The MJO remained active during the past week as the enhanced phase propagated east across the Pacific Ocean. The Indian monsoon circulation index has been weaker than normal for much of the summer, contributing to well below normal rainfall for Gujarat and Rajasthan. Following an active North American monsoon during mid-to-late July, the monsoon weakened during the beginning of August.

A pair of tropical cyclones made landfall in eastern China during the past week. On August 2, Typhoon Damrey struck Jiangsu province with Tropical Storm Saola quickly following a day later with a landfall in Fujian province. Two more tropical cyclones developed in the northwest Pacific after Damrey and Saola’s landfall. Tropical Storm Haikui is expected to make landfall near Shanghai, while Tropical Storm 13W dissipates as it tracks north to the east of Japan. Please see the latest statements and forecasts from the Joint Typhoon Warning Center at: http://www.usno.navy.mil/JTWC/.

The tropical Atlantic became more active at the beginning of August with Tropical Storm Ernesto tracking across the Caribbean Sea and short-lived Tropical Storm Florence in the central Atlantic. Ernesto is expected to affect parts of Central America and Mexico as it tracks westward. In the east Pacific,
Tropical Storm Gilma developed on August 7. Please refer to the National Hurricane Center (www.nhc.noaa.gov) for the latest statements and forecasts for tropical cyclones in the east Pacific and Atlantic.

Most dynamical MJO index forecasts indicate an eastward propagating signal during the next weeks with the enhanced phase over the western Hemisphere (week-1) and entering the Indian Ocean (week-2). Therefore, outlooks were based primarily on guidance from MJO precipitation composites along with numerical models. During Week-1, above-average rainfall is expected to continue across the northwest Pacific with an increased chance for an additional tropical cyclone in this region. Along the path of Tropical Storm Haikui, heavy rainfall can be expected in east-central China. Below-average rainfall is favored across the far eastern Indian Ocean and Maritime Continent. The westward track of Ernesto enhances the likelihood of above-average rainfall for Belize and southern Mexico. Above-average rainfall is expected to return to the western Africa monsoon region. Above average SSTs and the enhanced phase of the MJO signal elevate chances for tropical cyclone development in the east Pacific and main development region of the tropical Atlantic.

During week-2, the eastward propagating MJO signal increases chances for above-average rainfall across Mexico, parts of the Caribbean, western Africa, and the western Indian Ocean. Below-average rainfall is expected to shift northeast to the Philippines. The enhanced phase of the MJO signal, above average SSTs, and climatology favor tropical cyclone development in the east Pacific and the main development region of the tropical Atlantic.