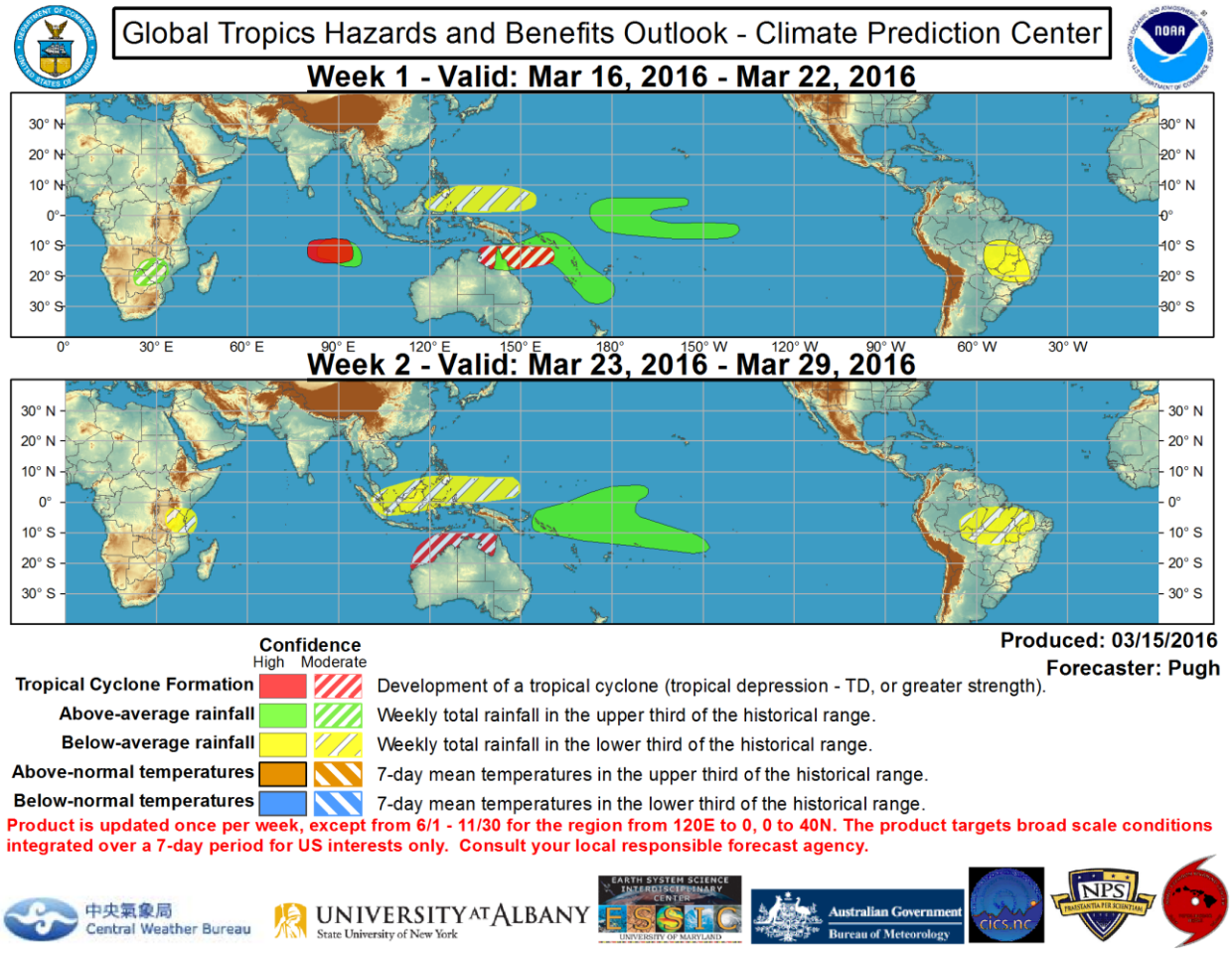

The MJO remained active through early March but recently weakened following a period of constructive interference with the ongoing El Nino during late February. The Wheeler-Hendon RMM based index indicates a weaker MJO with its enhanced phase crossing the Indian Ocean during the second week of March. The ECMWF model is the most robust, forecasting a continued eastward propagation of a MJO signal, and is more favored due to its better skill during the past few months. Therefore, the enhanced phase of the MJO is expected to destructively interfere with the ongoing El Nino, especially during Week-1.

The precipitation outlook during the next two weeks is based on CFS and ECMWF model guidance along with MJO precipitation composites for phases 4 through 6. Destructive interference between the El Nino and the enhanced phase of the MJO supports near average rainfall across the Maritime Continent with below-median rainfall limited to the southern Philippines and parts of the west Pacific. Tropical cyclone development is favored with moderate confidence across the Gulf of Carpentaria and/or Coral Sea region as a disturbance tracks east through these areas. A more likely region for tropical cyclone development exists across the southern Indian Ocean, near 10S/80-95E, as current satellite imagery

indicates a strengthening low pressure system. Above (below)-median rainfall is expected to persist across the central equatorial Pacific (southern Brazil) during the next two weeks.

Below-median precipitation is forecast to expand across the Maritime Continent during Week-2 as the enhanced phase of the MJO propagates east to the west Pacific. The expected evolution of the MJO elevates chances for tropical cyclone formation offshore of the Kimberley Coast of Australia east to the Gulf of Carpentaria during Week-2.

Forecast over Africa are made in consultation with CPCs international desk, and can represent local-scale conditions in addition to global-scale variability.