



Fourth session of the ASEAN Climate Outlook Forum [ASEANCOF-4] 21-22 May 2015, Agency for Meteorology Climatology and Geophysics, Indonesia

Summary of the consensus for June-July-August 2015 season

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Introduction

The fourth ASEANCOF meeting was held in the Agency for Meteorology Climatology and Geophysics, in Jakarta Indonesia from 21-22 May 2015. It was attended by representatives of the National Meteorological Services from the ASEAN Member countries: Myanmar, Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam, the Philippines and Indonesia. The meeting was also attended by representative from the WMO secretariat and experts of the WMO Global Producing Centers: UK Met Office, NOAA, Bureau of Meteorology Australia, and CPTEC Brazil. The forum was preceded by a week-long training and working session organized by NOAA with support from USAID. WMO provided co-sponsorship and technical support to ASEANCOF-4.

The aim of the forum is to provide collaboratively developed and consensus-based seasonal climate outlooks and related information on a regional scale. The forum outlook and its activities contribute significantly to one of the key roles of the ASEAN Special Meteorological Service (ASMC), which is to conduct climate and seasonal prediction for ASEAN region through pooling the expertise of ASEAN National Meteorological Services. The consensus outlook for the June-July-August season for the ASEAN region benefits from the guidance from the model outputs of the WMO Global Producing Centers, in particularly the multi-model ensemble forecast from WMO Lead Center for Long Range Forecast Multi-Model Ensemble (WMO LC-LRFMME) as well as country-level forecasts developed by the participating national experts. The forum reviewed the present climate conditions in the South East Asia region, and discussed the various global and regional climatic factors that will influence the JJA season in the area. In particular, the forum took into account the significant influence of the El Niño and the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) on the climate over Southeast Asia.

Conditions and outlook

In light of the predicted El Nino event in 2015, much emphasis was placed by the forum on the possible impacts on climate in the South East Asia region. Dynamical model-based forecasts from most GPCs indicate strengthening of El Nino through JJA from the present conditions. The forum agreed that weak to moderate El Nino conditions are present in the Pacific and that there is enhanced likelihood that El Nino conditions will continue until at least the end of the year.

At present, the IOD is considered to be in a neutral state. There is less certainty in the outlook for the IOD over the JJA season. Positive phase IOD often develops in association with El Nino events, and some models predict cooling in the south east Indian Ocean and a positive IOD index – but the magnitude is uncertain.

For the northwestern part of the mainland Southeast Asia, the South West monsoon is likely to be moderate, while the onset is expected to be delayed compared to its normal condition. The number of typhoons for JJA is expected to be close to the climatological levels.

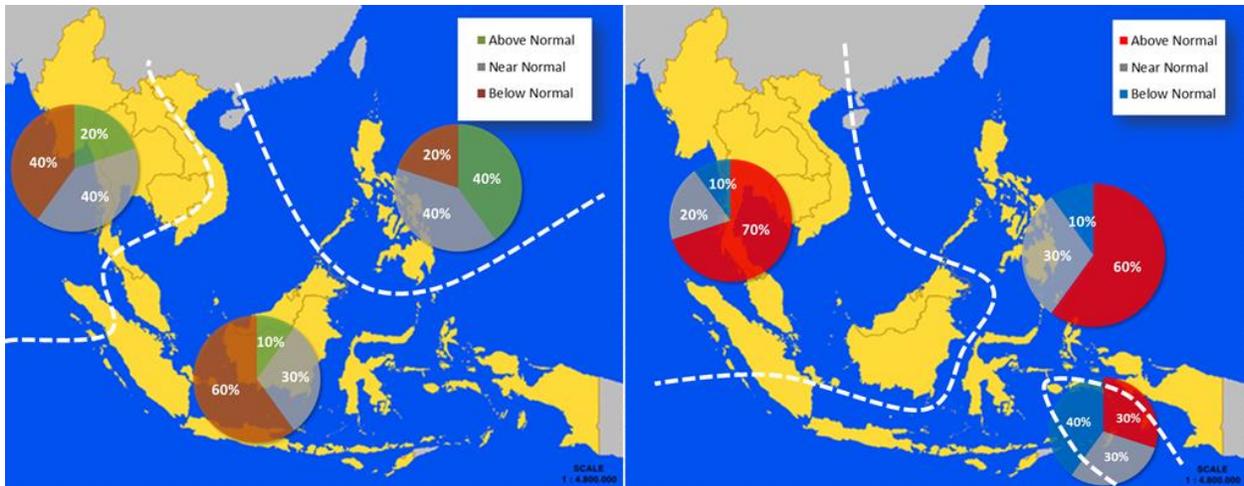
National-level forecasts provided the key inputs for the consensus outlook, and the forum, while taking into consideration the present status of the climate conditions in South East Asia and the forecasts available from the GPCs, agreed on the following consensus-based outlook for the JJA season for the South East Asia region:

