



LA NIÑA ADVISORY NO. 6

La Niña continues to persist in the tropical Pacific, as reflected by below average (≤ -0.5 to -1.0°C) sea surface temperature anomalies (SSTAs). Majority of climate models suggest La Niña is likely to continue through Mar-April-May 2021 (~55% chance), with a rising probability of returning to ENSO-neutral during April-May-June 2021 (~60%).

La Niña increases the likelihood of having above normal rainfall conditions across most areas of the country, as what had been experienced during the previous months. Adverse impacts such as flooding and landslides are still expected over vulnerable areas and sectors of the country.

Assessment in February 2021

The weather systems that affected the country during the month were the Northeast (NE) Monsoon, localized thunderstorms, tail-end of frontal system (TEFS), low pressure areas (LPAs), easterlies and the passage of Severe Tropical Storm (STS) "Auring" (February 17-22). STS "Auring" entered the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) as Tropical Depression (TD), intensified into STS and weakened into TD before its landfall over Batag Island on February 22, 2021. Immense floods and landslides were observed in Regions V, VI, VII, VIII, X, XI and CARAGA that resulted to damage to properties and agriculture (based on the NDRRMC situational Report No. 10 dated 28 February 2021).

Rainfall assessment for the month showed that large portion of the country experienced above normal rainfall conditions, with patches of near normal rainfall conditions over Benguet, Ifugao, Nueva Ecija, Dinagat Island and Surigao Provinces. Likewise, below normal rainfall condition were observed in the provinces of Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino and Aurora.

Generally, slightly cooler to near average surface temperatures were observed in most parts of the country. Moreover, surges of cold temperatures became prevalent during the month due to enhanced NE monsoon. Mean temperature ranges were as follows: mountainous areas of Luzon, 13.9°C – 23.5°C ; rest of Luzon, 19.1°C – 33.1°C ; Visayas, 22.6°C – 31.5°C ; mountainous areas of Mindanao, 17.2°C – 29.1°C ; rest of Mindanao, 21.8°C – 33.1°C and Metro Manila: 23.0°C – 31.3°C .

Outlook for March 2021

Gradual weakening of the NE monsoon is expected during the month which may signal the start of warmer months in the country. Furthermore, weather systems that are expected to affect the country are the LPAs, localized thunderstorms, tail-end of frontal system (shear Line), ITCZ, ridge of High Pressure Areas (HPAs), easterlies and zero (0) or one (1) tropical cyclone may enter/develop inside the PAR.

Rainfall forecast for the month showed that above normal conditions in most parts of the country will be likely, except in provinces of Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, Abra, Apayao, and Batanes that will likely receive below to near normal rainfall conditions.

Generally, slightly cooler to near average air temperatures can be expected in most parts of the country. Occasional surges of cold temperatures will still be prevalent over the northern portions of Luzon. The predicted ranges of temperature are as follows: 11.3°C to 28.8°C in the mountainous areas of Luzon, 18.5°C to 37.9°C for the rest of Luzon, 19.5°C to 36.2°C in Visayas, 14.1°C to 34.4°C in the mountainous areas of Mindanao; 17.5°C to 38.7°C for the rest of Mindanao and 21.0°C to 36.6°C in Metro Manila.

PAGASA will continue to closely monitor the on-going La Niña and regular updates/advisories shall be issued as appropriate. Meanwhile, all concerned government agencies and the public are advised to take precautionary measures to mitigate the potential impacts of this event. For further information, please contact the Climatology and Agrometeorology Division (CAD) at telephone number 8284-0800, local 906.

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