



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE FOOD SECURITY RELATED INFORMATION

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8 - 14 December 2021

Indonesia

A powerful earthquake triggered tsunami warnings in Indonesia. A violent earthquake measured 7.4 on the Richter scale struck about 112 kilometres northwest of Larantuka Town in East Flores Regency, East Nusa Tenggara Province, Indonesia, on 14 December 2021. The quake tremors were felt by people in many areas for several minutes, causing them to run out into the street, but there were no reports of immediate damages or casualties. Later, the town also witnessed 5.6-magnitude aftershock following the main quake.

The areas of Maluku, East Nusa Tenggara, West Nusa Tenggara and Southeast and South Sulawesi provinces were placed under tsunami warnings. According to the US-based Pacific Tsunami Warning Center, the occurrences of giant waves were possible for coasts located within 1,000-kilometres radius around the earthquake's epicentre. The official from the Indonesia Meteorological Agency also suggested people to stay away from the beaches as the warnings would be lifted at least two hours after it came into effect.

Source: The Jakarta Post. (2021, Dec 14). *Powerful quake strikes East Nusa Tenggara; residents flee into streets.*

The Philippines

Nearly 2,000 people had to relocate to a safer zone due to a severe storm in the Philippines. Scattered floods and landslides which were triggered by intense rainfalls, broke out across Region VIII or Eastern Visayas, the Philippines on 11 December 2021. The affected areas consisted of Can-Avid, Dolores, Hernani, Lawaan, Quinapondan, San Julian and Taft Municipalities in Eastern Samar Province and Palo Municipality in Leyte Province. As a result, a total of 30,030 people were affected, 1,855 of them had to evacuate from their homes and reside in three evacuation centres. Fortunately, there were no casualties in this event.

Source: AHA Centre. (2021, Dec 11). *Philippines, Storm in Eastern Samar and Leyte.*

No damages were expected from the afternoon ground shake in the Philippines. According to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, a magnitude 5.5 quake jolted Occidental Mindoro Province, the Philippines on the afternoon of 13 December 2021, with the epicentre located at 23 kilometers northeast of Paluan Municipality with a depth of 104 kilometers. The strongest trembling, Intensity IV, was sensed by the people in Calatagan Municipality of Batangas Province and Puerto Galera Municipality of Oriental Mindoro Province. In addition, aftershocks were likely to occur yet, the damages were not expected from the magnitude 5.5 quake.

Source: Philippine News Agency. (2021, Dec 13). *Magnitude 5.5 quake jolts Occidental Mindoro.*

Japan

Two violent earthquakes disrupted railway operations in Japan. Strong earthquakes with magnitudes 6.1 and 5 hit the Tokara Islands in Kagoshima Prefecture on 9 December 2021, and Tokyo together with its surrounding areas in eastern Japan on 12 December 2021 respectively. The quakes neither lead to any abnormalities at nuclear facilities nor inflict casualties and serious damages. No

tsunami warnings were issued as well. Nevertheless, the high-speed rail services in those affected areas were temporarily suspended but resumed their operations shortly.

Source: The Japan Times. (2021, Dec 9). *Strong quake jolts islands in Kagoshima Prefecture*; The Japan Times. (2021, Dec 12). *Strong quake jolts Tokyo area*.

Republic of Korea

The tremors from an earthquake were felt across the Republic of Korea. On 14 December 2021, an earthquake with an intensity of 4.9 magnitudes occurred in the water around 41 kilometres off the coast of Seogwipo City on Jeju Island, the Republic of Korea, according to the Korea Meteorological Administration (KMA). The National Fire Agency revealed that it had received over 160 reports of vibrations from across the country. Despite the trembling, it only caused minor damages to properties on Jeju Island and left no threat of tsunami. However, the KMA advised the public to be aware of more shaking as nine aftershocks ranging between 1.5-1.7 magnitudes had already occurred.

Source: Yonhap News Agency. (2021, Dec 14). (3rd LD) *4.9 magnitude earthquake strikes off Jeju Island*.

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