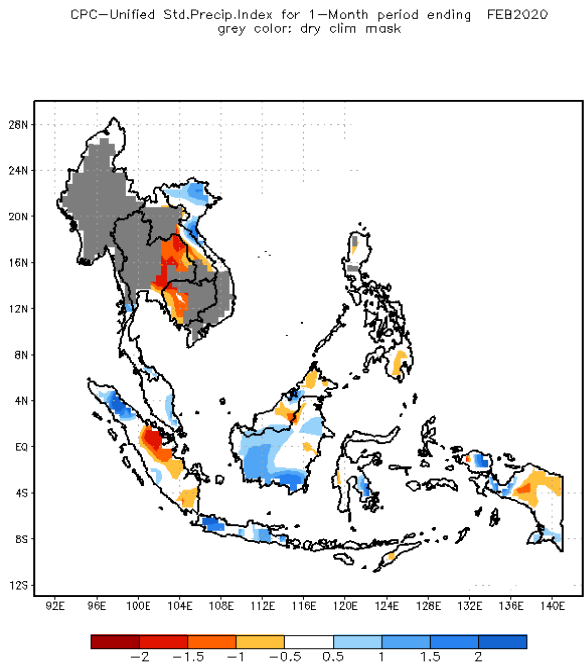
Climate Monitoring Node – WMO-RCC-SEA – DOST-PAGASA / No. 02

CLIMATE WATCH FOR RAINFALL DEFICIENCY

Area Concerned: Thailand, Cambodia **Date Issue: March 2020**

Areas of *moderate* to *severe* rainfall deficiencies have been observed in some parts of Southeast Asia region, in particular over Thailand and Cambodia, 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 December 2019 – February 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 Niño 4 region showed a warmer SST (~0.5 - 1ºC SST anomaly) extending up to eastern Indonesia. Likewise, SSTs near 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 slightly warmer than average (~0.5 to 1.0 °C).

Inactive phase of the Madden–Julian Oscillation (MJO) in Maritime Continent in February. Characterize with suppressed precipitation in most areas of the region.