Monthly Discussion on Seasonal Climate Outlooks (No. 121)

(19 March 2024)

Tokyo Climate Center (TCC) Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA)

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Notes:

- The present monthly discussion is intended to assist National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) in WMO RA II (Asia) in interpreting WMC Tokyo's seasonal prediction products. It does not constitute an official forecast for any nation. Seasonal outlooks for individual countries should be obtained from the relevant NMHS.
- Seasonal predictions are based on a JMA's Seasonal Ensemble Prediction System (EPS), which is based on the coupled atmosphere-ocean general circulation model (CGCM).
- JMA provides three-month prediction products around the 20th of every month with warm-season (Jun. Aug.) prediction products in February, March and April, and with cold-season (Dec. Feb.) prediction products in September and October.
- Unless otherwise noted, the base period for the normal is 1991 2020.

1. Summary and Discussion

<u>ENSO</u>

- Oceanic indicators suggest that ongoing El Niño conditions in the equatorial Pacific have already peaked and are now gradually weakening.
- El Niño conditions are likely to transition to ENSO-neutral conditions during boreal spring (80%).
- During boreal summer, it is more likely that ENSO-neutral conditions will continue (60%) than La Niña conditions will develop (40%).

Prediction for April-May-June 2024 (AMJ 2024)

- In the upper troposphere, large-scale divergence anomalies are predicted over the Indian Ocean and from South America to the Atlantic, while large-scale convergence anomalies are predicted over a wide area in the Pacific.
- A high probability of above-normal precipitation is predicted from the tropical Indian Ocean to the Maritime Continent. A high probability of below-normal precipitation is predicted from the Indochina Peninsula to the subtropical western North Pacific.
- A high probability of above-normal temperatures is predicted over a wide area of Asia, particularly in the tropics from the Indian Ocean to the western Pacific, implying a significantly hot pre-monsoon period in South Asia and the Indochina Peninsula. A high probability of below-normal temperatures is predicted over the Sea of Okhotsk.

1. Summary and Discussion (cont.)

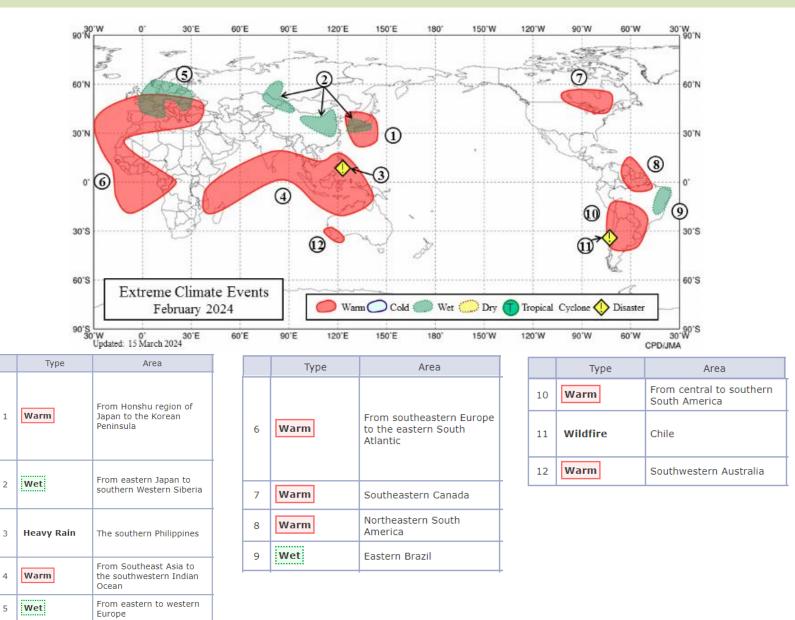
Prediction for June-July-August 2024 (JJA 2024)

- In the upper troposphere, large-scale divergence anomalies are predicted over the Indian Ocean and over the Atlantic, while large-scale convergence anomalies are predicted over a wide area in the Pacific.
- A high probability of above-normal precipitation is predicted around the Maritime Continent. A high probability of below-normal precipitation is predicted over the tropical western Pacific.
- A high probability of above-normal temperatures is predicted from the Middle East to the tropical western Pacific through the northern Indian Ocean. A high probability of below-normal temperatures is predicted over the Sea of Okhotsk.

