



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

NATIONAL DISASTER COORDINATING COUNCIL

National Disaster Management Center, Camp Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City, Philippines

NDCC UPDATE

Seasonal Climate Outlook (January – June 2010)

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Introduction:

El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) commonly known as El Niño (warm phase of ENSO) and La Niña (cold phase) are major causes of inter-annual climate variability in the Philippines. Since the beginning of June 2009, sea surface temperature anomalies (SSTAs) have reached the El Niño threshold. The present El Niño episode has already reached its peak in December 2009 to early January 2010. Most climate models suggest El Niño conditions will persist until June 2010.

January to March

The period covers the second half of the northeast (NE) monsoon season, locally known as Amihan. Weather systems that are likely to affect the country are the NE monsoon, tail-end of cold front, intertropical convergence zone (ITCZ), North Pacific High Pressure Area and easterlies. A slim chance for tropical cyclone occurrence is expected within the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR). The moderate El Niño will likely persist during the period and will influence the rainfall in the country.

Rainfall conditions are likely to be below normal in major portions of the country, while way below normal over Central Luzon, Southern Mindoro, Aklan and Palawan. Ilocos Norte and CARAGA Region will likely experience near normal rainfall conditions. Some areas may experience dry spell or even drought conditions. Warmer than normal surface air temperatures are expected in most parts of the country during the period.

April to June

Gradual decrease in SST in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific is expected during this period, but still within the El Niño threshold. With this condition, a delayed onset of the rainy season associated with the southwest (SW) monsoon (Habagat) is likely and may only commence on the second half of June.

The weather systems that usually affect the country during this period are the ITCZ, easterlies, monsoon trough, SW monsoon, ridge of high pressure area, and the passage of

two (2) or three (3) tropical cyclones. The occurrence of a tropical cyclone in June will likely trigger the onset of the rains. These cyclones are predicted to follow a normal track, usually across Luzon and Visayas area. Thunderstorm activity will be frequent during this period.

Most parts of the country will likely experience below normal rainfall condition except for some portions of Southern Luzon that will likely receive near normal rainfall. Warmer than normal surface air temperatures are expected in most parts of the country during the period.

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