The tropical Pacific is now at El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO)-neutral conditions and likely to continue until June-July-August season. However, sea surface temperatures in the tropical Pacific Ocean continue to warm and majority of climate models predict an increasing chance (~ 60%) of El Niño to develop in the later part of 2018. With these current state and outlook, El Niño Watch is activated.

Assessment in June 2018

The weather systems that affected the country were the Southwest (SW) monsoon, low pressure areas (LPAs), ridge of high pressure areas (HPAs), Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) and localized thunderstorms. In addition, three (3) tropical cyclones (TCs) had developed/entered the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR), namely; Typhoon (TY) “Domeng” (June 5-10), Tropical Depression (TD) “Ester”(June 14-15) and Severe Tropical Storm (STS) “Florita” (June 29-July 1). The three TCs did not make landfall in any part of the country, however, TY “Domeng” enhanced the SW monsoon that triggered the onset of the rainy season in areas under climate type I. Monsoon breaks were also observed during the month that lasted for more than a week. Furthermore, frequent thunderstorms which brought heavy rainfall resulted to flooding and flashfloods especially in Metro Manila.

Rainfall assessment during the month indicated that the western section of northern and central Luzon, including Metro Manila, Antique, Bohol, Southern Leyte, Camiguin and Agusan del Sur received above normal rainfall. The rest of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao experienced below to near normal rainfall conditions.

Generally, near to slightly cooler than average surface air temperatures were observed over most parts of Luzon and Visayas while near to slightly warmer than average temperatures were experienced in most areas of Mindanao. Actual temperature ranges were as follows: Metro Manila (23.5°C– 36.4°C), mountainous areas of Luzon (14.5°C– 26.6°C), rest of Luzon (20.5°C – 38.7°C), Visayas (22.7°C – 36.6°C), mountainous areas of Mindanao (19.1°C – 33.0°C), and rest of Mindanao (20.9°C – 35.6°C). Furthermore, Infanta, Quezon station has surpassed its historical minimum temperature record in June (21.0°C on June 22).

Outlook in July 2018

The weather systems that will likely affect the country are the SW monsoon, HPAs, LPAs, ITCZ, localized thunderstorms and two (2) to four (4) tropical cyclones that may enter/develop in the PAR.

Rainfall forecast for the month show that in general, most parts of Luzon will likely experience near to above normal rainfall conditions while below to near normal rainfall conditions are expected in most parts of Visayas and Mindanao.

Generally, near to slightly above average surface air temperatures are predicted over most parts of the country. Forecast temperature ranges are as follows: 22.5°C– 35.5°C over Metro Manila; 20.0°C– 37.5°C over lowlands of Luzon, and 15.0°C– 27.0°C over its mountainous areas; 21.5°C– 36.5°C over the Visayas; 21.0°C – 36.5 °C over the lowlands of Mindanao while 16.0°C – 33.0°C over its mountainous areas.

PAGASA will continue to closely monitor the possible development of El Niño and updates shall be issued as appropriate. For further information, please contact the Climatology and Agrometeorology Division (CAD) at telephone numbers 434- 0955 or 435- 1675.

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