



Monthly Climate Assessment and Outlook *El Niño Watch*

Warm El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO)-neutral condition has persisted in the tropical Pacific during July-August-September 2018 season. Majority of climate models predict a probability of El Niño to develop during October-November-December 2018 season. With these current state and outlook, PAGASA ENSO Status is still at El Niño Watch (since July 2018).

Assessment in September 2018

The weather systems that affected the country during the month were the enhanced southwest (SW) monsoon low pressure areas (LPAs), localized thunderstorms, easterlies, inter-tropical convergence zone (ITCZ), ridge of high pressure areas (HPAs) and the passage of four (4) tropical cyclones (TCs), namely: Typhoon (TY) "Maymay" (September 2), Tropical Depression (TD) "Neneng" (September 10), Typhoon (TY) "Ompong" (September 12-15) and Typhoon (TY) "Paeng" (September 23-29). Of the four TCs, only Typhoon "Ompong" made landfall over the remote portion of Baggao, Cagayan on 15 September. However, TY "Ompong" caused widespread damage across Northern and Central Luzon due to heavy rainfall and resulted to flooding and landslides in Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR). According to the report of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), over 700,000 families were affected in Regions I, II, III, CALABARZON, MIMAROPA, NCR and CAR.

Rainfall assessment for the month of September showed that most parts of the country, including Metro Manila experienced near normal to above normal rainfall conditions. Likewise, Ilocos Norte, Batangas, Quezon, most provinces in MIMAROPA, Camarines Norte, Northern Panay, Leyte, Davao City, Davao del Sur and Cotabato received below normal rainfall. Meanwhile, Baguio station has exceeded its normal rainfall for the month (570 mm) with the observed 4-day rainfall (12-15 September) of 794 mm due to the passage of TY "Ompong".

Observed surface air temperatures were generally near to below average in most parts of Luzon while near to above average in most parts of Visayas and Mindanao. Actual temperature ranges were as follows: Metro Manila (25.6°C – 31.6°C), mountainous areas of Luzon (15.8 °C – 23.3°C), rest of Luzon (21.7°C- 33.2°C), Visayas (24.2°C – 32.7°C), mountainous areas of Mindanao (20.0°C – 29.1°C), and the rest of Mindanao (22.1°C – 33.4°C). Furthermore, two stations have surpassed their historical extreme maximum temperature namely Clark (34.9°C on September 29) and Infanta, Quezon (20.0°C on 14 September).

Outlook in October 2018

Weather systems that will likely affect the country during the month are the severe thunderstorms, ITCZ, easterlies, LPAs, HPAs, monsoon trough and occurrence of two (2) or three (3) tropical cyclones that may develop/enter the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR). Transition from Southwest Monsoon to Northeast Monsoon (NE) is now ongoing, and afterwards, NE monsoon will prevail.

Predicted rainfall for the month indicates that generally most parts of Luzon will likely experience below normal rainfall condition while most parts of Visayas and Mindanao will likely receive near normal rainfall.

Temperature forecast for the month of October is expected to be near average to slightly warmer than average in most parts of the country. Predicted ranges are as follows: 21°C to 35°C over Metro Manila, 13°C to 27°C over the mountainous areas of Luzon, 19°C to 36°C over rest of Luzon, 22°C to 36°C over the Visayas, 16°C to 33°C over the mountainous areas of Mindanao, and 21°C to 36°C over the rest of Mindanao.

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