



ENSO ADVISORY

La Niña Advisory No. 18A (Final)

La Niña (cold phase) condition has ended. Most of the climate models predict that ENSO-neutral (neither La Niña nor El Niño) is favored from March through June this year with an increased likelihood of a transition to El Niño (warm phase) thereafter.

Although La Niña has already ended, its lag effect may still influence the probability of above-normal rainfall conditions in the coming months, potentially leading to adverse impacts (such as heavy rainfall, floods, flash floods, and rain-induced landslides) in some highly vulnerable areas.

El Niño, on the other hand, increases the likelihood of below-normal rainfall conditions, which could have negative effects (such as dry spells and droughts) in some areas of the country.

Assessment in February 2023

The Northeast (NE) monsoon, isolated thunderstorms, the ridge of high-pressure area (HPA), low-pressure areas (LPAs), and shear lines were the weather systems that influenced the country in February. During the month, a number of LPAs formed inside the monitoring region but failed to intensify into tropical cyclones (TCs). The Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO) also passed over the Maritime Continent, including the Philippines within the month. Several flooding occurrences and rain-induced landslides have happened in various areas of the country as a result of the MJO's influence on the occurrence of LPA, particularly in the Bicol Region, Zamboanga Peninsula, Northern Mindanao, and Davao Region. According to the situational report from the NDRRMC dated February 25, these hazards caused three (3) fatalities and infrastructure and agricultural damage totaling around Php290 million.

Based on actual rainfall for the month, generally, the country experienced near to above-normal rainfall conditions (54 provinces recorded more than 120% of the normal rainfall) except for Abra, Ilocos provinces, Quirino, Aurora, Occidental Mindoro, Davao del Sur, Davao Occidental, South Cotabato, Sarangani and Metro Manila where below normal rainfall were observed.

Generally, near-average to slightly above-average mean surface air temperatures were observed in most parts of the country except for Tayabas, Coron, Romblon, Guiuan, and General Santos City where slightly below-average temperatures were experienced. Moreover, based on these observations, February daytime environments were generally cooler than average while the nighttime was mostly warmer than average. The temperature ranges were as follows: mountainous areas of Luzon: 10.2°C – 25.4°C; rest of Luzon: 15.4°C – 36.0°C; Visayas: 21.5°C – 34.4°C; mountainous areas of Mindanao: 16.0°C – 33.0°C; rest of Mindanao: 21.0°C – 35.7°C and 20.2°C – 34.1°C in Metro Manila.

Outlook for March 2023

The country will experience a gradual shift of wind systems as the NE Monsoon is predicted to wane and then the Easterlies will become predominant this March. Other weather systems likely to affect the country are the ridge of HPA, LPAs, localized thunderstorms, intertropical convergence zone generally positioned south of the equator, and at least one TC occurrence for March. MJO and equatorial waves are also expected to affect the country as well as the weakening La Niña that may influence the prevailing weather systems and could lead to variability (enhancement or suppression) of precipitation patterns.

The rainfall forecast for March shows that generally, most parts of the country will likely experience near to above-normal rainfall conditions except for some provinces over the western section of Northern Luzon and the northern part of Palawan that may receive below-normal to way below-normal rainfall. Also, the probabilistic forecast of near to above-normal rainfall conditions in most parts of the country depicts high confidence for the month of March.

Meanwhile, near to slightly above-average mean surface air temperatures are forecast in most parts of the country, except for some areas that may experience slightly below-average temperatures including Calayan, Ilocos Sur, Batangas, Northern Palawan, Occidental Mindoro, Romblon, Masbate, Samar, Southern Leyte, and Bohol. The ranges of forecast temperature are as follows: 10.8°C to 28.1°C in the mountainous areas of Luzon, 16.5°C to 37.1°C over the rest of Luzon, 19.7°C to 36.0°C in Visayas, 14.0°C to 34.3°C in the mountainous areas of Mindanao, 19.0°C to 37.8°C over rest of Mindanao and 19.5°C to 36.0°C for Metro Manila.

PAGASA will continue to monitor the country's climate conditions. Meanwhile, all government agencies and the general public are encouraged to take precautionary measures against the lagging effects of La Niña and the impending El Niño. The next update will be available on April 10th, or as needed. For more information, please call the Climatology and Agrometeorology Division (CAD) at 8284-0800, extension 906.

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