

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

Monthly Climate Assessment and Outlook Warm ENSO-neutral condition persists

Warm El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO)-neutral condition persists across the tropical Pacific Ocean. Sea surface temperatures (SSTs) were slightly warmer than average reaching borderline El Niño levels; however, atmospheric conditions remain neutral. Majority of the climate models favor continuation of ENSO-neutral conditions until the third quarter (July – September) 2020.

Assessment in April 2020

The weather systems that affected the country during the month were the Northeasterly windflow, ridge of High-Pressure Areas (HPAs), low pressure areas (LPAs), Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ), easterlies and localized thunderstorm. No tropical cyclone had developed or entered the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR).

Assessment of rainfall for the month showed that way below to below normal rainfall conditions were experienced in most parts of the country except for Batanes, Benguet, Ifugao, La Union, Pangasinan, Central Luzon, Laguna, Quezon, Camarines provinces, Lanao del Sur and Surigao provinces that received near to above normal rainfall.

Generally, near to above average surface air temperatures were experienced over most parts of the country. The temperature ranges were as follows: mountainous areas of Luzon: $14.2^{\circ}C - 27.0^{\circ}C$; rest of Luzon: $16.8^{\circ}C - 39.0^{\circ}C$; Visayas: $20.9^{\circ}C - 37.0^{\circ}C$; mountainous areas of Mindanao: $17.2^{\circ}C - 34.5^{\circ}C$; rest of Mindanao: $20.0^{\circ}C - 38.4^{\circ}C$ and $22.6^{\circ}C$ to $36.2^{\circ}C$ in Metro Manila. Meanwhile, five (5) observation stations have recorded their new highest maximum temperatures namely: San Jose, Occ. Mindoro ($39.0^{\circ}C$ /Apr 20 and Apr 26), Guiuan, E. Samar ($36.6^{\circ}C$ /Apr17), Zamboanga City ($36.1^{\circ}C$ /Apr 18), Dipolog City ($36.7^{\circ}C$ /Apr 23), and Cotabato City ($38.4^{\circ}C$ /Apr 24).

Outlook for May 2020

The weather systems that will likely affect the country during the month are the easterlies, localized thunderstorms, ITCZ, LPAs, ridge of HPAs, gradual transition to Southwest Monsoon, and one (1) or two (2) tropical cyclone/s that may enter/develop inside the PAR. Moreover, this month is expected to be the warmest for the year because of high air temperature and high relative humidity. Normal onset of the rainy season for areas classified under Climate Type I is expected to commence by the second half of May to the first half of June.

Rainfall forecast for the month shows that near normal rainfall conditions are expected in most parts of the country except for Bataan, Zambales, Cavite, Romblon, Bicol Region, Cebu, Biliran and Leyte that will likely experience below normal rainfall conditions.

Generally, near to above average temperatures are predicted in most parts of the country. Forecast ranges of temperature are as follows: 15.0°C to 28.5°C over the mountainous areas of Luzon, 19.0°C to 42.0°C over the rest of Luzon, 20.0°C to 38.0°C over the Visayas, 17.0°C to 36.0°C over the mountainous areas of Mindanao, 19.0°C to 39.0°C over the rest of Mindanao and 22.5°C to 38.5°C in Metro Manila.

PAGASA will continue to closely monitor the climate conditions that may affect the country and updates shall be issued as appropriate. For further information, please contact the Climatology and Agrometeorology Division (CAD) at telephone number 8284-0800, local 906.

signed VICENTE B. MALANO, Ph.D. Administrator