*For the upcoming Northern Hemisphere summer (Jun-Jul-Aug) season in 2015, there is strongly enhanced probability for **below normal rainfall** over the southern part of the Maritime Continent and the eastern margins of mainland Southeast Asia. Over the remainder of mainland Southeast Asia there are slightly enhanced probabilities for **normal to below normal** rainfall, while over the Philippines there are slightly enhanced probabilities for **normal to above normal** rainfall.*

***Above normal temperatures** are most likely over much of the Southeast Asia region for the Northern Hemisphere summer, with the highest probabilities over the western Maritime Continent and mainland Southeast Asia. **Below normal temperatures** are slightly favoured over a relatively small area in the south-eastern part of the Maritime Continent.*

For more information on the northern hemisphere summer monsoon outlook and further updates on the national scale, the relevant NMSs should be consulted.

Maps of the consensus for JJA of the South East Asia region



Consensus outlook for rainfall (left) and surface temperature (right) for June to August 2015 over Southeast Asia.

Acknowledgements

The forum appreciates the participation of the ASEAN Member countries in conveying their national-level forecast. The forum also appreciates the products and expertise made available from the GPCs for this climate outlook forum. The forum thanked the continuous support from the WMO secretariat and also to the USAID for providing sponsorship for this event.

Annex A: Rainfall and temperature tercile climatologies

The following figures are rainfall and temperature tercile boundary climatologies to reference against the consensus outlook. Only a single source of data for each variable is provided. For more representative climatologies, reference should be made also against observational datasets known to better characterize local patterns (e.g. quality-controlled station data from the respective National Meteorological Services).

