



Republic of the Philippines

## DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services  
Administration (PAGASA)

### MONTHLY CLIMATE ASSESSMENT AND OUTLOOK

#### *El Niño Watch*

Warm El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO)-neutral condition still persist even though the sea surface temperature anomalies (SSTAs) have already reached El Niño levels ( $\geq 0.5^{\circ}\text{C} - 0.9^{\circ}\text{C}$ ). Atmospheric indicators such as cloudiness, tradewinds and Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) do not show response to ocean temperatures for El Niño to become fully established. PAGASA's ENSO Alert System status remains at El Niño Watch with a 65% chance to progress at weak El Niño during March-April 2019.

#### Assessment in January 2019

The weather systems that affected the country during the month were the northeast (NE) monsoon, tail-end of cold front (TECF), low pressure areas (LPAs), thunderstorms, and the passage of Tropical Depression (TD) "Amang" (January 19-21). TD "Amang" made landfall at Siargao, Surigao del Norte and has brought light to occasionally moderate rains over eastern Visayas and eastern Mindanao. These resulted to suspension of classes, cancellation of flights, and disruption of maritime activities in Regions V, VII, VIII, X and CARAGA, based on the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) reports, dated 22 January 2019 (SitRepNo. 06).

Rainfall assessment for the month of January showed that most parts of eastern Luzon, central Visayas, and northern and eastern Mindanao received near to above normal rainfall. However, way below normal rainfall conditions were experienced in the provinces of Ilocos, La Union, Mindoro, Romblon, Palawan, Catanduanes and Aklan. The rest of the country received below normal rainfall conditions.

Observed surface air temperatures were generally near to slightly above average, with occasional surges of cold temperatures in most parts of the country. Temperature ranges were as follows: Metro Manila:  $22.0-30.9^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; mountainous areas of Luzon:  $12.8 - 23.2^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; lowland Luzon:  $19.5-32.9^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; lowland Visayas:  $22.5-30.8^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; mountainous Mindanao:  $19.6-28.9^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; and lowland Mindanao:  $22.5-33.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

#### Outlook in February 2019

The weather systems that will likely affect the country during the month are the NE monsoon, thunderstorms, inter-tropical convergence zone, LPAs, TECF, ridge of High Pressure Areas (HPAs), easterlies, and a slim chance of tropical cyclone that may enter/develop in the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR).

Predicted rainfall for February shows that, most parts of Luzon and Visayas will likely receive way below to below normal rainfall. Meanwhile, Mindanao area will likely experience near normal rainfall conditions.

Generally, near average to slightly warmer than average surface air temperatures are predicted over most parts of the country. Predicted ranges are as follows: Metro Manila:  $18.4-35.2^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; mountainous areas of Luzon:  $9.6-27.1^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; lowland Luzon:  $17.1-36.6^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; lowland Visayas:  $18.6-35.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; mountainous Mindanao:  $13.9-35.2^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; and lowland Mindanao:  $19.0-36.0^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

PAGASA will continue to closely monitor the possible development of weak El Nino and areas potential for dry spell and drought will be made available at PAGASA website. 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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