

The Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO) became better defined during mid to late March as its enhanced phase propagated eastward from the Indian Ocean to the Maritime Continent and West Pacific. Although diagnostic tools including low and upper-level wind and 200-hPa velocity potential fields recently depicted a robust MJO, the amplitude of the RMM index decreased in the past several days. This is likely due to the continued lack of a MJO signal in the OLR observations and the beginning of destructive interference with La Nina. The GFS and ECMWF ensemble means depict a weak MJO during the next two weeks. Based on the good agreement between these ensemble means and anomalous rainfall during the past few weeks, La Nina is likely to remain the major contributor to global tropical rainfall heading into early April.

On March 23, Tropical cyclone (TC) Halima developed over the southern Indian Ocean. TC Halima briefly strengthened south of Diego Garcia, but it is forecast to gradually weaken and dissipate early in week-2. The Joint Typhoon Warning Center is closely monitoring a broad area of low pressure, currently located across the South China Sea. Since this disturbance has a brief window to become a TC before tracking west to Vietnam, only a moderate confidence for TC development is posted. The GFS model guidance remains bullish on at least one TC to form either over the South China Sea or to the east of the

Philippines during week-2. Due to large spread among the GFS ensemble members on the most likely area for genesis, a broad moderate confidence TC area is depicted for week-2. Predicted enhanced convection along with model guidance supports moderate confidence for TC development across the Coral Sea during weeks 1 and 2.

The precipitation outlook during the next two weeks is based on a consensus of GEFS, CFS, and ECMWF model solutions, La Nina precipitation composites, and consistent with where TCs are most likely to develop and track. Much above normal SSTs are likely to provide a favorable environment for enhanced rainfall near the equator, across the eastern Pacific. Heavy rainfall is also forecast to affect northern Ecuador and western Colombia through early April.

For hazardous weather concerns during the next two weeks across the U.S., please refer to your local NWS Forecast Office, the Weather Prediction Center's Medium Range Hazards Forecast, and CPC's Week-2 Hazards Outlook. Forecasts over Africa are made in consultation with the International Desk at CPC and can represent local-scale conditions in addition to global scale variability.