



Monthly Climate Assessment and Outlook *El Niño Watch*

Sea surface temperatures (SSTs) has now reached El Niño levels, but coupling of the ocean and atmosphere in the tropical Pacific has not yet manifested. Therefore, warm El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO)-neutral condition still persist during September-October-November 2018 season. Latest climate models predict a weak El Niño by the end of December 2018 or early 2019. With these current state and outlook, PAGASA ENSO Alert System status is still at El Niño Watch (since July 2018).

Assessment in November 2018

The weather systems that affected the country during the month were the Northeast Monsoon (NE), ridge of high pressure area (HPA), low pressure areas (LPAs), localized thunderstorms, easterlies, tail end of cold front and the passage of two (2) tropical cyclones (TCs), namely: Tropical Depression (TD) "Samuel" (November 18-22) and Typhoon (TY) "Tomas" (November 23-24 and November 26-27). TD "Samuel" affected most of the Visayan Islands, portions of Southern Luzon and northeastern portion of Mindanao; while TY "Tomas" has no direct effect in any part of the country.

Rainfall assessment for the month of November showed that most parts of Luzon received way below normal rainfall, while Visayas and Mindanao generally received below to near normal rainfall, with patches of above normal rainfall in some areas.

Observed surface air temperatures were generally near to above average in most parts of country. Temperature ranges were as follows: Metro Manila (22.4°C – 34.7°C), mountainous areas of Luzon (12.2 °C – 26.2°C), rest of Luzon (19.4°C- 35.7°C), Visayas (19.0°C – 36.0°C), mountainous areas of Mindanao (18.3°C – 33.0°C), and the rest of Mindanao (20.0°C – 36.6°C). Furthermore, two stations have surpassed their historical extreme maximum temperatures namely Catbalogan, Samar (36.0°C on 1 November) and Cotabato City (36.6°C on 28 November); while two stations have surpassed their historical extreme minimum temperatures namely Guiuan, Samar (19.2°C on 19 November) and Maasin, Leyte (19.0°C on 19 November).

Outlook in December 2018

The weather systems that will likely affect the country during the month are the NE monsoon, severe thunderstorms, ITCZ, LPAs, tail-end of cold front, easterlies and occurrence of one (1) or two (2) tropical cyclones that may enter/develop in the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR).

Rainfall forecast for December shows that most parts of country will likely experience below normal rainfall conditions except for Batanes, Leyte, Davao del Norte, Davao Occidental, most provinces of SOCCSKSARGEN and CARAGA where near normal rainfall conditions are expected. Meanwhile, Abra, Ilocos Norte and Ilocos Sur provinces are predicted to receive way below 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: 18.2°C to 34.5°C over Metro Manila, 9.6°C to 26.8°C over the mountainous areas of Luzon, 12.4°C to 38°C over the rest of Luzon, 19.5°C to 34.6°C over the Visayas, 13.3°C to 33.3°C over the mountainous areas of Mindanao and 19.1°C to 36.9°C over the rest of Mindanao.

PAGASA will continue to closely monitor the possible development of El Niño 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.

VICENTE B. MALANO, Ph.D.
Administrator

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Climate Monitoring and Prediction Section (CLIMPS)
Climatology and Agrometeorology Division
Website: www.bagong.pagasa.dost.gov.ph

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Postal Address: P.O. Box 3278 Manila

Tel No. (63-2) 929-4865 (w/Fax) & 434-9040