2. Latest State of the Climate System

February 2024

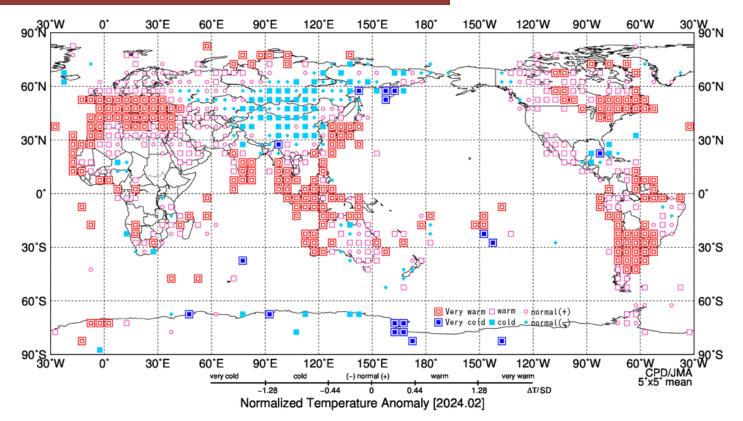
<February 2024> Extreme Climate Events



<February 2024> Temperature

• Monthly mean temperatures were extremely high from Honshu region of Japan to the Korean Peninsula, from Southeast Asia to the southwestern Indian Ocean, from southeastern Europe to the eastern South Atlantic, in southeastern Canada, in northeastern South America, from central to southern South America, and in southwestern Australia.

Normalized anomaly of monthly mean temperature

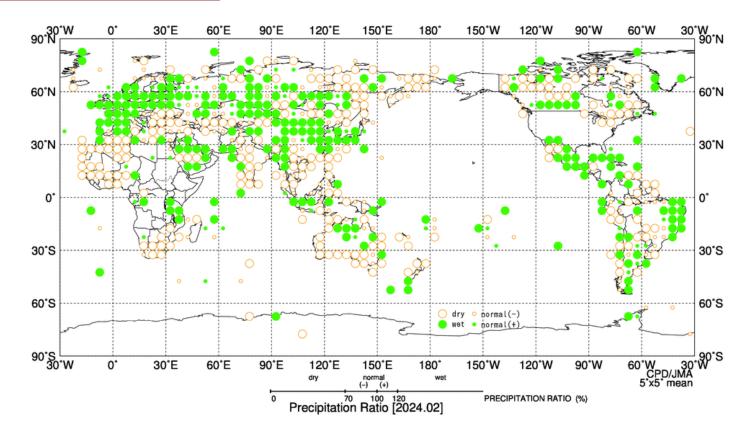


<World Climate Chart (Monthly)> https://www.data.jma.go.jp/tcc/tcc/products/climate/climfig/?tm=monthly

<February 2024> Precipitation

• Monthly precipitation amounts were extremely high from eastern Japan to southern Western Siberia, from eastern to western Europe, and in eastern Brazil.

Monthly precipitation ratio

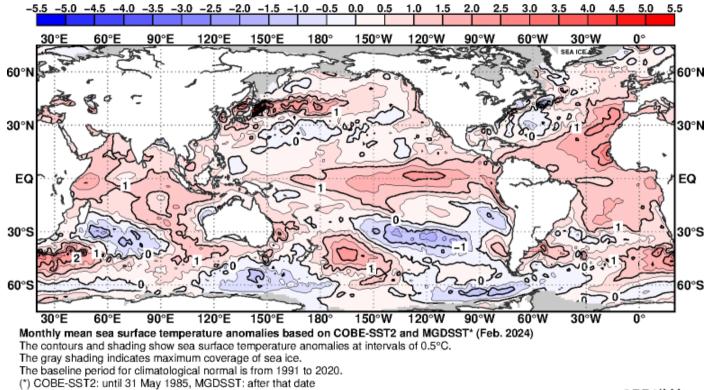


<World Climate Chart (Monthly)> https://www.data.jma.go.jp/tcc/tcc/products/climate/climfig/?tm=monthly

<February 2024> Sea Surface Temperature (SST)

- In the equatorial Pacific, remarkably positive SST anomalies were observed particularly from the central to eastern parts.
- In the North Pacific, remarkably positive anomalies were observed from the western to central mid-latitudes.
- In the Indian Ocean, remarkably positive anomalies were observed in the tropics.

