



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE FOOD SECURITY RELATED INFORMATION

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26 Dec 2018 – 8 Jan 2019

Indonesia

A landslide, on 30 December 2018, killed at least 15 people and 20 are still missing in West Java province. Heavy rain caused landslide which buried at least 30 homes in Sirnaresmi village in Sukabumi district. Sixty people who lost their homes were forced to move to a temporary shelter. However, the slide covered a total area of over 10 hectares, National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB) said.

According to BNPB spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, nearly 900 rescuers from the National Search and Rescue Agency, the military, police and residents dug through the mud, aided by three mechanical excavators and two tracker dogs. Still, bad weather, power cuts and damaged roads have slowed their efforts.

Source: South China Morning Post. (2019, Jan 1). *Rescuers search for survivors in deadly Indonesian landslide*; FloodList. (2019, Jan 2). *Indonesia – 15 Dead, 20 Missing After Landslide in West Java*.

Light ash fall was noticed in Tegalmulyo and Tlogowoatu villages, Klaten, Central Java. Regarding a report from Indonesia' local media, Kompas.com, this incident was occurred, after Mount Merapi spewed lava toward Kali Gendol Sleman in Yogyakarta on Friday night, 4 December 2019.

The agency then went to the two villages to distribute around 5,000 masks to the residents.

Source: The Jakarta Post. (2019, Jan 5). *Mount Merapi eruption triggers ash fall in Klaten*.

An earthquake of magnitude 6.6 hit Indonesia. The quake hit at a depth of 60.5 km under the Molucca Sea and was followed by aftershocks of a magnitude of 5.0 to 5.1.

There were no immediate reports of damage or casualties and Indonesia's geophysics agency did not issue a tsunami alert.

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center said in a statement that, based on available data, there was no current tsunami threat from the event.

Source: AFP. (2019, Jan 7). *Strong 6.6-magnitude quake hits off Indonesia*; Reuters. (2019, Jan 7). *Earthquake of magnitude 6.6 hits Indonesia, authorities report no damage or casualties*.

Philippines

Heavy rains from tropical depression caused massive floods and landslides in the central and eastern Philippines.

Tropical depression "Usman" first hit the country on 29 December 2018, which weakened into a low pressure system before leaving the Philippines on 30 December 2018.

Flooding was reported in over 200 locations as well as numerous damaging landslides. Particularly, Bicol Region was the hardest hit area. The storm damaged the agriculture in Bicol, which produces rice and corn, was estimated at 342 million pesos or 6.5 million U.S. dollars. Roads have been affected in 95 locations and 26 power lines damaged.

The death toll from the storm that devastated the Philippines rose to 126. The top cause was landslide caused by torrential rain.

The death toll was likely to climb further with 26 people still missing, national disaster agency spokesman, Edgar Posadas said. More than 152,000 people

were displaced by the storm and 75 were injured, according to the national disaster agency.

Source: The Thaiger. (2018, Dec 31). *Tropical storm 'Usman' kills 22 in Philippines*; Xinhua. (2019, Jan 1). *75 dead in landslides, floods in Philippines*; Reuters. (2019, Jan 2). *Death toll from Philippine landslides, floods climbs to 85*; FloodList. (2019, Jan 3). *Philippines – Over 100 Dead After Tropical Depression 'Usman' Triggers Floods and Landslides*; AFP. (2019, Jan 6). *Death toll from Philippine storm, landslides climbs to 126*.

Thailand

A 4.9 magnitude earthquake struck the western province of Kanchanaburi on the evening of 30 December 2018. The tremor was felt by people in Muang, Saiyoke, Si Sawat, Thong Pha Phum and Sangkhla Buri districts, but no casualties or damage was reported.

The Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand said that its dam safety remote monitoring system detected the quake with its epic centre in Si Sawat district, about 54 kilometres from the Srinakharin dam to the north.

Wallop Mekprueksawong, director of EGAT's maintenance section, said the earthquake did not affect the Srinakharin or the Vajiralongkorn dams in Kanchanaburi province and he advised residents and tourists not to panic.

Source: Bangkok Post. (2018, Dec 31). *4.9-magnitude quake in Kanchanaburi*; Thai PBS. (2018, Dec 31). *Kanchanaburi jolted by 4.9 magnitude quake Sunday night*; The Thaiger. (2018, Dec 31). *4.9 magnitude earthquake registered in Kanchanaburi*.

Tropical storm "Pabuk" hit southern Thailand caused floods and landfalls.

Flooding was widespread in Pak Phanang district, where the first tropical storm struck Thailand in more than three decades. Tropical storm made landfall. Some buildings were damaged and electricity poles were blown down along the main road to Muang district, resulting in power cuts in some areas.

The Meteorological Department said Pabuk was moving northwest at 18

kilometres per hour, with maximum winds at the centre of the storm recorded at 75 kilometres per hour.

The department's director-general, Chayabol Thitisak, said that 18 provinces in the southern region and along the coast of the Gulf of Thailand had suffered damage from the storm, strong winds and flash floods brought by the heavy downpour.

