

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA)

Monthly Climate Assessment and Outlook

ENSO-neutral conditions persist/La Niña Watch

El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) - neutral conditions are still present across the tropical Pacific Ocean. Majority of the climate models suggest ENSO-neutral conditions are likely to prevail during the August-September-October 2021 season. However, La Niña is likely to re-emerge (55% chance) during the September-October-November 2021 season and may persist until the first quarter of 2022. With this, PAGASA ENSO Alert and Warning System status is *La Nina Watch*.

Assessment in July 2021

The weather systems that affected the country during the month were the localized thunderstorms, low pressure areas (LPAs), inter-tropical convergence zone (ITCZ), southwest (SW) monsoon, and the occurrence of two (2) tropical cyclones (TCs) that entered the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR), namely: Tropical Depression (TD) "Emong", July 4-6 and Typhoon (TY) "Fabian" (International name: In-Fa), July 16-23. Both TC tracks were over extreme Northern Luzon. Meanwhile, TY "Fabian" developed from a tropical depression and moved slowly until it intensified into a typhoon while inside the PAR and enhanced the southwest (SW) monsoon. This brought heavy and continuous rains which resulted to widespread flooding and rain-induced landslides, and consequently affected several areas in Luzon and Visayas. According to NDRRMC Situational Report for Southwest Monsoon Enhanced by TC Fabian (2021), a total of 432 areas in Region 1, Region 3, CALABARZON, MIMAROPA, Region 6, CAR and NCR experienced flashflood / flooding and 487 other related incidents, that resulted to damage to infrastructure and agriculture. Two (2) cities/municipalities in MIMAROPA have declared under State of Calamity.

Rainfall assessment showed that most areas in Luzon received near to above normal rainfall conditions except for Cagayan, Isabela, and Sorsogon where below normal rainfall condition were observed. However, in Visayas and Mindanao, generally below to near normal rainfall were observed except for above normal conditions experienced in Antique, Davao de Oro, Davao Oriental, Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur, Sulu and Tawi-tawi.

Surface temperatures were near to slightly warmer than average, except for <u>Daet</u>, Romblon and General Santos where temperatures were slightly cooler than average. Mean temperature ranges were as follows: mountainous areas of Luzon, $19.0^{\circ}\text{C} - 22.8^{\circ}\text{C}$; rest of Luzon, $20.9^{\circ}\text{C} - 35.1^{\circ}\text{C}$; Visayas, $24.7^{\circ}\text{C} - 33.8^{\circ}\text{C}$; mountainous areas of Mindanao, $19.0^{\circ}\text{C} - 30.6^{\circ}\text{C}$; rest of Mindanao, $22.3^{\circ}\text{C} - 34.6^{\circ}\text{C}$ and Metro Manila: $25.1^{\circ}\text{C} - 31.8^{\circ}\text{C}$.

Furthermore, seven (7) stations have surpassed their historical extreme maximum temperatures for July namely Clark, Pampanga (35.4°C/July 2), Cotabato City (36.8°C/July 26), El Salvador. Misamis Or. (38.6°C/July 25),), Malaybalay, Bukidnon (33.4°C/July 12), Davao City (36.0°C/July 25), Hinatuan (37.9°C/July 24 and 25) and Zamboanga City (36.2°C/July 24) while San Jose, Occ. Mindoro (19.5°C/July 29) and Surigao City (18.0°C/July 15 and 19) have also surpassed their minimum temperatures for the month. Mindanao PAGASA Regional Services Division issued several advisories on the occurrence of these extreme temperatures.

Outlook for August 2021

The weather systems that will likely affect the country during the month are the localized thunderstorms, ITCZ, LPAs, SW monsoon, and two (2) or three (3) tropical cyclones that may enter/develop inside the PAR.

Rainfall forecast for the month shows that near normal rainfall conditions are expected in most parts of the country except for the western section of Luzon that may receive below normal rainfall. However, above normal rainfall conditions are expected in some areas over the Bicol Region, Eastern Visayas and CARAGA.

Generally, slightly below average to above average air temperatures are predicted in the country. The forecast ranges are as follows: 15.0°C to 28.0°C over the mountainous areas of Luzon, 17.0°C to 37.5°C for the rest of Luzon, 20.0°C to 36.0°C in the Visayas, 15.5°C to 33.5°C over the mountainous areas of Mindanao; 18.0°C to 36.5°C over the rest of Mindanao and 22.0°C to 35.0°C in Metro Manila.

Despite the on-going community quarantine due to the COVID-19 pandemic, PAGASA will continue to closely monitor the climate conditions 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.

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