Monthly mean SST anomaly (°C)

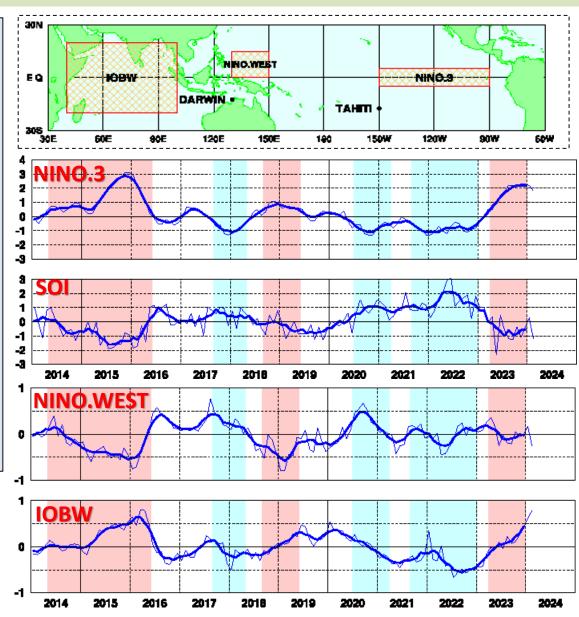


CPD/JMA

<Monthly mean SST anomalies (Global)> <u>https://www.data.jma.go.jp/tcc/tcc/products/elnino/ocean/sst-ano-global_tcc.html</u>

<February 2024> ENSO Monitoring Indices

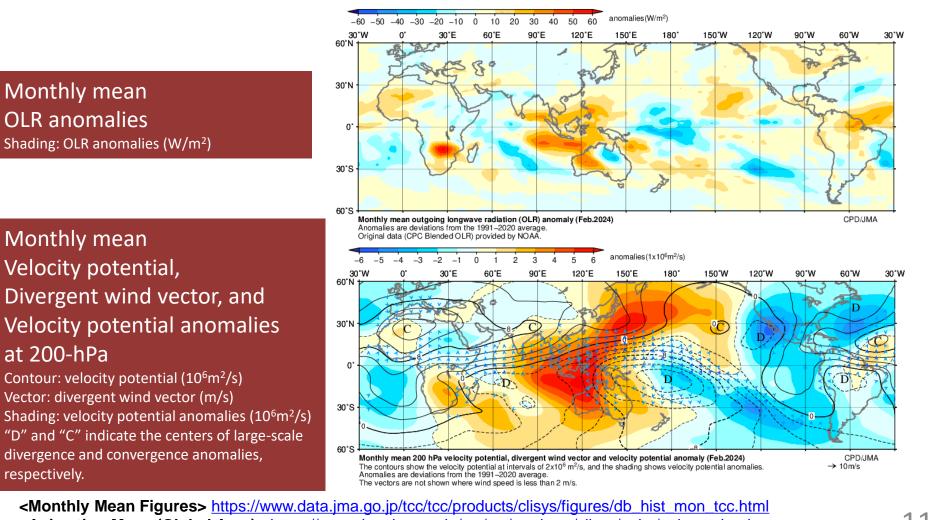
- Oceanic indicators suggest that ongoing El Niño conditions in the equatorial Pacific have already peaked and are now gradually weakening.
- The NINO.3 SST was above normal with a deviation of +1.8°C in February 2024.
- The Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) value was +1.1.
- The area-averaged SST in the tropical western Pacific (NINO.WEST) region was below normal.
- The area-averaged SST in the tropical Indian Ocean (IOBW) region was above normal.



