



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE FOOD SECURITY RELATED INFORMATION

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Indonesia

Heavy rains caused floods and landslides in many areas of the country during the last week. As of 6 December 2018, heavy rains and whirlwinds in Bogor city resulted in 9 deaths and 50 damaged houses. The officials and volunteers from the Ministry of Social Affairs have already provided supports to the affected people. On the same day, an overflowing river in Kempo sub-district, West Nusa Tenggara province inundated 120 houses and led to 5 injuries. On 8 December 2018, floods and landslides caused 4 missing persons in Pacitan of Java province, 4 deaths in Bali province and 375 flooded residential areas near the river banks in Semarang city. Floods have caused the problems of health among the affected population.

Source: United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (2018, Dec 10). *Asia and the Pacific: Weekly Regional Humanitarian Snapshot (4 -10 Dec 2018)*

Lao PDR

The Government of Lao PDR has approved additional 500 billion kip (58 million USD) as emergency aid for

2019 for restoring agro infrastructure damaged by recent floods. This amount of funds will be used for procuring inputs of rice seeds with fertilisers for agriculture and for compensation of damages from the insects mostly in northern provinces. Recent floods caused by tropical storms and insects in northern provinces have left 2 trillion kip (234 USD) worth of damages on the agriculture sector. The government announced the plan to reduce electricity prices by 50% for crop farmers and 30% for animal farmers to help mitigate effects of disasters. This plan will take effect on 1 January 2019.

* 1 USD = 8,594 kip

Source: Lao News Agency (2018, Dec 7). *Gov't Approves Additional 500 Billion Kip For Rehabilitating Agro Sector Next Year.*

Philippines

The cold weather-associated northeast monsoon will continue to affect Northern Luzon while the warm and humid easterly winds will prevail over the rest of country. Cloudy skies with light to moderate rains will be across Batanes and Babuyan islands as well as provinces such as La Union, Pangasinan and Ifugao. Meanwhile, Metro Manila and the rest of the Philippines will experience partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers due to thunderstorms. There are warnings against possible landslides or flash floods over mountainous or low-lying areas during severe thunderstorms while a gale warning has been issued over northern and western section of Northern Luzon due to rough seas. The fisherfolks are advised not to sail into the coastlines of Batanes, Calayan, Babuyan and the northern coasts of Ilocos Norte and Ilocos Sur due to rough to very rough seas that will be dangerous for small sea craft. Sea vessels are advised of moderate to rough seas over the coastlines of the eastern part of the country.

Source: Manila Bulletin (2018, Dec 10). *'Amihan' continues to affect Northern Luzon.*

Thailand

Thailand's northern, eastern and central regions including Bangkok will experience a temperature drop of up to 3 Celcius from 7 to 10 December 2018.

Northern Thailand will experience morning fog as temperature begin to drop in north and northeastern regions. Precipitation will continue in the South with heavy rainfalls in certain areas. During 7-10 December 2018, a high-pressure area from China will extend into the upper Thailand, resulting in thunderstorms, a temperature drop and gusty winds. Temperatures in the north and northeastern regions are expected to decline up to 3 degrees. Temperature will be dropped up to 2 degrees in the east and the central plain including Bangkok. In the meantime, the northeasterly monsoon prevailing in the Gulf of Thailand and the southern region will result in heavy rainfall.

Source: National News Bureau of Thailand (2018, Dec 6). *Temperature to drop by 3 degrees.*

Viet Nam

Personnel were directed to take flood prevention measures as directed by the Steering Committee for Natural Disaster Prevention and Control of Ho Chi Minh city. The People's Committee of districts such as Binh Thanh, Cu Chi and Hoc Mon have informed the public about specific dates and times of the expected tidal peak. The districts also prepared the equipment to improve weak embankment whereas there was preparation of human forces, pumps as well as traffic regulation in flood-prone areas. Reportedly, the tidal level of Sai Gon river is expected to go above the alarm level 3 by 0.1 to 0.15m from 8-9 December 2018 while the tidal level measured at Phu An station and Nha Be station will exceed the alarm level 3 by 0.07 to 0.12m.

Source: Viet Nam News (2018, Dec 7). *HCM City takes steps to deal with high tides.*

P.R. China

It is forecast that stronger cold air will bring gale, falling temperature, rain and snow to central-eastern China.

Afterwards, the South of the Yangtze river, South China and southern Guizhou will face scale 4-5 northerly winds and drop of temperature by 6-8 Celcius. Temperature will come down further by 8-10 celcius in provinces of Fujian, Guangdong and Guangxi. On 7 December 2018, the blue warning of cold wave has been issued by the National Meteorological Centre. In the meantime, continuous rain or snow will be in most parts of southern China. The rain and snow will fall in the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze river and southern Shaanxi. The snow will become stronger and will hit Shaanxi, Hubei, Anhui, Hunan, Jiangxi and Jiangsu.

Source: China Meteorological Administration (2018, Dec 7). *Stronger cold air brings gale, falling temperature and snow to hit China.*

Gathered by 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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