

A complex intraseasonal pattern has taken shape during the past week. A fast moving intraseasonal signal, evident in the RMM MJO Index and the upper-level velocity potential field, remains active, with the enhanced phase currently over Africa and the far western Indian Ocean. In addition to this feature, enhanced convection has persisted over the West Pacific. A robust equatorial Rossby Wave (ERW) was evident in the OLR field near the Date Line at the end of March. This feature more recently has been interacting with an eastward moving feature, either a strong Kelvin Wave or a new MJO signal, and has resulted in a longitudinally narrow couplet of enhanced (suppressed) convection over the West Pacific (Maritime Continent). Due to these competing higher frequency signals, there is increased uncertainty with regard to the GTH outlook.

Dynamical model RMM MJO Index forecasts all depict a weakening MJO signal over the Indian Ocean during the next two weeks. Due to the zonally narrow extent of the enhanced (suppressed) anomalies over the West Pacific (Maritime Continent), that signal does not project well on either the RMM or CPC velocity potential based indices. Statistical guidance such as the Constructed Analog model depict a much more robust Indian Ocean MJO event; however, these tools are not accounting for the current

West Pacific convection. Therefore, the MJO is anticipated to become increasingly incoherent during the next two weeks, and will not play a substantial role in the global tropical convective pattern.

Tropical Depression 18P formed on April 5 near Vanuatu, and is currently moving east-southeastward. TD-18P may have impacts on Fiji over the next several days, but the latest forecast from the Joint Typhoon Warning Center maintains the system as a weak tropical storm through the period. During Week-1, a second disturbance over the southwestern Pacific, located to the east-southeast of TD-18P, has a high potential for formation early in the period. No additional tropical cyclone development is anticipated during Week-1, although there is a low potential for formation over the south-central Indian Ocean in association with a weak disturbance. During Week-2, no areas are favored for tropical cyclone development, although some models indicate a potential weak disturbance near Australia's Kimberley Coast.

Due to uncertainty regarding the evolution of the global tropical convective pattern, the precipitation outlook relies heavily on dynamical model consensus. During Week-1, enhanced (suppressed) convection is forecast to persist over the equatorial western and central Pacific (southern Maritime Continent), with moderate confidence for an area of suppressed convection over the tropical north-central Pacific. Consistent with the ongoing El Nino, areas of enhanced convection are favored for parts of the eastern Pacific, while suppressed convection is favored across southeastern Brazil. Enhanced precipitation associated with a weak disturbance is forecast over the south-central Indian Ocean, while frontal activity favors enhanced rainfall for parts of East Asia, northeastern Brazil, Uruguay, and southern Brazil.

During Week-2, dynamical model solutions diverge considerably. The western and central Pacific remain favored for enhanced precipitation, while suppressed convection is forecast to the north from Guam eastward to around 170W.

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