

The MJO re-emerged over the Indian Ocean during late April and its enhanced phase propagated east to the West Pacific by early May. Its eastward propagation recently slowed due to a pair of tropical cyclones and interaction with an equatorial Rossby wave. Dynamical model forecasts are in good agreement initially in Week-1 that eastward propagation of the MJO will continue over the Western Hemisphere. Dynamical models indicate a decrease in the amplitude of the MJO as it enters Phase 1. This decreasing amplitude may be related to the more stationary enhanced (suppressed) convection over the Pacific (Indian) Ocean with the background state.

A couple of tropical cyclones recently developed near the Kimberley Coast of Australia and over the Coral Sea region, likely related to the MJO. As of May 14 at 6UTC, Tropical Cyclone Ann is located at 14.5S/147.6E with sustained winds of 35 knots. Although Tropical Storm Ann is likely to dissipate within the next 24 to 36 hours as it enters the Gulf of Carpentaria, its remnant low is expected to enhance rainfall across the Top End of Australia's Northern Territory early in Week-1.

Based on climatology from 1971 to 2009, typically one tropical cyclone (TC) develops in the East Pacific by June 10. During the latter half of May, the large scale environment is expected to become more favorable for TC genesis in the East Pacific as the MJO propagates east and low-level westerly anomalies increase with time. Also, sea surface temperature anomalies in this region are running slightly above normal and have recently warmed above 29 degrees C. Due to these factors, moderate confidence exists that a TC will develop in the East Pacific during Week-2.

The precipitation outlook during the next two weeks is based on influences from El Nino, model consensus among the CFS, ECMWF, and GFS models, and MJO precipitation composites for phases 8 and 1. Below-average rainfall is likely across much of Southeast Asia and the West Pacific during Week-1 with a decrease in coverage of the favored dry area for Week-2. Above-average temperatures are likely to accompany the suppressed convection across parts of Southeast Asia during the next two weeks. The suppressed phase of the MJO is likely to delay the onset of the Indian Monsoon during the next two weeks, although convection may begin to increase later in Week-2 as the MJO propagates east. El Nino continues to elevate the chances of above-average rainfall across the equatorial Pacific, while the MJO strongly favors above-average rainfall across parts of the East Pacific, Central America, and northern South America through at least late May. The above-average precipitation favored for the western U.S. is related to a highly amplified upper-level trough and an influx of subtropical moisture. Forecasts over Africa are made in consultation with CPCs international desk, and can represent local-scale conditions in addition to global-scale variability.