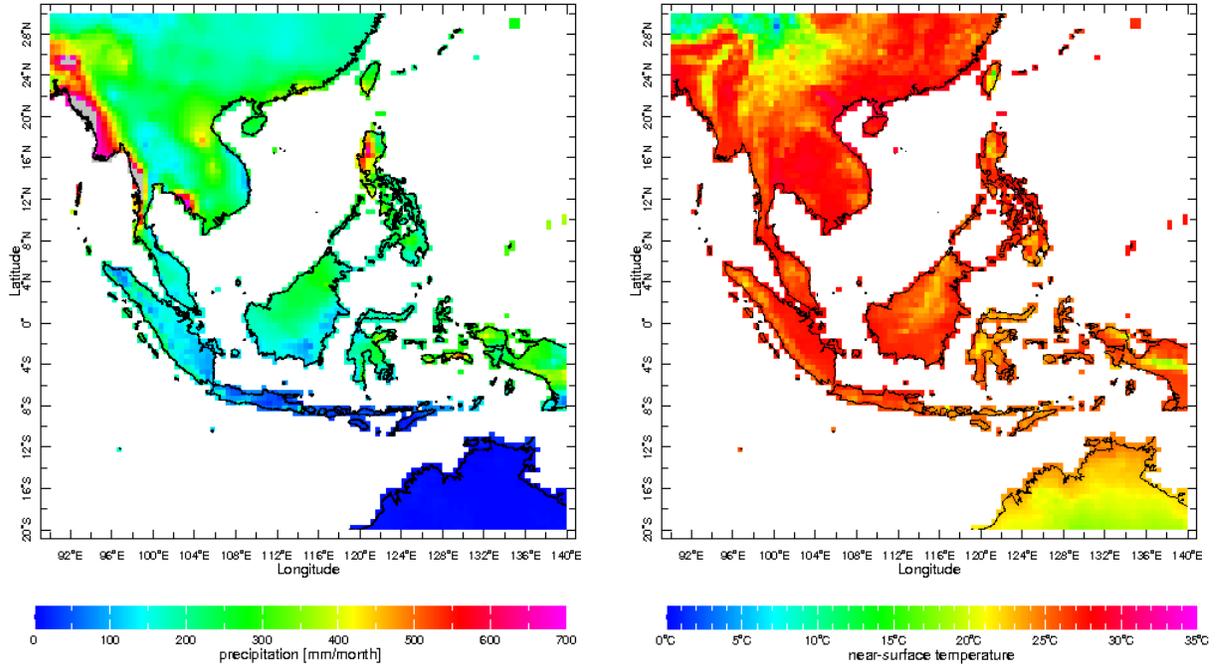


Figure A1: Rainfall mean climatology in mm/month (left) and the temperature mean climatology (right) for JJA from 1981-2010 from TS3p21 (CRU, UEA).

