Global Tropics Hazards And Benefits Outlook

<u>2/18/2020</u>

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<u>Outline</u>

- 1. Review of Recent Conditions
- 2. Synopsis of Climate Modes
- 3. GTH Outlook and Forecast Discussion
- 4. Connections to U.S. Impacts

<u>Outlook</u> <u>Review</u>

Tropical Cyclone Gabekile 2/15-2/18

Cool shading More clouds/rain

Warm shading Less clouds/rain



Synopsis of Climate Modes

ENSO: (February 13, 2020 Update)

- ENSO Alert System Status: Not Active
- ENSO-neutral is favored during the Northern Hemisphere spring 2020 (~60% chance) continuing through summer 2020 (~50% chance).

MJO and other subseasonal tropical variability:

- The Madden-Julian Oscillation emerged in early February over the Maritime Continent, and propagated toward the western Pacific, where it stalled due to interactions with an equatorial Rossby wave.
- Model guidance forecasts a significant decay to the signal in week-1, with continued eastward propagation. Week-2 forecasts for the MJO signal are incoherent, but spatial forecasts do indicate that there will likely continue to be dominant envelopes of suppressed and enhanced convection.
- Due to the weakness in the MJO signal, impacts to the U.S. from this tropical variability are likely to remain limited. A major pattern change over the North Pacific and Alaska are leading to downstream impacts over North America during weeks 1 & 2.



Confidence High Moderate

Tropical Cyclone Formation

Above-average rainfall

Below-average rainfall

Above-normal temperatures

Below-normal temperatures

Development of a tropical cyclone (tropical depression - TD, or greater strength).

Weekly total rainfall in the upper third of the historical range.

Weekly total rainfall in the lower third of the historical range.

7-day mean temperatures in the upper third of the historical range.

7-day mean temperatures in the lower third of the historical range.

Product is updated once per week, except from 6/1 - 11/30 for the region from 120E to 0, 0 to 40N. The product targets broad scale conditions integrated over a 7-day period for US interests only. Consult your local responsible forecast agency.











Forecaster: Maurin

IR Satellite & 200-hpa Velocity Potential Anomalies

Green: Enhanced Divergence Brown: Enhanced Convergence

Very noisy field at the start of February, but some convection organizing over the Indian Ocean.

Enhanced convection has spread eastward over the Maritime Continent, followed by a suppressed envelope over the western hemisphere.

Wave-1 pattern continues. Convection has consolidated and strengthened over the western Pacific.



MJO Observation/Forecast



GEFS and ECMWF indicate a decay in the MJO signal during week-1 with continued eastward propagation. The pattern breaks down in week-2 and becomes incoherent. JMA shows a rapid strengthening and then decay in week-1.

Several active modes of variability in the tropics could be leading to this muddled MJO signal on the RMM index. Spatial plots indicate that there could be more persistence of the signal.



Week-1: Phases 6/7 Week-2: Remnants around Phase 8

CAVEAT: These panels are representative of robust MJO events.

MJO convection centered near the Dateline, consolidating from the previous week.

Rossby wave presence over the western Pacific has stalled the MJO propagation. A Kelvin wave

constructively interfered with the enhanced convection over the past week.

Low frequency footprints persist near the Date Line.





February Tropical Storm Formation by MJO phase



Update from last week:

- westerly wind burst continues along the Date Line.
- Starting to see some impact of these persistent westerly anomalies on ocean heat content.





Connections to U.S. Impacts



Highest daily value on record = 6.34







Confidence High Moderate

Tropical Cyclone Formation

Above-average rainfall

Below-average rainfall

Above-normal temperatures

Weekly total rainfall in the lower third of the historical range. 7-day mean temperatures in the upper third of the historical range.

Weekly total rainfall in the upper third of the historical range.

Below-normal temperatures

7-day mean temperatures in the lower third of the historical range.

Product is updated once per week, except from 6/1 - 11/30 for the region from 120E to 0, 0 to 40N. The product targets broad scale conditions integrated over a 7-day period for US interests only. Consult your local responsible forecast agency.











Produced: 02/18/2020 Forecaster: Maurin Development of a tropical cyclone (tropical depression - TD, or greater strength).