



## ***ACMM Featured:***

### ***Current Landslides in Indonesia and effects from La Niña***

On Jan. 11th, 2021, two landslides set off by heavy rainfall and unstable soil killed at least 12 people on Java, Indonesia's most populous island, and left rescue workers searching for survivors, disaster officials said Sunday.

Among those killed in the landslides in West Java Province were the head of a local disaster relief agency and an Indonesian Army Captain who had gone to help rescue survivors from the first landslide on Saturday afternoon. They were caught in a second landslide that evening.<sup>1</sup>

At least 18 people were injured, with many more missing, according to local officials. National Disaster Mitigation Agency spokesman Raditya Jati said rescuers were caught by surprise because the second landslide struck as they were evacuating survivors. Indonesia's president, Joko Widodo, had warned in October that the country could experience more flooding and landslides than usual because of the periodic weather pattern known as La Niña. The rainy season is expected to last until March. "I want all of us to prepare in anticipation of possible hydrometeorological disasters," said Widodo. La Niña weather system could trigger flooding and landslides, affecting the nation's agricultural output. A La Niña pattern is characterized by unusually cold temperatures in the equatorial Pacific Ocean. Indonesia frequently suffers floods and landslides, particularly during the rainy season from November to March, a situation often worsened by the cutting down of forests.<sup>23</sup>

### ***ACMM Perspective***

What is "La Niña"? La Nina means "the little girl" in Spanish which is referred to the cooling part of the Pacific Ocean. This phenomenon affects the changes in atmosphere. Its effects are not only within Asian region, but also on the global scale. The occurrence of La Niña, however, is opposite to "El Niño", or "the little boy", which is the abnormally warm water episode in the equatorial central and eastern Pacific.

World Methodological Organization reported that the La Niña episode has developed since October 2010 and will show the strong impact between January - February 2021, then weaken during March - May 2021. Therefore, year 2021 would be the year of La Niña strong event.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [At Least 12 Dead in 2 Landslides in Indonesia - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/11/asia/indonesia-landslides.html)

<sup>2</sup> [Indonesia landslides kill 11 and injure 18 as search goes on for survivors in West Java - ABC News](https://www.abcnews.com/news/indonesia-landslides-kill-11-injure-18)

<sup>3</sup> [Landslides in Indonesia leave at least 11 dead, 18 injured - CNA \(channelnewsasia.com\)](https://www.cna.com/landslides-in-indonesia-leave-at-least-11-dead-18-injured)

<sup>4</sup> <https://public.wmo.int/en/media/press-release/la-ni%C3%B1a-has-developed>

La Niña is often associated with wet conditions across larger parts of South East Asia, Australia and the latest seasonal outlook is aligned with the historical of La Niña conditions. La Niña comes with changes in the tropical atmospheric circulation, namely winds, pressure, and rainfall.



**Figure1:** WMO declared that La Nina has develop since October 2020.

The global declaration of a La Niña event is used by many governments to mobilize their planning in climate sensitive sectors like agriculture, health, water resources and disaster management. *From ACMM perspective*, Disaster Management Authority in each ASEAN countries would be concerned about Rescue and Management plan for flooding and storm-attack event in their countries because these natural disasters would prone to happen in ASEAN throughout the year 2021.