



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE FOOD SECURITY RELATED INFORMATION

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Brunei Darussalam

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, chairing the first meeting of the National Disaster Council 2017, urged people not to be complacent though the country is located away from big-scale disaster-prone areas. His Royal Highness also highlighted continuous efforts for reducing risk and improving preventive measures due to climate change impacts. Disaster risk reduction activities must be guided by a strategic framework which should be developed in line with the efforts towards achieving the goals of Brunei Vision 2035.

Source: Othman, A. (2017, Apr 30). *Shed complacency in disaster management.* Borneo Bulletin.

Lao PDR

The World Food Programme (WFP) granted more than 85 million USD to help the Lao government achieve the Sustainable Development Goal targets, as well as middle-income country status. This grant supports the WFP's new five-year Country Strategy

Programme (2017-2021), which was in line with Laos' national socio-economic development plan. The WFP will provide school meals programme, nutritious food for children as well as knowledge and practices. The WFP also aims to improve food security of vulnerable communities, reduce climate change impact and build their resilience.

Source: Vientiane Times (2017, May 8). *WFP injects more than US\$85m to support sustainable development.*

Myanmar

The Union Ministries teamed up to manage national water resources to fight flood and drought caused by climate change. The Meeting of the National Water Resources Committee urged for cooperation and advised for effective work process for national water resource management. The Meeting also discussed about national rainwater harvesting movement and processes in alleviating the flooding and relief of water scarcity.

Source: Ministry of Information of Myanmar (2017, May 3). *Gov't takes steps to protect people from ravages of climate change.*

Thailand

The Royal Irrigation Department has distributed water to large-scale farmlands to help farmers decrease costs. Water distribution will also prevent shortages causing damages on production and progresses have been done in many areas such as Ayutthaya. There were 202 farmers who already received water for their large-scale rice fields. Moreover, the Department is constructing a pumping station, improving ditches for water discharges and inspecting regulators in preparation for wet-season rice cultivation.

Source: National News Bureau of Thailand (2017, May 7). *Govt provides water for large-scale farmland.*

Viet Nam

El Nino, which will last until the end of 2017, will cause drought and salinity intrusion during the dry season. The 2017 rainy season will see 13 to 15 storms and tropical depressions in the East Sea and localities should be prepared. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development reported that the last El Nino from 2015 to 2016 caused the biggest drought and salinity intrusion in over 100 years and announcement of urgent disaster situation in the Mekong Delta. Around 160,000 hectares of farming areas and 8,000 tonnes of rice were damaged with the loss of 667.80 million USD.

Source: Viet Nam News (2017, May 4). *15 storms to enter Viet Nam in 2017.*

P.R. China

The new type of agriculture insurance will be launched in around 200 counties to compensate crop yield losses resulting from natural disasters. The insurance will cover the costs of agricultural materials, fertilizers and land use fees for plating rice, wheat and corn for family farms, large-scale growers and farmers' cooperatives. Those counties will be selected from China's 13 major grain production provinces including Hebei, Anhui and Henan.

Source: The State Council of the People's Republic of China (2017, Apr 27). *Agriculture insurance for disasters to be promoted in 200 counties.* Policy Watch.

Gathered by the Food Emergency Monitoring and Information (FEMI) Sub-Division of the APTERR Secretariat

Tel: +66 (0) 2579 4816-17 Fax: +66 (0) 2579 4840

Email: kanin.lao@apterr.org / kanin.la34@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.apterr.org/>

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