

Seasonal Outlook for summer 2012 over Japan

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ABSTRACT

JMA issued the seasonal outlook for the summer (June-July-August) 2012 over Japan on February 23, 2012. The outline is as follows.

JMA's numerical model predicts that the SST anomalies averaged over the NINO.3 region will be above normal in summer 2012. However, considering that the prediction accuracy of NINO.3's SST in summer is relatively low at the end stage of La Niña conditions in spring; the model tends to predict El Niño conditions. Therefore, it is considered that SST anomalies in NINO.3 will be mostly near normal in this summer. The SSTs in the tropical Indian Ocean (IOBW) and in the western equatorial Pacific are both predicted to be slightly below normal in summer 2012.

Three-month precipitation anomalies and the atmospheric circulation anomaly patterns in the tropical and sub-tropical Pacific are predicted to be similar to those of the El Niño conditions. Since it is considered that these anomalous patterns appear due to El Niño-like SST anomalies, we undervalue them for the reasons mentioned above. As a result, it is considered that the extension of the North Pacific high will be almost normal around Japan during this summer in spite of the predicted El Niño-like SST anomalies. The Tibetan high is also considered to be normal. These results indicate that the circulation pattern around Japan will be almost normal in this summer.

On the other hand, 500hPa height anomalies are predicted to be positive over almost the whole Northern Hemisphere due to the influence of recent warm trend. This tendency indicates that the averaged temperature in this summer tends to be above normal in Japan.

Considering the factors mentioned above, summer mean temperatures are expected to be both near normal and above normal with 40% probability in Western Japan and Okinawa/Amami. Summer precipitation has no particular features for all regions. The same tendency is predicted for the precipitation during the Baiu season (rainy season).