

The RMM index suggests that the MJO has been in Phase 5 since the beginning of last week and dynamical models forecast it to continue into Phase 6. Some ensemble members weaken the MJO quickly during Week-2, while others keep the MJO active and propagate it westward. This forecast assumes that the MJO will propagate into Phase 6 and remain at least active enough to influence the precipitation patterns in the western and central Pacific through Week-2.

The Week-1 forecast features above-average rainfall in the western/central equatorial Indian Ocean, below-average rainfall over much of the Maritime Continent, and above-average rainfall stretching from Myanmar to the northern Philippines. This is supported by dynamical models and MJO composites of average rainfall patterns when the MJO is in Phases 5 and 6. Further east, there is high confidence of above-average rainfall over the Philippine Sea. Most of the dynamical models support formation of a tropical cyclone over this region during the first half of the period.

East of the Dateline, above-average rainfall is expected to extend from about 160W to the Eastern Pacific south of 20N, and below-average rainfall is expected over Central America during Week-1. These

regions are supported by historical MJO composites and the ECMWF model which further suggests a moderate risk of tropical cyclone formation around 150W and 120W. The Central Pacific Hurricane Center is monitoring the western region and currently has 30% confidence that it will develop into a tropical cyclone over the next five days. Similarly, the National Hurricane Center currently predicts a 20% chance that tropical cyclone development will occur in the eastern region during the next five days. Dynamical models suggest that development in these areas could occur during the late part of the Week-1 forecast period, and we will continue to monitor these areas closely. Updates will be provided on Friday.

Rainfall patterns consistent with the MJO in phase 6 are expected during Week-2 and supported by CFS and ECMWF model guidance. There are moderate risks that below-average rainfall will continue over much of the Maritime Continent and above-average rainfall will continue over southeastern Asia and the Philippine Sea. A moderate risk of tropical cyclone development continues into early Week-2 and is shifted further east than during Week-1, over the northwest Pacific. There are also indications that tropical cyclone development is possible over the eastern Pacific between 10-15N.

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