: Weekly Regional Humanitarian Snapshot (16-22 May 2017).*

Philippines

Saudi Arabia provided dates to thousands of school children in Central Mindanao through the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP). Over 60,000 school children and their families in Lanao del Norte, Lanao del Sur and Maguidanao are set to receive dates, which are common food in vulnerable communities and are customarily eaten to break the day-long fast during Ramadan.

Source: World Food Programme (2017, May 9). *Dates from Saudi Arabia to Enhance WFP School Meals for Thousands of Children.* News.

Thailand

The Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) has warned provinces in the Lower Chao Phraya River Basin of possible runoff from upstream areas following continuous rainfall. Those provinces are namely Uthai Thani, Ang Thong and Ayutthaya. Residents and farmers living along the Chao Phraya are encouraged to strictly heed disaster warnings and move their belongings to higher ground in advance.

Source: National News Bureau of Thailand (2017, May 22). *Central provinces below dam brace for swelling of Chao Phraya.*

Viet Nam

Deputy Prime Minister Trinh Dinh Dung spoke with provincial authorities and government agencies about the need for urgent action to prevent landslides in the Mekong Delta.

The hardest-hit areas are in the provinces of An Giang, Dong Thap, Bac Lieu and Ca Mau. Reportedly, landslides have the potential to affect 100,000 hectares of aquaculture farms and more than 260,000 households in the delta.

Source: Viet Nam News (2017, May 17). *Urgent measures needed to protect landslide-prone areas in Mekong Delta: Deputy PM.*

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