



WEEKLY UPDATE ON NATURAL DISASTERS IN ASEAN PLUS THREE

No. 467

13 – 19 May 2026

Indonesia

Deadly flood and landslides wreaked havoc in Indonesia.

Torrential rainfall during 12-13 May 2026 triggered severe flooding and landslides in Jambi province, Indonesia. It affected over 24,000 people, caused two fatalities and one injury, and damaged more than 5,600 houses and 214 hectares of rice fields. Later, overflowing rivers triggered by 24 hours of heavy rainfall inundated thousands of homes and public facilities and forced some residents in parts of Central Sulawesi, South Kalimantan, and West Java provinces to evacuate. According to the National Disaster Mitigation Agency (BNPB)'s report on 19 May 2026, around 5,205 people were affected and over 1,700 houses damaged. The residents living near riverbanks were advised to remain alert and evacuate if prolonged heavy rainfall continued.

Source: AHA Centre (2026, May 18). *ASEAN Weekly Disaster Update Week 20/11-17 May 2026*; ANTARA News. (2026, May 19). *Heavy rain triggers floods in three Indonesia provinces: BNPB.*

Myanmar

Moderate earthquake struck Myanmar.

A magnitude 5.3 earthquake struck near the southern coast of Myanmar on the morning of 18 May 2026. The epicentre was about 14.5 km. south of Kyauktan

township, Yangon Region at a focal depth of 40 km. No casualties or property damage were reported. This tremor was also felt by the residents in high-rise buildings in Bangkok and several other parts of Thailand. However, no serious damage or casualties were reported following the earthquake.

Source: The Star. (2026, May 18). *Moderate magnitude earthquake hits Myanmar.*

Thailand

Flash floods submerged schools and villages in Thailand.

Prolonged heavy rainfall over five days triggered flash floods on 18 May 2026, damaging schools and villages in the border province of Tak and forcing residents to scramble to higher ground. The following day, the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) issued a nationwide alert covering May 19–21, warning of forest run-offs, flash floods, and strong waves in southern coastal provinces due to a strong southwest monsoon.

Source: Khaosod (2026, May 19). *Flash floods hit Tak school after five days of rain.*

Viet Nam

Extreme weather caused widespread impacts to Viet Nam.

Many provinces in Viet Nam experienced severe lightning storms during 13-14 May 2026. Reports indicated that four people died in Quang Tri, Da Nang, and Quang Ngai provinces in Viet Nam. Later, heavy rainfall, thunderstorms, and strong winds swept across Cao Bang, Quang Ninh, Thanh Hoa, and Dak Lak during 15-17 May 2026, causing flooding and crop damage. Total losses estimated at more than VND10.2 billion (USD 387,000). Thunderstorms and heavy rains were forecast to continue in many regions nationwide until 21 May 2026.

Source: AHA Centre (2026, May 18). *ASEAN Weekly Disaster Update Week 20/ 11-17 May 2025*; VN Express (2026, May 19). *Heavy rain, whirlwinds caused USD 387,000 damage in Viet Nam provinces.*

P.R. China

Moderate earthquake and devastating floods hit P.R. China.

On 17 May 2026, a magnitude 5.0 earthquake struck at a shallow depth of 10 km in the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. The quake caused at least 13 buildings to collapse, resulting in two deaths, one missing person, and the displacement of over 7,000 residents. Two days later, at least 10 people had died after relentless heavy rains caused massive flooding and landslides across Hubei, Hunan, Guangxi, Chongqing, and Guizhou. The China Meteorological Administration maintained elevated orange alerts as the weather system shattered local rainfall records. A Level-IV emergency response was activated to accelerate state-level disaster relief.

Source: ReliefWeb. (2026, May 18). *China-Earthquake (GDACS, USGS, media) (ECHO Daily Flash of 18 May 2026)*; Aljazeera. (2026, May 19). *At least 10 dead as huge floods sweep southern and central China.*

Japan

Strong earthquake struck Japan with no casualties.

A strong earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 6.4 struck off the coast of Miyagi Prefecture in northeastern Japan on the evening of 15 May 2026. The quake temporarily halted Tohoku Shinkansen bullet train services. No tsunami warning was issued, and no immediate casualties or abnormalities at the nearby Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant were reported.

Source: Kyodo News. (2026, May 15). *M6.4 earthquake jolts northeastern Japan, no tsunami warning issued.*

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