

The MJO signal remained weak during the past week. There is considerable variability between the dynamical and statistical MJO forecasts, but most models predict an increase in the amplitude of the RMM index over the Indian Ocean during the next two weeks. According to the 850-hPa and 200-hPa Zonal Wind anomaly maps, and the observed Outgoing Longwave Radiation (OLR) anomaly map, an atmospheric Kelvin wave has recently crossed Africa and is moving out over the Indian Ocean, while an equatorial Rossby wave (ERW) is indicated over the western tropical Pacific between about 130E-160E longitude. Although El Nino is waning, its atmospheric effects continue with areas of enhanced convection noted across parts of the central Pacific and along part of the South Pacific Convergence Zone (SPCZ). In addition, suppressed convection is depicted over a broad region centered on the Maritime Continent.

Tropical cyclogenesis is favored (moderate confidence) during both Week-1 and Week-2 in portions of the northern Indian Ocean, from near the Maldives eastward and then northeastward into the Bay of Bengal. Today's 00z European and 06z GFS models (operational and ensemble means) predict an area of surface low pressure near Sri Lanka towards the end of Week-1 and beginning of Week-2, but there is

significant uncertainty as to whether this system moves into the Bay of Bengal, or off the west coast of India.

The precipitation outlook during Week-1 is based largely on CFS and ECMWF model guidance, along with some influence from an atmospheric Kelvin wave and the waning El Nino. Above-median rainfall is favored across much of the tropical Indian Ocean, and from Indonesia to the Kimberley Coast of Australia. Below-median rainfall is favored from Southeast Asia to the Philippines, and for the South Pacific from Vanuatu to Tonga. Confidence is deemed moderate for all areas.

During Week-2, the CFS and ECMWF models agree on above-median rainfall over the Southern Indian Ocean, the southern Bay of Bengal, and adjacent portions of Malaysia. These areas are related to the expected emergence of a significant intra-seasonal signal during the Week-2 period. Below-median rainfall is favored over Burma. Again, confidence is deemed moderate for all areas.

Forecasts over Africa are made in consultation with CPC's international desk, and can represent localscale conditions in addition to global-scale variability.