Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA)

SEASONAL CLIMATE OUTLOOK
JANUARY - JUNE 2020

Overview

The sea surface temperatures (SSTs) across the tropical Pacific Ocean are near to slightly warmer than average during the past months. This may persist until the Dec-Jan-Feb (DJF) season, but may return to ENSO-neutral conditions by Mar-Apr-May (MAM) 2020 season and is expected to continue until September 2020. Atmospheric indicators such as cloudiness, tradewinds and Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) reflect ENSO-neutral conditions. PAGASA's ENSO Alert System status is currently INACTIVE meaning neither El Niño nor La Niña is present.

January to March 2020 Outlook

Warmer than average SSTs in the central equatorial Pacific are expected to persist during the season.

The climate during this period is characterized by widespread and scattered rains that will mostly affect the eastern sections of the country, coinciding with the Northeast (NE) monsoon season or "*Amihan*" that may persist until the early part of March. Likewise, tropical cyclones (TCs) are generally less frequent, where the average TC tracks are mostly located over the southern part of the country originating from the northwestern Pacific Ocean and tend to move in a westerly direction. The weather systems that are likely to affect the climate conditions in the country are the NE monsoon, tail-end of cold front (TECF), easterlies, intertropical convergence zone (ITCZ), thunderstorms, low pressure areas (LPAs), ridge of high pressure areas (HPAs) and zero (0) or one (1) tropical cyclone.

Rainfall forecast for January to March is predicted to be below normal in most parts of Luzon except in some areas of southeastern Luzon that will likely experience near normal rainfall conditions. Moreover, Visayas and Mindanao provinces are generally expected to receive near normal rainfall. Surface air temperatures are expected to be generally near average in most parts the country, except for some areas that may also experience slightly above or slightly below average temperatures during the forecast period.

Gradual weakening of the NE monsoon and recession of rains especially in the eastern sections of the country is expected during the latter part of March. This may signal the start of the dry and warm season in the country as surface air temperatures will begin to increase.

April to June 2020 Outlook

ENSO-neutral conditions may prevail during the period. This season is characterized by warm and humid conditions during the months of April and May. The onset of the rainy season in the western sections of the country may commence during the second half of May until the first half of June.

The weather systems that may influence the country's climate are the easterlies, HPAs, LPAs, ITCZ, thunderstorms, and two (2) to four (4) tropical cyclones. During the period, the average tracks of TCs are located from southern Luzon to central Visayas areas, extending towards the West Philippine Sea.

Predicted rainfall conditions for this season are generally near normal throughout the whole country except for some areas in northwestern Luzon where below normal rainfall are expected. Generally, surface air temperatures are likely to be near to above average in most parts of the country.

PAGASA will continue to closely monitor the ENSO conditions and other factors that may influence the climate conditions of the country. Regular updates and advisories shall be issued as appropriate. For further information, please contact the Climatology and Agrometeorology Division (CAD) at telephone numbers 8284-0800 local 906.

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