Mayon Volcano Bulletin
26 February 2000
0830H

Continuous lava effusion differing only in Intensity mainly characterized Mayon Volcano's activity since 0700H yesterday. This activity was punctuated with episodes of lava fountaining occurring at 0041H and 0043H reaching maximum height of 400m and accompanied by minor ash ejections. Ballistic fragments associated with the lava fountaining were observed to be generally directed to the E-NE. The uppermost part of Bonga Gully is now noted to be filled-up with lava deposits prompting some of the flow to spill out to the right side and out of the gully.

There was an abrupt drop in the value of COSPEC readings from 13,500 tonnes/day (t/d) to 2,300 t/d. This may be due to the absence of occurrence of highly gas-charged ash ejections that previously accompanied the pyroclastic flow events. Ground deformation survey showed deflation trends as a result of Mayon's explosive eruptions on 24 February 2000.

The apparent quiescence of Mayon does not mean cessation of the explosive eruption stage. Observations indicate continuous movement of rolling incandescent rocks along Bonga Gully suggesting ascent of new supply of lava and its intrusion into the dome. Thus the threat for explosive eruptions still exists.

Mapping survey of ashfall impact showed that most of the ash were drifted to the SW direction with maximum thickness of 1.0 to 1.5mm measured in Masarawag, Guinobatan. Traces of ash were noted in the S and WSW sectors of the volcano reaching maximum distance of 8 kilometers from the volcano's summit.

Alert Level 5 **is still being maintained since the occurrence of more hazardous eruption events cannot be discounted. The 6-kilometer Permanent Danger Zone around Mayon and the 8-kilometer extension of the danger zone in the SE sector of the volcano should be strictly observed. Ash is still expected to fall at the W-SW, and the SE sections of the volcano, mainly due to the prevailing wind direction. Should pyroclastic flow and ashfall occurrences continue, airport and aircraft authorities should advise airline companies to avoid the western sector of the volcano. However, Legazpi Airport can be declared as safe for landing and takeoff of commercial airlines as long as it remains ashfall-free.**

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