The affected provinces are: Nakhon Si Thammarat, Pattani, Surat Thani, Songkhla, Narathiwat, Chumphon, Trang, Phatthalung, Ranong, Krabi, Yala, Phetchaburi, Chanthaburi, Trat, Rayong, Samut Sakhon, and Samut Songkhram.

A fisherman died in southern Pattani province as high waves smashed into his boat and another crew member was reported missing.

Chayabol said due to the severity of the storm that hit Thailand, some 213,000 families, or some 696,000 people, had been affected, while 2,240 were still displaced and had to stay at the remaining 24 evacuation centres in Nakhon Si Thammarat and Chumphon.

Source: The Nation. (2019, Jan 4). *Thousands flee as Pabuk blows in*; Bangkok Post (2019, Jan 4). *Pabuk lashes Nakhon Si Thammarat but may weaken*; The Nation. (2019, Jan 5). *Pabuk thrashes into the south*; The Guardian. (2019, Jan 5). *Tropical Storm Pabuk batters Thailand coast but tourists are spared the worst*; The Nation. (2019, Jan 7). *Officials get pat on the back for tropical storm response*

Viet Nam

The central region of Viet Nam was submerged under 0.5 – 1.5 meters of floodwater after long lasting heavy rain.

On 30 December 2018, many areas in Binh Dinh province were inundated. Flood water damaged roads and newly sown rice fields.

In the neighboring province of Phu Yen, swollen rivers in combination with floodwater released from hydropower and irrigation reservoirs worsened the situation. A man was reported swept away in Dong Xuan mountainous district.

The Steering Committee for Natural Disasters Prevention, Search and Rescue in Thua Thien-Hue province said that the ongoing northward cold front resulted in strong wind and big waves. This impelled high tide to cause landslide at tens of spots along the coastline in the province.

Three people in Cam Lam district, the central coastal province of Khanh Hoa, were killed when their houses collapsed by landslides on 30 December 2018 morning and the fourth victim was swept away by flood waters on 29 December 2018 from the central coastal province of Phu Yen, the Central Steering Committee for Natural Disaster Prevention and Control reported.

Heavy rains - also damaged three houses in Khanh Hoa, inundated 384 homes in Phu Yen, 10,920 hectares of rice in the central provinces of Thua Thien-Hue, Binh Dinh, Phu Yen and Khanh Hoa, and eroded nearly 100 meters of embankments in Binh Dinh.

Source: Saigon Online. (2018, Dec 31). *Heavy rain triggered flooding batters central region of Vietnam.* Vietnamplus. (2018, Dec 31). *Four killed during torrential rains in central provinces.*

China

A 5.3-magnitude earthquake hit China's Sichuan province on 3 January 2019.

The 5.3-magnitude quake struck at a depth of 15 km and damaged the houses of 175 families in the Gongxian. The damage was estimated at 620,000 yuan (about 90,338 U.S. dollars).

Fortunately, no fatalities have been reported, and only one person was slightly injured by the quake.

The Sichuan Earthquake Administration has activated an emergency response and dispatched a working team to assist the local government's disaster relief efforts.

Experts with the Sichuan Earthquake Administration warned of possible earthquakes between magnitudes of 4 and 5 in the region in the near future.

Source: Xinhua. (2019, Jan 3). *Sichuan 5.3-magnitude quake injures one.*

Japan

An earthquake struck Kumamoto Prefecture on 3 January 2019.

According to the Japan Meteorological Agency, the earthquake was felt most strongly in Nagomi, registered lower 6, the third-highest level on the Japanese seismic intensity scale.

However, the Kumamoto prefectural government called on residents to be alert for the possibility of a more powerful earthquake occurring.

There have been no reports of serious injuries or major property damage. No landslides have been confirmed.

Meanwhile, a 6.4 magnitude earthquake occurred in the southern Japan on 8 January 2019. The quake was 39km deep and centred 116km south-east of Kagoshima.

Regarding the US Geological Survey, there were no casualties or damage reported.

Source: The Japan News. (2019, Jan 3). *Powerful quake hits Kumamoto Prefecture,* (2019, Jan 5). *No serious quake damage in Kumamoto;* Reuter. (2019, January 8). *6.4-magnitude earthquake strikes off south Japan.*

In Hokkaido, the northern Japan – heavy snow caused flight cancellations on 5 January 2019.

As two runways at the New Chitose Airport were closed because of heavy snow.

Around 2,000 travelers were forced to stay overnight at a key airport on Saturday, 5 January 2019, as 105 flights were cancelled and check-in counters at the airport got swamped with people trying to book new flights to bring them home. On Sunday, 17 flights were canceled and 261 flights were delayed due to snow removal work. A total of 45 people spent their second night at the airport.

Airline officials said extra flights had been added, and that most people whose flights were canceled would be able to book a replacement by Monday night, 7 January 2019.

Airport staff handed out sleeping bags and blankets for the travelers whose flights were canceled.

Source: Xinhua. (2019, Jan 6). *2,000 passengers stranded at airport in north Japan due to heavy snow*, The Japan News. (2019, Jan 7). *Heavy snow strands 2,000 travelers at Hokkaido airport as New Year holidays wrap up*,

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