



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE FOOD SECURITY RELATED INFORMATION

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26 February – 3 March 2020

Indonesia

The flood situation in Greater Jakarta worsened. As a result of the widespread flooding inundating the capital and surrounding cities over past few days, there were four people died in Bekasi City, three in Greater Jakarta and two in South Tangerang.

As of 25 February, Karawang Regency and East Jakarta were the worst-hit areas. The floods also affected areas of Bekasi city and the bordering Bekasi regency, Subang regency and parts of Tangerang and South Tangerang in Banten province.

According to the National Disaster Mitigation Agency (BNPB), as of 27 February, a total of 35,891 people had been displaced in the Jakarta metropolitan area, including 13,754 in Karawang, 8,582 in Subang and 7,106 in East Jakarta.

Source: The Jakarta Post. (2020, Feb 27). *Nine die in Greater Jakarta floods: BNPB*; FloodList. (2020, Feb 27). *Indonesia – 9 Dead in Jakarta Region as Floods Worsen*; FloodList. (2020, Feb 27). *Indonesia – Homes Damaged by Floods in West Kalimantan*.

Air travel was disrupted after Mount Merapi erupted. An international airport in Surakarta, Central Java was forced to close temporarily on 3 March 2020, following the eruption of Mount Merapi.

The volcano spewed a 6,000-metre column of ash into the sky according to the Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Agency (BMKG).

State-owned air navigation firm AirNav Indonesia issued a warning on the latest volcanic activity to pilots passing through the affected areas.

Volcanic ash from the eruption covered parts of the airport's runway and apron. There were at least six flights cancelled.

Source: The Jakarta Post. (2020, Mar 3). *Surakarta airport closes temporarily after Mt. Merapi spews out ash 6,000 meters high*.

Philippines

The Taal Volcano Network recorded volcanic quakes within the Taal volcano island. Although an emission in the volcano's main crater was reduced, the Taal Volcano Network still recorded volcanic quakes at least 45 tremors associated with rock fracturing processes beneath and around the edifice.

The alert Level 2 was maintained over the volcano. It implies that there is a decreased unrest. Still, it should not be interpreted that the unrest has ceased according to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS).

The PHIVOLCS recommended that entry into the Taal volcano island, Taal's Permanent Danger Zone, must be strictly prohibited.

Local government units were advised to assess previously evacuated areas within the seven-kilometre radius for damages and road accessibilities and to strengthen preparedness, contingency and communication measures in case of renewed unrest.

People were also advised to observe precautions due to ground displacement across fissures, frequent ashfall, and minor earthquakes.

Communities beside the active river channels, particularly where an ash from the main eruption phase has been thickly deposited, should increase vigilance when there is heavy and prolonged rainfall since the ash can be washed away and form lahars along the channels.

Source: Manila Bulletin. (2020, Feb 29). *Taal Volcano emissions weaken, but volcanic quakes still being recorded.*

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