Monthly values (thin lines) and five-month running means (thick lines). The shading indicates El Niño (red) and La Niña (blue) events. **El Niño Monitoring and Outlook**> <u>https://www.data.jma.go.jp/tcc/tcc/products/elnino/elmonout.html</u>

<February 2024> Convective activity in the Tropics

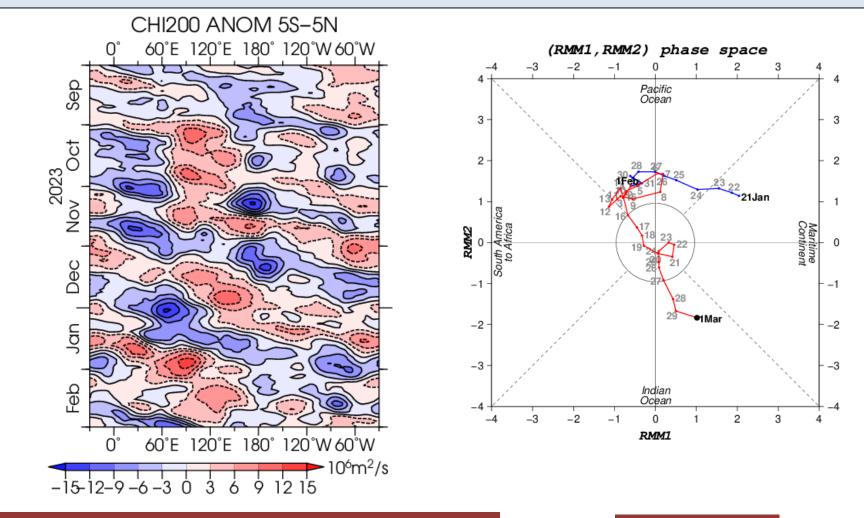
• Convective activity was enhanced over the tropical central Pacific and the western to central parts of the Indian Ocean, and suppressed from the eastern Indian Ocean to Indonesia, and from the tropical South America to the western Africa.



<Animation Maps (Global Area)> https://www.data.jma.go.jp/tcc/tcc/products/clisys/anim/anim_tp.html

< February 2024> Equatorial Intraseasonal Oscillation

• Eastward propagation of the active phase of equatorial intraseasonal oscillation was unclear.



Time-longitude cross section of seven-day running mean velocity potential anomalies at 200-hPa (5°S – 5°N)

MJO diagram

<MJO> https://www.data.jma.go.jp/tcc/tcc/products/clisys/mjo/moni_mjo.html

<February 2024> Upper-level Circulation

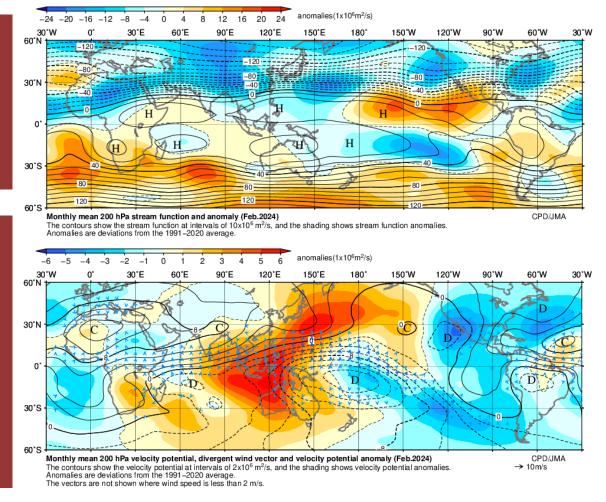
• In the upper troposphere, anti-cyclonic circulation anomalies straddling the equator were seen over the central to eastern Pacific. A wavy anomaly pattern was seen over the subtropical region in the Northern Hemisphere.

Monthly mean Stream function and its anomalies at 200-hPa

Contour: stream function (10⁶m²/s) Shading: stream function anomalies (10⁶m²/s) "H" and "L" indicate the centers of anti-cyclonic and cyclonic circulations, respectively.

Monthly mean Velocity potential, Divergent wind vector and Velocity potential anomalies at 200-hPa

Contour: velocity potential (10⁶m²/s) Vector: divergent wind vector (m/s) Shading: velocity potential anomalies (10⁶m²/s) "D" and "C" indicate the centers of large-scale divergence and convergence anomalies, respectively.



