Regional Summary (Week 16)

1. There were scattered rain showers in the equatorial, southern ASEAN region, and some portions of the Mekong sub-region. However, hotspots and smoke haze conditions still persisted over the northern Mekong sub-region. Dense haze was reported to be observed over northern areas of Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Thailand. Some of the smoke haze from Lao PDR were blown by prevailing winds towards northern Viet Nam. Transboundary Smoke Haze Alert Level 3 is still raised over the northern Mekong sub-region.

2. There were no reported disasters in the region. However, there were reports of small-scale eruptions of Mt. Agung in Bali, Indonesia. Although there were no reported affected and/or displaced population, the general public is still advised to be cautious of increased volcanic activities and be prepared for any emergency activities in the event of a large-scale eruption. There are four volcanoes in the region that are under monitoring – all in Indonesia. Agung, Karangetang, and Soputan, which are in Alert Level 3; and Sinabung, which is in Alert Level 4 (highest alert level in Indonesia).

3. Seismically, there were seven (7) reported earthquakes of magnitude 5.0 and above in Indonesia (BMKG) and the Philippines (PHIVOLCS). Fortunately, there were no reported major impact.

4. The ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre (ASMC) expects an increase in rain shower activities in the southern ASEAN region; while a generally dry condition in the Mekong sub-region with scattered rain showers in some areas. Further, hotspot activities and hazy conditions in the northern Mekong sub-region are expected to persist.