REGIONAL SUMMARY:

During the week of Northeast Monsoon season, the weather remain dry in Mekong sub-region, as several isolated hotspots were detected in Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Thailand. According to the ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre (ASMC), smoke plumes in Thailand could be observed from some of the hotspots, and air quality at Very Unhealthy level was observed at the Saraburi province. Meanwhile, wet conditions are generally occurring the southern part of ASEAN region and have caused several flooding events.

HIGHLIGHT:

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) reported that a tectonic 6.9 magnitude earthquake with 3 km depth, struck Davao del Sur, Mindanao island, the Philippines on Sunday, 15 December 2019 at 13:11 (UTC+7). The earthquake was located on 6.80°N, 125.20°E, 9 km Northwest of Matanao municipality. The Philippine’s National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) reported that twelve (12) municipalities/cities in Regions XI and XII had power outages during the onset of the earthquake, which were restored immediately. Nine (9) municipalities/cities in these regions declared suspension of classes on 16 December 2019. At present, ground assessment is still ongoing. Region XI (Davao Region) is currently on RED alert status and closely monitoring damages and other after effects of the incident.

HYDRO-METEO-CLIMATOLOGICAL:

As the Northeast Monsoon continues, wet conditions are found in the southern ASEAN region, particularly in the equatorial area, where several flooding events have been reported. Meanwhile, dry weather happens across the Mekong sub-region as the onset of dry season had started. However, no drought events have been reported yet.

GEOPHYSICAL:

There were seven (7) earthquake with magnitude 5.0 and above that occurred last week, five (5) in Indonesia (BMKG) and two (2) in the Philippines (PHIVOLCS). The earthquake events in the Philippines occurred on Sunday, 15 December 2019 evening. Currently, minor effects has been reported, although ground assessment is still ongoing.

OUTLOOK:

The ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre (ASMC) forecasts that dry conditions will persist over the Mekong sub-region as the winds expected to prevail from north or northeast. Meanwhile, scattered rain showers can be expected over the southern ASEAN region, as the winds will be light and variable in direction as the Northeast Monsoon continue.