

MT AGUNG ACTIVITY REPORT

Date: 24-12-2017 09:00 WITA from Gaia-Oasis Tejakula.

SITUATION AT GAIA-OASIS

Visually, the air is clear. No noise or quakes from Mt Agung have been felt or reported. Wind direction has been continuously from West to East. No smoke, ash or any other gases have been seen or smelt.

Neither staff nor guests have felt any impacts or suffered smarting eyes or had any breathing issues.

Rain continues, interspersed with sun, and may have a role in helping any ash to settle more quickly.

Situation continues peaceful and calm.

SITUATION AT AIRPORT

Despite a fresh eruption, Bali Airport is open and all facilities are 100% available and running. The Meteorological Board has confirmed that the airport is not impacted as prevailing westerly winds are expected to continue until at least January.

The government has assured that Banyuwangi Airport (3-4 hours drive from Gaia) and Surabaya Airport are on standby in case of airport closure.

A fresh VONA (Volcano Observatory Notice for Aviation) has been issued; the code remains at ORANGE.

The Darwin VAAC (Volcanic Ash Advisory Centre) notes an eruption with volcanic ash cloud at 03:57 UTC (11:57 local). Eruption and ash emission is not continuing

Regular discrete volcanic ash eruptions to Flight Level 15.000 feet are expected to continue.

SITUATION AT MT AGUNG

Volcano is estimated to be in a critical phase.

The calm of the past 10 days was broken yesterday with an eruption at 11:57 WITA.

The eruption was marked by thick smoke to 2.500 meters from the crater peak; the smoke was visible more than 10 kms away.

Otherwise, white-grey smoke, medium pressure, medium-thick intensity at 500 - 2500 mtrs was visible throughout the day.

Wind forecast is from west/southwest at 15-25 knots (3000 ft), at 20 knots (5000 ft); and from the southwest at 5-15 knots (14.000 feet)

34 volcanic gusts (“hembusan”) occurred yesterday, releasing gas and previously extruded lava, in bursts of between 27 – 80 seconds, at 3-16 mm.

22 low frequency, volcanic and tectonic quakes were recorded, indicating continued magma movement to the surface.

Continuous microtremor was recorded with amplitude 1-3 mm (dominant 1-2 mm).

All parameters such as visual, seismic, deformation, geochemical and long-sensor satellite observations continue to be monitored.

Since 1800, the volcano has had several smaller VEI 2 eruptions, and two larger VEI 5 eruptions. To date, Mt Agung has had smaller, effusive eruptions. However, the possibility of a more explosive eruption remains.

OTHER:

Current figures show another slight decrease of 71.045 refugees spread in 239 camps in 9 regencies throughout Bali.

An estimated 16.255 people have yet to move from the Danger Zones within the 10km area. Numbers continue to fluctuate.

The Veterinary Department reports that many farmers have taken their cattle from the government livestock pens, back to their original locations.

A portion of the cattle have been sold at fair market prices, unlike the initial days of the eruption when cattle changed hands at cut-throat prices.

The National Disaster Mitigation Agency (BNPB) accepts the withdrawal of Bali's "Emergency Response" status, as the term "Emergency" has become a sensitive matter.

Several countries were deemed to have issued travel bans for their citizens based on the emergency status.

The BNPB emphasizes that the main purpose of the status is to ensure ease of access, whether for deployment of human resources, funds, or logistics during a natural disaster. So long as the refugees are supported and access is given, it does not matter what term is used.

We wish to thank Dr Petra Vitz and Ms Helen Vitz, who joined us to look at the food supplies at the Tejakula logistics post, and who made suggestions on nutritional improvements. We also went with them to distribute baby hygiene kits, only to find the mothers had gone home to their village, we hope temporarily.

Today, staff take a break and guests join us, to celebrate Gaia-Oasis's 19th Birthday. Usually, Gaia's birthday is on the 5th Full Moon of Waisak.

This year, we held our birthday prayer on Waisak, and today on Christmas Eve we celebrate with members and guests.

Games, clean-up and communal cooking will take the full day ;)

We send love, joy and blessings for all beloved friends & group leaders, and we wish you a wonderful Christmas Season.

PLEASE ACCEPT OUR GRATITUDE :

Gaia-Oasis has several groups on standby, who are committed to coming to Bali to support the island and her people should conditions allow.

Our Founder, Sabine and our Foundation Board, Saicho and Dana, have been and are staying at Gaia;

Our PT Director, Franziska, has recently arrived and our EV Director, Petra, arrived yesterday.

We will never ask our groups and guests to take any untoward risks, or expose anyone to situations that will threaten health or life.

We thank you for your incredible support and generosity in standing by us;

We are working to pass it on and pay it forward via our work in Bali.

We feel very grateful to be part of the community effort, both internationally and in Bali, to support our fellow human beings;

It is a deeply humbling reminder of our shared humanity, to witness firsthand how everyone is pulling together.

Thank you, thank you, thank you.

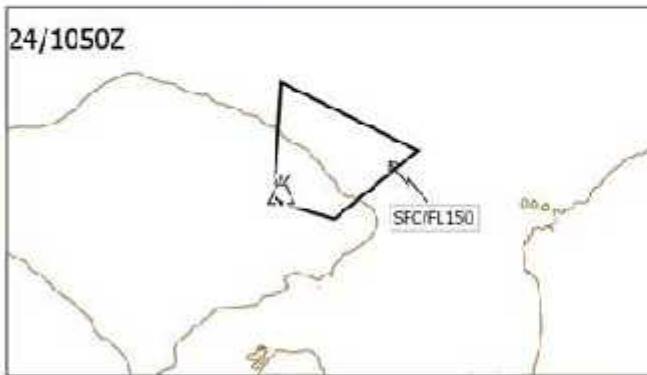
Om Santi Santi Santi Om

Yen and the Gaia Team

Mt Agung photo taken from crater rim on 8 December.



Revised VAAC Advisory



VOLCANIC ASH ADVISORY			
DTG:	201723/2302	ADVISORY NO:	2017135
VMACT:	DARWIN	INFO SOURCE:	HEAVYWEIGHT WEBCAM, CYGNET
VOLCANO:	AGUNG 26029	ERUPTION COLOUR CODE:	ORANGE
PN:	3081 (1133)	ERUPTION DETAILS:	DISCRETE EMISSIONS TO FL 150
AREA:	INDONESIA	REMARKS:	REGULAR DISCRETE EMISSIONS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE, SUMMIT CURRENTLY OBSCURED BY MET CLOUD SO NOT IDENTIFIABLE ON SATELLITE IMAGE OR WEBCAM. HEIGHT AND MOVEMENT BASED ON GROUND REPORT, SHAWAR-8 (PANGRETI, SURABAYA 2) LAST SOUNDING AND PRED. GUIDANCE.
SMPDET:	1148H	ISSUE DATE:	2017231650Z
REV:		ISSUE DATE:	2017231650Z