



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE FOOD SECURITY RELATED INFORMATION

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Thailand

Drought has remained amid rainy-season. Although Thailand has currently entered the rainy-season since 20 May 2019, Nakhon Ratchasima still has faced up with drought.

According to the Regional Irrigation Office 8 Nakhon Ratchasima, several dams and reservoirs contained the water under their capacity such as Lam Takong Dam contained at 55.48 percent of its capacity and Lum Phra Ploeng Reservoir contained only 17.96 percent of its capacity.

Regarding residents, there were 52 villages of nine provinces suffering a water shortage for consumption and use. Additionally, there were 35 villages of them declaring disaster zones so far.

According to the Thai Meteorological Department's prediction, this year rainy season will have less rain than previous year about 5-10 percent below the mean.

Source: The Nation (2019, May 20). *Drought remains amid rainy season kick-off, with below-rainfall expected though mid-July.*

Viet Nam

Heat stroke killed a man in Ha Tinh in central Vietnam. On Sunday 19 May 2019,

a man died in a field in central Vietnam. After that, the examinations suggested that his death was because of heat stroke. Ha Tinh Province was recorded the nation's highest ever temperature in April which hit 43.4 degrees Celsius.

According to the National Hydro Meteorological Forecasting Center, the heat wave was the result of developing low-pressure from the west. The Emergency Department at the Loc Ha District General Hospital warned that people should not going out between 11:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. (local time) during hot days to prevent heat strokes. Full-body clothing and masks should be worn if one has to go out.

Moreover, several places across Vietnam are facing with hotter summer than normal. Big cities like Hanoi and Saigon have been hit with extremely high levels of UV rays and sweltering temperatures.

Source: Vnexpress (2019, May 21). *Heat stroke kills man in central Vietnam.*

China

Drought attacked southwest China in Yunnan Province. Drought affected 309,000 people to hardly access drinking water. Meanwhile, 93,000 domestic animals have been facing a water shortage. In response to the severe drought, government authorities have sent drought-relief experts as well as the water to help people affected.

Moreover, the update as of 14 May 2019, showed that 273,280 hectares of crops have been affected due to bad conditions and 91,160 hectares of them have suffered damages.

Source: Xinhua (2019, May 18). *Yunnan drought affects more than 300,000 people.*

The effect from earthquake in Jilin damaged many residents. There were 476 people affected after a 5.1-magnitude earthquake jolted Jilin Province, according to local authorities.

Many households were damaged due to the quake in Ningjiang District of the city of Songyuan. There were 75 people

relocated. Yet, and no injuries have been reported.

The epicenter was monitored at 45.3 degrees north latitude and 124.75 degrees east longitude with 10-kilometer depth.

Source: Xinhua (2019, May 19). *Houses damaged in Jilin's 5.1- magnitude quake.*

Japan

Heavy rain struck Yakushima Island and many areas in southwestern Kyushu.

Torrential rain of around 120 millimeters per hour fell on the island on 18 May 2019 causing flood and landslides, while trees near the mountain trail were knocked down.

More than 300 people were forced to stay at a mountain on Yakushima Island and many hikers had to spend the night in the vehicles and mountain. Passengers on the bus which stuck in the mountain, shared some foods to relieve their hunger.

Heavy rain not only hit Yakushima Island, but also swamped the southwestern Kyushu on 20 May 2019.

The Japan Meteorological Agency warned torrential rain may cause of floods and landslides. They also warned the threat of tornados and lighting strikes across Japan through 21 May 2019.

Kagoshima Governor Satoshi Mitazono visited the landslide areas on the island and vowed to work for swift recovery.

Source: Japan Today (2019, May 19). *Over 300 stranded people rescued on Yakushima Island after heavy rain;* Japan Today (2019, May 20). *Torrential downpours continue to lash Kyushu.*

Japanese authorities raised the volcanic alert level for Mt Hakone.

Japanese authorities warned people not to approach the crater due to a seismic activity.

The Japan Meteorological Agency decided to raise the level from 1 to 2 for the first time since 2015 after the number of volcanic earthquakes increased to 45 on 18 May 2019 and reached 48 on the next day.

The agency still warned of a possible eruption and volcanic cinders has been intensifying in areas around Owakudani.

In this regard, some visitors were disappointed because some roads were closed and ropeway operations were suspended. For instance, leading road to Owakudani, a famous site to observe volcanic activity, was closed.

Source: Japan Today (2019, May 19). *Volcanic alert level raised for MT Hakone in resort area near Tokyo*

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