



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE FOOD SECURITY RELATED INFORMATION

No. 8 7 - 13 December 2016

Indonesia

A 6.5-magnitude earthquake struck Aceh province, causing 94 dead, and 270 injured people. The earthquake hit just the north of the small town of Reuleuet. There were 245 collapsed buildings of homes, shops, and mosques with expectation of further death and injury. The Prime Minister urged relevant agencies to support recovery efforts by continued rescues and machinery for clearing debris. However, there were no tsunami warnings as this earthquake appeared on land.

Source: Chan, F. (2016, Dec 7). *94 dead, hundreds injured in Aceh quake.* The Straits Times.

Lao PDR

The Executive Director of the WFP, Ertharin Cousin, reiterated the agency's commitment to work with the national government for supporting food and nutrition security and achieving middle-income status. WFP is working with communities in rural areas through school meal programmes for supporting Laotian human capital and will launch a new five-year programme next year for Sustainable Development Goal 2 on achieving food and nutrition security globally by 2030. This scheme will also

support the 8th National Social Economic Development Plan, shifting the country to middle-income status by 2020.

Source: UN News Centre. (2016, Dec 1). *In Lao PDR, UN food relief agency chief reiterates support for efforts to ensure nutrition security for all.*

Myanmar

WFP welcomed the contribution from the Government of Japan, which was worth 300 million yen (2.8 million USD) for reducing food insecurity and malnutrition along with increasing resilience among the most vulnerable communities in Myanmar. This contribution would allow WFP to procure 1,900 tonnes of pulses, salt, and oil to benefit more than 140,000 food-insecure people across the Divisions of Magway and Sagaing as well as the States of Kachin, Mon, and Shan. Likewise, specialised nutrient-dense food and snacks would help children increase their intakes of vitamins and minerals.

Source: World Food Programme. (2016, Dec 8). *WFP Welcomes Japan's Generous Contribution To Fight Food Insecurity in Myanmar.* News

Philippines

Due to the Emergency Shelter Cash Assistance Project (ESCAP) launched in the aftermath of Typhoon Haima, a total of 150.60 million peso (3.03 million USD) were distributed to 30,007 family-beneficiaries. Under the ESCAP, affected residents with totally destroyed houses would receive 30,000 peso, for example. The accomplishments were reported in the Cordillera Administrative Region as well as in Ilocos, Cagayan, and Central Luzon Regions. For this December 2016, the number of beneficiaries reached per week should be 5,641 people.

* 1 USD = 49.77 Philippine peso

Source: Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) of the Philippines (2016, Dec 2). *DSWD continues to release Emergency Shelter Cash Assistance to 'Lavin'-affected Filipinos.*

Thailand

Since 1 December 2016, flash floods and floods affected agriculture across 8 southern provinces. Paddy fields were affected by 212,584 rai (34,013 hectares) or 25 percent of the total affected farmlands by 835,084 rai (133,613 hectares). Meanwhile, 35,065 rai (5,610 hectares) of fisheries together with 4.57 million livestock were also affected. Emergency assistances were operated by evacuation, feed distribution, and healthcare for livestock as well as support of water pumps and pressures.

The implementation results of water management plan for drought season 2016/17 starting from 1 November 2016 to 30 April 2017 were reported. Since 1 November 2016, the total used amount of water was 3,622 million m³ out of the planned amount of 17,661 million m³ or 21 percent. This plan has been set forth by 9,579 m³ and 2,339 m³ or 54 and 13 percent of the total for agriculture and consumption, respectively.

* 1 rai (Thai system) = 0.16 hectare

**1 USD = 35.65 baht

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives of Thailand (2016, Dec 9). *Report of disaster situation in agriculture (Thai Version)*.

Viet Nam

Due to drought and saltwater intrusion which were expected to be severe in the 2016/17 dry season, the Mekong Delta provinces were taking measures to preserve freshwater for farming and household uses. In response to these two damaging events, there were water supply management by pipe networks, water tanks, canals, and temporary dams as well as desalination plants across Ben Tre, Long An, and Tien Giang provinces. The authorities have also urged farmers in vulnerable areas to complete planting rice for a winter-spring season early. However, farmers actually began

growing rice since November 2016 and hoped to finish by this coming January. Additionally, coastal districts were advised to grow only two rice crops.

Source: Viet Nam News (2016, Dec 8). *Mekong delta prepares for dry season*.

Republic of Korea

A moderate 3.3-magnitude earthquake rattled Gyeongju at 5:53 p.m. on Monday 12 December 2016. The epicentre was measured at 9 kilometres southwest of the city and the tremor was analysed as an aftershock of the powerful quake that struck the city on 12 September 2016. There were no immediate reports of damage or casualties from the quake.

Source: Si-soo, P. (2016, Dec 12). *3.3-magnitude earthquake rattles Gyeongju*. The Korea Times.

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