



17 March 2023

Dear All,

- Peru is a South American country which basically has 3 important geographical regions running parallel to each other. The coast which is a desert, the highlands (the Andes mountains) and the jungle or rain forest. The rainy season for the highlands and rain forest regions begins in November-December and lasts until March-April.
- Peru's central and southern coastal areas, where the following ports are located:
 - Punta Lobitos
 - Callao,
 - Pisco
 - San Nicolas
 - Matarani and
 - Ilo

see little rain all year round due to the cold water Humboldt current.

- On the northern coastal part of Peru, where the Humboldt current opens up into the Pacific Ocean, the weather turns much warmer and it is affected by spells of heavy rain mostly during January through March. Ports in this zone are:
 - Talara
 - Paita
 - Bayovar
 - Salaverry
 - Chimbote
- Since the 4th March 2023 and up to the 15th-16th March, the northern and central coastal region of Peru has suffered from unusual heavy rains which have flooded areas, either directly by the rain, by the overflowing of adjacent rivers and/or the activation of dormant ravines in the mountains surrounding cities and/or the valleys the cities are in. Heavy rainfall has triggered flash floods and mudslides, damaging roads and blocking some parts of the Panamerican highway, the north-south road connecting coastal cities and their ports.
- This may have caused for instance:
 - ❖ Wetting of cargo, stored in open yards mainly at any of the captioned the northern Peruvian ports.
 - ❖ Delays/disruptions in road carriage.

- Authorities have informed that the cause for this unusual weather is a low pressure system originally caused by a mass of hot air over the usually cool ocean. This system is now heading away from Peru.
- Authorities, advise that this type of events have appeared twice, prior to an El Nino phenomenon; which until last week had not been confirmed would happen.
- It is very likely then, that a new El Nino event will be affecting Peru, from March and up until May 2023, bringing unusual heavy rains along the coast of Peru.

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