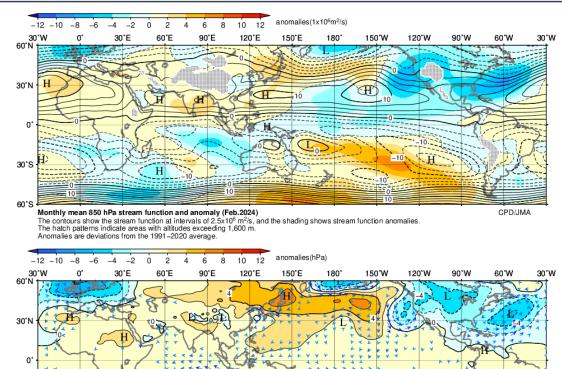
<Monthly Mean Figures> <u>https://www.data.jma.go.jp/tcc/tcc/products/clisys/figures/db_hist_mon_tcc.html</u> <Animation Maps (Global Area)> <u>https://www.data.jma.go.jp/tcc/tcc/products/clisys/anim/anim_tp.html</u>

<February 2024> Low-level Circulation

- In the lower troposphere, cyclonic circulation anomalies straddling the equator were seen over the central Pacific, and anti-cyclonic circulation anomalies straddling the equator were also seen from the eastern Indian Ocean to the Maritime Continent.
- In the sea level pressure field along the equator, positive anomalies were seen over the tropical region, and negative anomalies were seen over the subtropical region of the central South Pacific.

Monthly mean Stream function and its anomalies at 850-hPa

Contour: stream function (10⁶m²/s) Shading: stream function anomalies (10⁶m²/s) "H" and "L" indicate the centers of anti-cyclonic and cyclonic circulations, respectively.



level pressure anomaly and surface wind vector anomaly (Feb.2024)

The contours show sea level pressure anomalies at intervals of 2 hPa

Anomalies are deviations from the 1991-2020 average. The vectors are not shown where wind speed is less than 1 m/s

Monthly mean Sea level pressure anomalies and

Surface wind vector anomalies

Contour&shading: sea level pressure anomalies (hPa)

Vector: surface wind vector anomalies (m/s) "H" and "L" indicate the centers of anti-cyclonic and cyclonic anomalies, respectively.

<Monthly Mean Figures> <u>https://www.data.jma.go.jp/tcc/tcc/products/clisys/figures/db_hist_mon_tcc.html</u>
<Animation Maps (Global Area)> https://www.data.jma.go.jp/tcc/tcc/products/clisys/figures/db_hist_mon_tcc.html

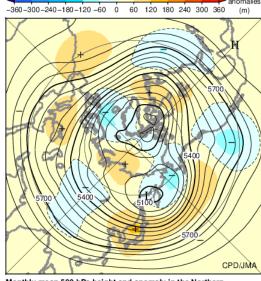
30°S

CPD/JMA

→ 5m/s

< February 2024 > Northern Hemisphere Circulation

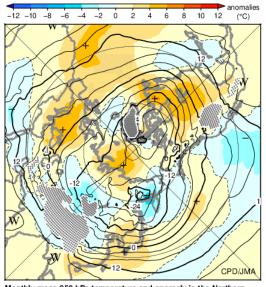
- In the 500-hPa height field, the polar vortex in the Northern Hemisphere split with positive anomalies from Western to Central Siberia and negative anomalies to the northwest of Europe and over the eastern part of Eastern Siberia. Wave trains were dominant over the Northern Hemisphere mid-latitudes with positive anomalies over northeastern North America, from northwestern Northern Africa to southern Europe, from Japan to the east, and negative anomalies to the west of the USA and over southern Western Siberia.
- Temperatures at 850-hPa were above normal over North America, from the southern North Atlantic to southern Europe and over Japan, and negative anomalies to the southwest of the USA, over southern Western Siberia, and over Eastern Siberia.
- In the sea level pressure field, positive anomalies were seen over a wide area from Central Siberia to the mid-latitude North Pacific through Japan, and negative anomalies were seen over a wide area from North America to western Europe. The Aleutian Low was generally weaker than normal except over its northern part.



Monthly mean 500 hPa height and anomaly in the Northern Hemisphere (Feb.2024)

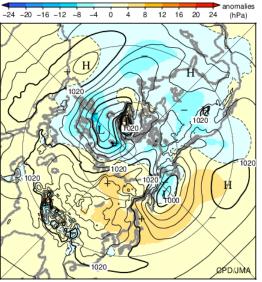
Monthly mean geopotential height and its anomalies at 500-hPa

Contour: geopotential height (m) Shading: geopotential height anomalies (m)



Monthly mean 850 hPa temperature and anomaly in the Northern Hemisphere (Feb.2024)

Monthly mean temperature and its anomalies at 850-hPa Contour: temperature (°C) Shading: temperature anomalies (°C)



