

The MJO remained active but was weak during the past week with the enhanced phase of the MJO progressing east to the west Pacific. Other types of tropical subseasonal variability continue to influence anomalous convection across the global tropics. The Indian monsoon circulation index has been weaker than normal for much of the summer, contributing to below normal rainfall for most of India since the beginning of June. Meanwhile, the North America monsoon remained active across Sonora and the southwest U.S. during the past week.

After Typhoon Vicente made landfall on July 23 in southeast China, the remnant low tracked west across northern Vietnam where locally heavy rain (more than 200 mm) triggered mudslides. Meanwhile, Typhoon Saola originated as a tropical depression on July 28 to the east of Luzon with Tropical Storm Damrey forming southeast of Japan. As of July 31, Typhoon Saola is forecast to track near Taiwan and make landfall in east-central China while Tropical Storm Damrey is expected to make landfall close to Shanghai, China. Please see the latest forecasts from the Joint Typhoon Warning Center at: http://www.usno.navy.mil/JTWC/. Elsewhere in the east Pacific and Atlantic, no tropical cyclones developed during the final week of July.

Although moderate to large spread exists among the dynamical model MJO index forecasts, the consensus supports a weak signal that propagates east during the next two weeks. Other forms of tropical subseasonal variability are expected to contribute to anomalous convection and tropical cyclone activity during the outlook period.

During Week-1, the weak MJO signal and ongoing tropical cyclones increase chances for rainfall in the upper tercile across eastern China, Taiwan, and the western Pacific. Enhanced convection and warmer-than-normal SSTs support elevated chances for tropical cyclone development in the western Pacific. Since the axis of highest moisture associated with the North American monsoon has recently shifted west, below-normal rainfall is expected across eastern Mexico. The suppressed phase of a weak MJO signal is expected to favor below normal rainfall across India, the eastern Indian Ocean, and parts of the Maritime Continent. A tropical wave in the Atlantic may slowly develop as it tracks west towards the lesser Antilles. Environmental conditions including an atmospheric Kelvin wave favor development. Please refer to the latest statements and forecasts from the National Hurricane Center at: http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/.

The week-2 outlook is more uncertain due to a continued weak MJO signal. Above-normal rainfall and elevated odds for tropical cyclone development are expected to continue across the western Pacific. Model guidance continues to indicate a weak Indian monsoon and suppressed convection is also expected across much of the Maritime Continent. Following a lack of tropical cyclone activity in the east Pacific during late July, conditions are expected to become slightly more favorable for tropical cyclone development during the second week of August. An eastward propagating MJO signal increase chances for above normal rainfall in west Africa later in the week-2 period.