



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE FOOD SECURITY RELATED INFORMATION

No. 121
5 - 11 June 2019

Indonesia

People in western Indonesia were affected by an eruption of Mount Sinabung. According to the country volcanology agency, a column of ash was spewed in the sky with 7 kilometres high due to the eruption in Mount Sinabung volcano located on Sumatra Island of western Indonesia.

The eruption occurred on 9 June 2019. There were ash and smoke shot at 4:28 p.m. (local time), followed by a spread of hot ash to the southeast and south of the crater by up to 3.5 and 3 kilometres respectively.

Mount Sinabung volcano is at the second highest alert level with no-go zone of 5 kilometers from the crater.

The spokesman of national disaster management agency suggested residents living near flank of the volcano areas to use masks to prevent from rain of ash. Meanwhile, people living alongside the rivers with upstream in the slope were warned of cold lava floods during rains fall. Yet, there was no report of any damages or injuries.

Source: Xinhua. (2019, June 9). *Mt. Sinabung erupts in western Indonesia, no casualty reported.*

Floods in Samarinda affected several areas of the city. After the heavy rain stuck Samarinda city for several hours on 9 June 2019, the water level at Benanga Dam at the upstream of Karang Mumus River, the confluence of the Mahakam River was increased. In this regard, the water level in the Mahakam River, which flows along with Samarinda city, rose followed by flood into the city.

In the following day, some areas in Samarinda remained flooded. Residents were forced by flood to flee from their homes to seek refuge. According to Samarinda city secretary, Griya Mukti, and Gunung Linggai had been the most affected.

The Samarinda administration applied an emergency protocol for seven days to assist 10,300 people affected by the flood. People were moved to safer ground.

Source: The Jakarta Post. (2019, June 10). *Flooding in Samarinda affects thousands.*

Malaysia

Widespread flooding inundated in several areas in Sarawak affecting many residents. After heavy rains fell over three days, Sarawak state faced with heavy floods at least three large districts namely Belaga in central Sarawak, Baram in the northern part and Tinjar in the northern part. Residents in several districts had been evacuated to higher ground.

The Sarawak Fire and Rescue Department deployed unit to help the residents while the State Disaster Relief Committee distributed food-aid relief to those affected. The Civil Defence also sent personnel in the flood-hit district.

Source: The Star. (2019, June 8). *Weather getting more unpredictable in Sarawak.*

Thailand

Heavy rains struck Bangkok causing floods and traffic jams. According to the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA)'s Flood Prevention Centre, heavy downpours caused rapidly rising floodwaters to reach as high as 20 centimetres in the city.

In preparation for flooding, the BMA had listed 13 locations to be monitored closely and another 56 spots with the potential of flooding.

Floodwater in several roads caused traffic jams in many areas. The water level rising in Saen Saep canal disrupted a transit system as some boats with big size were unable to pass under some bridges.

Source: Bangkok Post. (2019, June 8). *Heavy rains grind capital to a halt.*

The dam water level in Nakhon Ratchasima declined by 50 percent comparing with last year. Residents in Phimai district of Nakhon Ratchasima are likely to be the next victims of drought after water levels in local reservoir extremely dropped.

According to the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, a total of 35 villages in three districts including Chalerm Phrakiat, Pra Thong Kham and Sung Noen have been declared drought-hit.

Moreover, the holding water levels in several major reservoirs are less than their storage capacity. The Lam Takhong dam is holding only 54 percent of its storage capacity while Lam Phra Phloeng dam is holding only 14 percent of capacity.

Source: Bangkok Post. (2019, June 7). *Dam levels spur shortage fears.*

China

Rainstorms struck several parts of China. After the rainstorms left, there were six people died, four people missing and 77,400 hectares of crops damaged in Jiangxi. In Guangxi, at least one person died and four still have been missing. Meanwhile it caused five people injured and, more than 3,400 hectares of crops and 22 houses damaged. In the hardest-hit country of Quanzhou, heavy rain and floods affected more than 180,000 residents. There were 8,380 people evacuated.

The flood water also affected in Guilin. The water increased above the alert level. In Baisuo Town, floodwater rose more than two metres.

The National Meteorological Center issued yellow alert in Zhejiang, Fujian, Jiangxi, Hunan, Guizhou, Guangdong provinces and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. China has four colour-coded weather warning system with red representing the most severe, followed by orange, yellow and blue respectively.

Source: Xinhua. (2019, June 9). *China Focus: At least 7 dead as rainstorms sweep south, east China;* Xinhua. (2019, June 9). *Over 30,000 residents affected by rainstorms, floods in Guangxi.*

Japan

People in eastern and western Japan were advised to prepare for floods and landslides. The Japan Meteorological Agency announced the start of the rainy season in the Kanto-Koshin, Tokai, Hokuriku and southern Tohoku regions on 7 June 2019 with estimated rains over 24 hours on Shikoku island at 200 millimetres, the southern Kyushu at 120 millimetres, Kinki, Tokai and northern Kyushu region at 100 millimetres.

The agency and local governments used a new five-level alert system for natural disasters on 7 June 2019 for the first time.

In Hiroshima and Yamaguchi prefectures, there was a level 4 warning issued for possible landslides.

Source: The Asahi Shimbun. (2019, June 7). *Rainy season starts; warning issued for floods, landslides.*

Gathered by the APTERR Secretariat
Tel: +66 (0) 2579 4816-17 Fax: +66 (0) 2579 4840
Email: akaruch@apterr.org
Website: <http://www.apterr.org/>

* This Weekly Update on ASEAN Plus Three Food Security Related Information is based on all available sources during the period. The APTERR Secretariat shall take no responsibility for data accuracy in this publication and any consequence of their use.