

The MJO remained active during this past week, with the convectively active phase centered over the eastern Indian Ocean and western Maritime Continent. The signal of the MJO, as indicated by the Wheeler-Hendon MJO Index, indicated some strengthening, along with some interference from other modes of variability.

Tropical Cyclone 21S (Imelda) formed over the Southern Indian Ocean on April 6. The latest forecasts from the Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC) depict a westward track, followed by a turn to the south near 60E, later this week. Tropical Storm 22S (Victoria), which formed on April 9, is forecast to move southward and not impact large land masses.

The dynamical models are in fair agreement about the forecast state of the MJO during the next two weeks, with most predicting little propagation during Week-1, with some weakening but some propagation across the Maritime Continent during Week-2. The dynamical tools are all indicating some form of interaction with other modes of variability, as they depict a westward movement early in Week-

1, and this interaction is likely leading to the weak signal, as measured by the WH Index. The statistical tools, keyed to the MJO, indicate a stronger signal, with more rapid and consistent propagation.

The Week-1 outlook is based on the location of the convectively active phase of the MJO from the dynamical models, with some influence on the amplitude coming from the statistical tools. Enhanced odds for above-average rainfall are indicated over the Maritime Continent, Southeastern Indian Ocean, Bay of Bengal, and portions of Southeast Asia. The threat of tropical cyclogenesis over the Indian Ocean and South China Sea during Week-1 is enhanced, with formation over the South China Sea slightly more likely than over the Bay of Bengal. Dry conditions are likely across the northern portions of South America, and the most southern portions of Central America. The MJO signal is weak over Africa, so only small areas of enhanced odds for dry or wet conditions can be identified.

The Week-2 outlook is based on a continued propagation of the MJO across the Maritime Continent to the western North Pacific. Enhanced odds for above-average rains are indicated over the Maritime Continent, with a slight eastward shift. Dry conditions are likely to persist over northern South America and southern Central America. A residual threat for tropical cyclone formation remains over the southern Indian Ocean/Southwest Pacific Ocean, north of Australia during week-2. Additionally, some dynamical and statistical models indicate a slight chance for tropical cyclone formation near the Philippines, early in Week-2.