



Monthly Climate Assessment and Outlook / La Niña Watch *SSTA at borderline La Niña*

Assessment in September 2016

Sea surface temperature anomalies (SSTAs) in the Niño 3.4 region have reached borderline La Niña threshold levels during July-August-September (JAS) season. Moreover, atmospheric indices show values indicative of La Niña in recent weeks. If these conditions will persist in the coming months, a weak, short-lived La Niña is possible. Meanwhile, La Niña Watch remains in effect.

The weather systems that affected the country during the month were the inter-tropical convergence zone (ITCZ), southwest (SW) monsoon, low pressure areas (LPAs), easterlies and the passage of four (4) tropical cyclones (TCs). These TCs were Severe Tropical Storm (STS) "Enteng" (Sept. 1), TY "Ferdie" (Sept. 11-14), TY "Gener" (Sept. 13-17) and TY "Helen" (Sept. 24-28) with tracks over extreme northern Luzon that brought moderate to occasionally heavy rains and thunderstorms along its path, as well as over the western sections of the country due to enhanced SW monsoon. Moreover, TY "Ferdie" made landfall over Itbayat, Batanes and caused severe damage to properties and infrastructure due to strong winds.

Assessment of rainfall for the month showed that near to below normal rainfall conditions were experienced in most parts of Luzon, except for Batanes, Catanduanes and Palawan which received above normal rainfall. Most parts of Visayas and Mindanao generally received near to above normal rainfall with some patches of below normal rainfall conditions.

Average surface air temperatures were observed to be slightly warmer than normal in most parts of the country. Ranges of mean temperature were as follows; mountainous areas of Luzon: 16°C - 23°C; rest of Luzon: 23°C- 33°C; Visayas: 24°C – 33.5°C; mountainous areas of Mindanao: 19°C – 29.5°C; and, rest of Mindanao: 23°C – 33.5°C.

Outlook in October 2016

The expected weather systems likely to affect the country are the LPA, ITCZ, easterlies, and occurrence of one (1) to three (3) tropical cyclones in the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR). Gradual termination of the SW monsoon is expected followed by transition period towards the northeast (NE) monsoon season which may commence on the latter part of the month.

Predicted rainfall for the month indicates that most parts of the country will likely experience near to above normal rainfall conditions while some areas in western Luzon and western Mindanao will likely receive below normal rainfall.

Near average air temperature are expected in most parts of Luzon while the rest of the country will be slightly warmer than average. The expected ranges of temperature will be 18.5°C – 36.5°C over the lowlands of Luzon and 14°C – 26°C over the mountainous areas. For Visayas islands, forecast temperature ranges will be 22°C – 37°C and for Mindanao will be from 19.0°C – 36.5°C over the lowlands and 17°C -33°C over the mountainous areas.

PAGASA will continue to closely monitor the likelihood of La Niña and updates shall be issued as appropriate. Meanwhile, concerned agencies are advised to take precautionary measures to mitigate the possible adverse impacts of this phenomenon. For further information, please contact the Climatology and Agrometeorology Division (CAD) at telephone numbers 434- 0955 or 435- 1675.

VICENTE B. MALANO, Ph.D.
Administrator¹