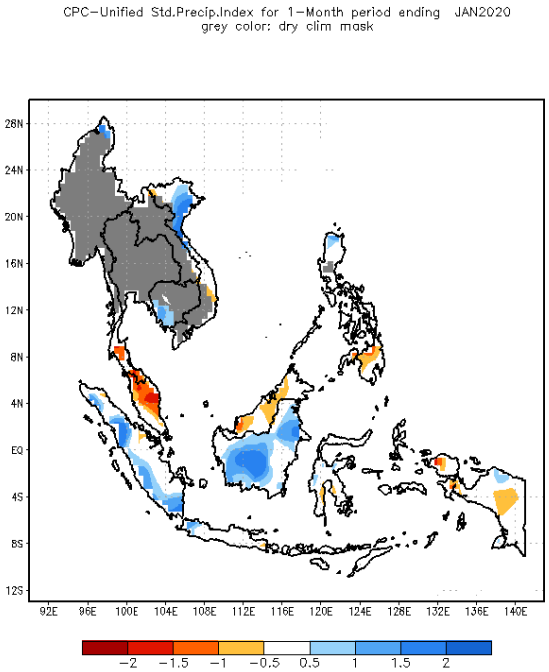
Climate Monitoring Node – WMO-RCC-SEA – DOST-PAGASA / No. 01

CLIMATE WATCH FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA

RAINFALL DEFICIENCY

Area Concerned: Peninsular Malaysia **Date Issue: 15 February 2020**

Areas of *moderate* to *severe* rainfall deficiencies have been observed in some parts of Southeast Asia region, in particular over Peninsular Malaysia, as shown by the the 1-month Standard Precipitation Index (SPI). This dry condition was consistent with 3-month below-normal rainfall being experienced for the period November 2019 – January 2020 (see attached 3-month SPI). Other parts of Southeast Asia recorded *moderate* rainfall deficiencies, but these were not as extensive.



Sea surface temperatures observed for the month were near average over most of the tropical Pacific Ocean, however, the western half of the Niño 4 region showed a warmer SST (~1 to 1.5ºC SST anomaly). Likewise, SSTs near Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore Brunei, and the Philippines were mostly near average.

Neutral values of the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) were observed in January. SST anomaly over most of the western and eastern equatorial Indian Ocean were warmer than average (~1.0 to 1.5 °C).

Active phase of the Madden–Julian Oscillation (MJO) has strengthened in some parts of the Maritime Continent in January. These have contributed to the enhanced cloudiness and rainfall in some areas of the region.

OUTLOOK:

Drier conditions are forecasted to persist for the next two weeks (16-29 Feb) over northern Sumatra and parts of Peninsular Malaysia, although these drier conditions are forecasted mainly on the western side of the peninsula.

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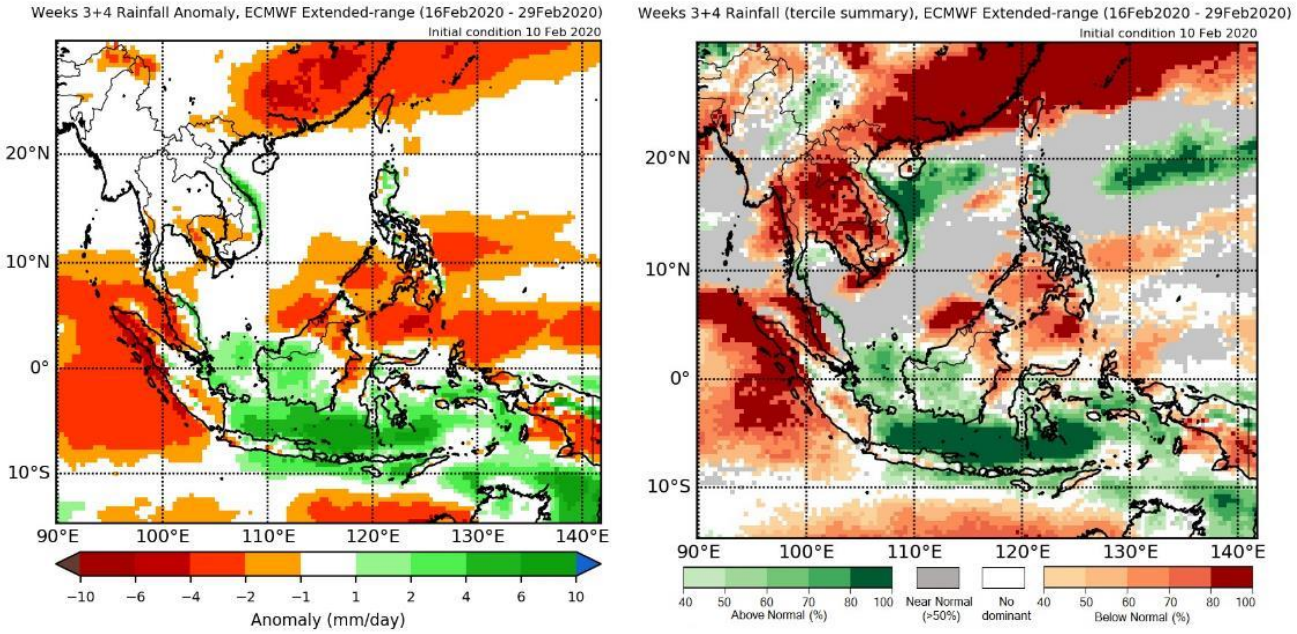