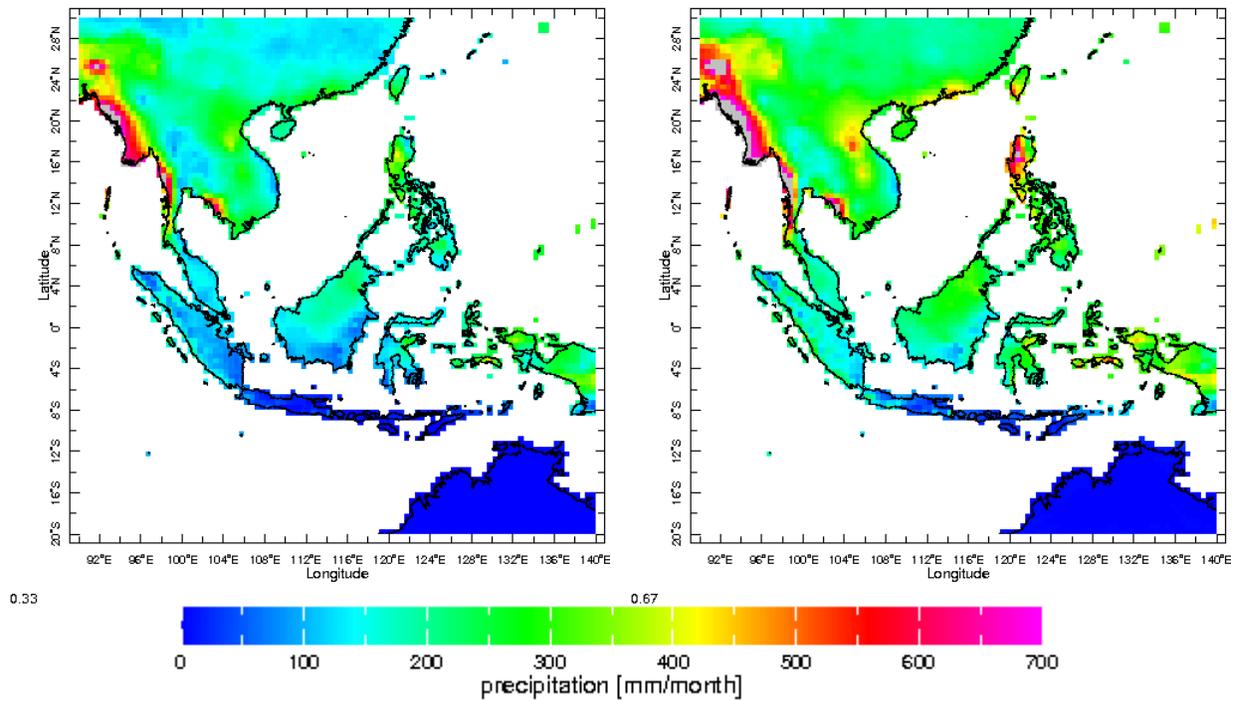


Figure A2: Rainfall climatologies of the lower tercile boundary (left) and the upper tercile boundary (right) for JJA from 1981-2010 from TS3p21 (CRU, UEA) in mm/month.

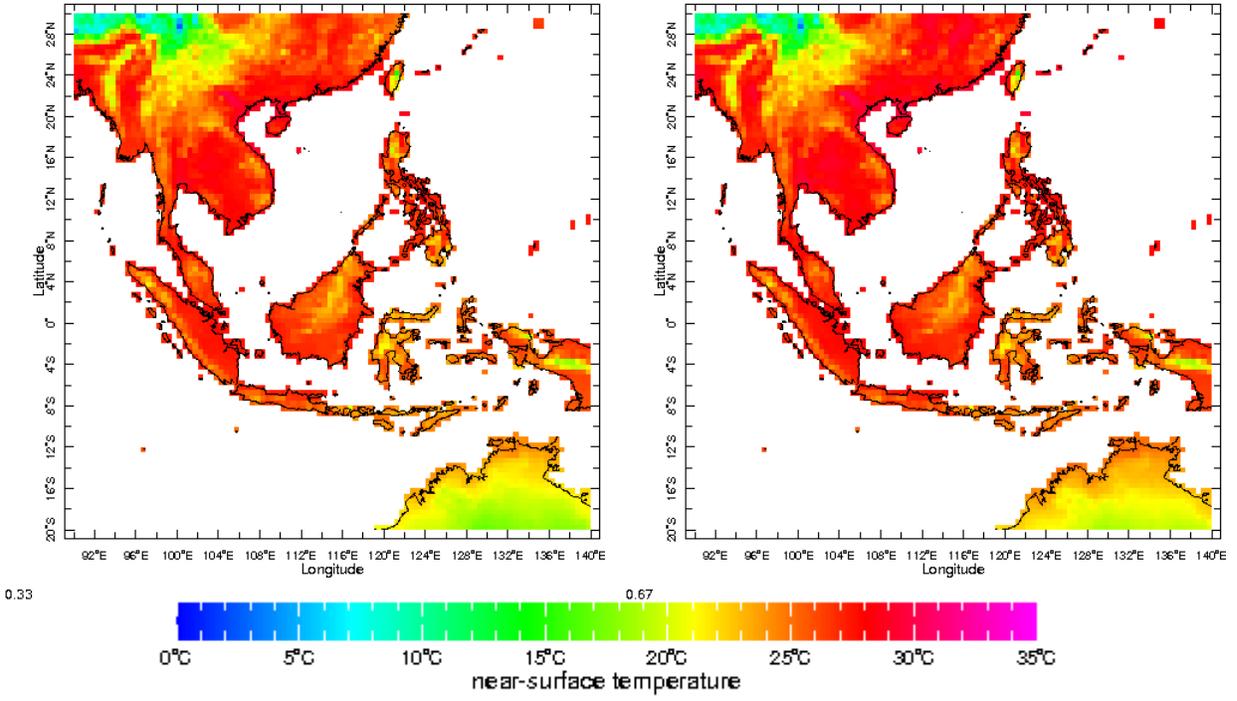


Figure A3: Temperature climatologies of the lower tercile boundary (left) and the upper tercile boundary (right) for JJA from 1981-2010 from TS3p21 (CRU, UEA).