



SEASONAL CLIMATE OUTLOOK July to December 2012

Overview:

El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO)-neutral conditions continued during June 2012, as reflected by near-average sea surface temperature (SST) across the central and east-central equatorial Pacific. However, SSTs in the eastern equatorial Pacific remained warmer-than-average during June and consistent with this condition, sub-surface ocean temperature remained near-average in the east-central equatorial Pacific and above average in the far eastern equatorial Pacific. Collectively, these oceanic and atmospheric anomalies reflect ENSO-neutral conditions.

A warming trend in the equatorial Pacific is likely in most climate models indicate increase chances for El Niño beginning in July-August-September 2012 season.

July to September

The period is the peak of the Southwest (SW) monsoon season, locally known as "Habagat" and tropical cyclone activity is likewise at its maximum. Tropical cyclone tracks are generally located over Northern Luzon, with secondary tracks towards the Northeast direction. This will likely enhance the active phase of the SW monsoon and with the associated thunderstorm activities, moderate to heavy rains, strong winds are expected over the western sections of Luzon and Visayas which may cause floods and landslides.

During the period, strengthening of the North Pacific high pressure system resulting to monsoon breaks is expected. Seven (7) to ten (10) tropical cyclones are likely to develop/enter the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR). The weather systems likely to affect the country during this season are the SW monsoon, ridge of HPA, ITCZ, LPAs and tropical cyclones.

The likely rainfall distribution during the period is near normal in most parts of the country with above normal rainfall condition over La Union, Pangasinan, Zambales, Bataan, Bulacan, Metro Manila, Southern Tagalog region, most parts of Bicol region, some parts of western and eastern Samar province and Compostela Valley. However, below normal rainfall condition is expected over most areas of Cagayan and northern part of Isabela. Gradual recession of rains associated with the SW monsoon is expected during the second half of September.

October to December

The period is the first half of the Northeast (NE) monsoon season and covers the transition from the SW to the NE, which usually occurs during October. Higher probability of an El Niño condition to prevail during the season is likely. The weather systems likely to influence the country are the tail end of the cold front, ITCZ, easterly wave, ridge of high pressure area (HPA), the easterlies and about four (4) to seven (7) tropical cyclones. A more westerly TC

track across central and southern portions of Luzon and Visayas is usually observed during the period with secondary tracks towards the NE.

The rainfall distribution during the period is near normal in most parts of the country with above normal rainfall condition expected over Cagayan, some parts of northern Isabela, Southern Palawan, most areas of eastern Visayas, Western Mindanao, and Surigao del Sur. However, below normal rainfall condition is likely over western portion of central Luzon, Pangasinan, La Union and Ilocos Sur.


The probable initial impact of the El Niño- like condition during the season is expected during October where below normal rainfall condition in most areas of the country is likely to be experienced. However, fluctuations in the occurrences in weather systems are expected, resulting to above normal rainfall condition in most parts of the country during November and December.


PAGASA will continue to closely monitor these conditions and regular updates and advisories shall be issued as appropriate. Concerned agencies are advised to take precautionary measures to mitigate the potential adverse impacts of these weather systems. For further information, please contact the Climatology and Agrometeorology Division (CAD) at telephone numbers 434-0955 or 435-1675.


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