Figure 2 Rainfall anomaly (left) and tercile summary (right) for the 16-29 Feb 2020. The forecasts are based on the ECMWF run from the 10th Feb 2020.

Next issuance will be on March 2020.

ATTACHMENTS

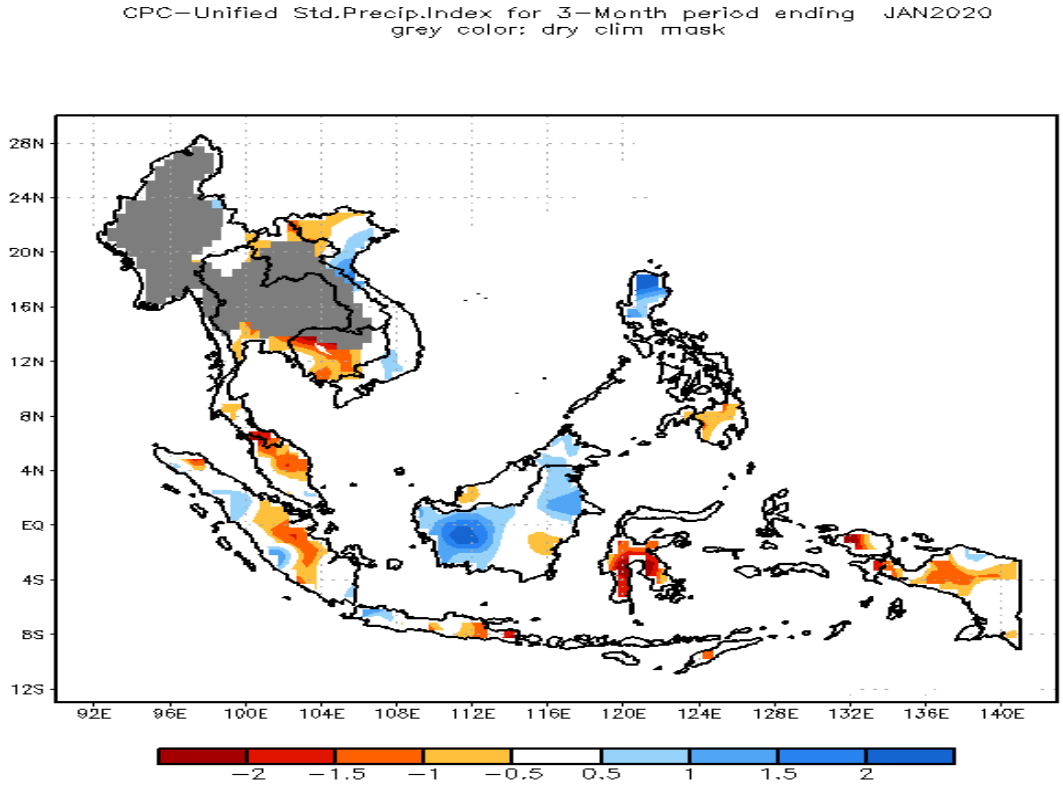

Table 1: McKee and others (1993) SPI value-classification table as recommended in World Meteorological Organization, 2012: Standardized Precipitation Index User Guide (M. Svoboda, M. Hayes and D. Wood). (WMO-No. 1090), Geneva.

Table 1. SPI values

2.0+	extremely wet
1.5 to 1.99	very wet
1.0 to 1.49	moderately wet
-.99 to .99	near normal
-1.0 to -1.49	moderately dry
-1.5 to -1.99	severely dry
-2 and less	extremely dry