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

SEASONAL CLIMATE OUTLOOK
JANUARY - JUNE 2021

Moderate La Niña continue to persist across the tropical Pacific Ocean, which started to develop since the second half of 2020. Most climate models suggest La Niña will likely continue until the first quarter of 2021, with a potential transition to El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO)-neutral condition (~ 55% chance) during April-May-June 2021 season.

La Niña increases the likelihood of having above normal rainfall conditions across most areas of the country, as what had been experienced during the last quarter of 2020 and will likely to continue until the early months of 2021. Adverse impacts such as flooding and landslides are expected over vulnerable areas and sectors of the country.

January to March 2021 Outlook

The moderate La Nina may slightly weaken during the season but cooler than average sea surface temperatures (SSTs) in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific (CEEP) are likely to continue.

The climate for this period is greatly influenced by the continuing La Niña in the tropical Pacific. Surges of the Northeast monsoon (NEM) are still expected to affect the northern and eastern sections of the country bringing cold weather and widespread rains, which could be enhanced by the presence of tropical cyclones (TCs) or by other low-pressure systems. However, TCs are generally less frequent at this time of the year with tracks mostly located over the central and southern Philippines. The weather systems that may affect the country are the NEM, tail-end of frontal system (shear line), enhanced easterlies, intertropical convergence zone (ITCZ), localized thunderstorms, low pressure areas (LPAs), ridge of high-pressure areas (HPAs) and zero (0) to two (2) TCs may develop/enter in the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR).

Average rainfall forecast for January to March season is predicted to be below normal in northwestern Luzon while near to above normal rainfall conditions are expected for the rest of Luzon. Likewise, Visayas and Mindanao may receive above normal rainfall. Surface air temperatures are expected to be generally below to near average in most parts of Luzon and Visayas except for a few areas that may experience warmer than average temperatures, while near to above average air temperatures are forecasted in Mindanao. However, cold surges are still expected to affect the country during this period.

Gradual weakening of the NE monsoon and recession of rains especially in the eastern sections of the country are expected during the latter part of March. This may signal the start of the dry and warm season in the country as surface air temperatures will slowly begin to increase.

April to June 2021 Outlook

There is a 55% probability that a transition from La Niña to ENSO-neutral condition may occur during the period. This season is characterized by warm and humid conditions during the months of April and May wherein the transition period for the shifting of the winds towards the southwest may also start. Normal onset of the rainy season over the western sections of the country is anticipated, which may commence during the second half of May until the first half of June.

The weather systems that may influence the country's climate are the easterlies, LPAs, HPAs, ITCZ, localized thunderstorms, Southwest monsoon and one (1) to three (3) TCs. During the period, the average tracks of TCs are usually from eastern Visayas extending towards the West Philippine Sea or from eastern Visayas recurving towards the central and northern Luzon in April and May and mostly in central Luzon in June.

Predicted rainfall for this season are generally near normal throughout the country. Most places in the country may experience near to way above average surface air temperatures except for some areas in Luzon where below average temperatures may be felt.

PAGASA will continue to closely monitor the ongoing La Niña and its influence on the climate conditions of the country. Regular updates and advisories shall be issued as appropriate. Meanwhile, all concerned government agencies and the public are advised to take precautionary measures to mitigate the potential adverse impacts of this event. For further information, please contact the Climatology and Agrometeorology Division (CAD) at telephone numbers 8284-0800 local 906.

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