Monthly mean sea level pressure and anomaly in the Northern Hemisphere (Feb.2024)

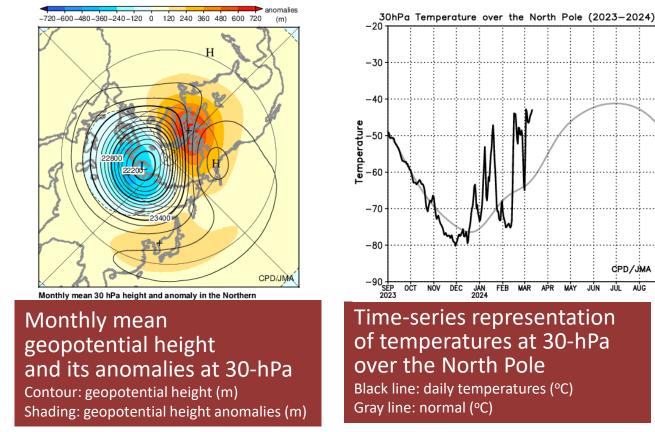
Monthly mean sea level pressure and its anomalies

Contour: sea level pressure (hPa) Shading: sea level pressure anomalies (hPa)

<Monthly Mean Figures> <u>https://www.data.jma.go.jp/tcc/tcc/products/clisys/figures/db_hist_mon_tcc.html</u>

< February 2024> Stratospheric Circulation

- In the 30-hPa height field, the polar vortex was displaced toward Western Russia in association with positive anomalies over a wide area of the Arctic region. The major stratospheric sudden warming occurred in middle February.
- The negative height anomalies over Western Russia and positive height anomalies over the Arctic region (i.e., the northward extension of the Aleutian High) in the stratosphere possibly affected the anomalous circulation in the troposphere through processes of the downward propagation of planetary waves and the thermal wind balance.



<Monthly Mean Figures> <u>https://www.data.jma.go.jp/tcc/tcc/products/clisys/figures/db_hist_mon_tcc.html</u> <Stratospheric Circulation> <u>https://www.data.jma.go.jp/tcc/tcc/products/clisys/STRAT/index.html</u>

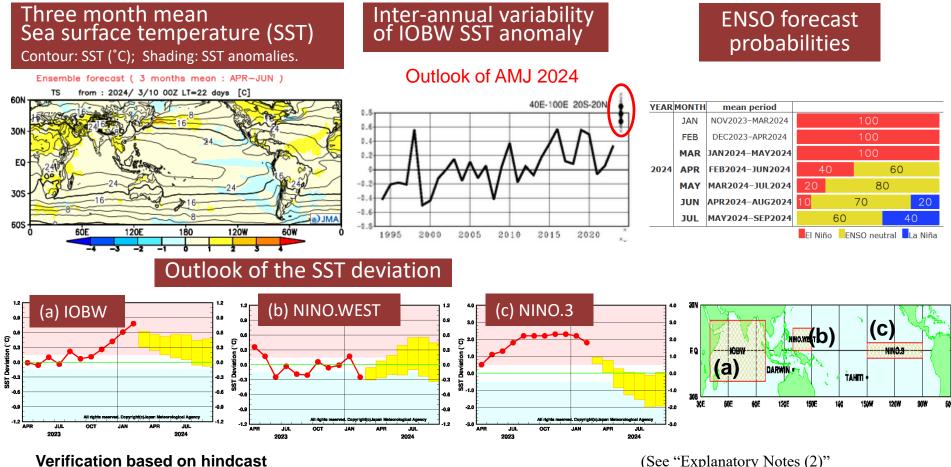
3. Three-month Predictions

April – May - June 2024 (AMJ 2024)

(Initial date for the Seasonal EPS: 10 March 2024)

<AMJ 2024> Sea Surface Temperature (SST)

- El Niño conditions are likely to transition to ENSO-neutral conditions during boreal spring (80%). During boreal summer, it is more likely that ENSO-neutral conditions will continue (60%) than La Niña conditions will develop (40%).
- The NINO.WEST SST is likely to be near or below normal during boreal spring, and almost near normal during boreal summer.
- The IOBW SST is likely to be above normal until boreal summer. Note that the significantly above-normal IOBW SST anomaly is predicted in boreal spring.

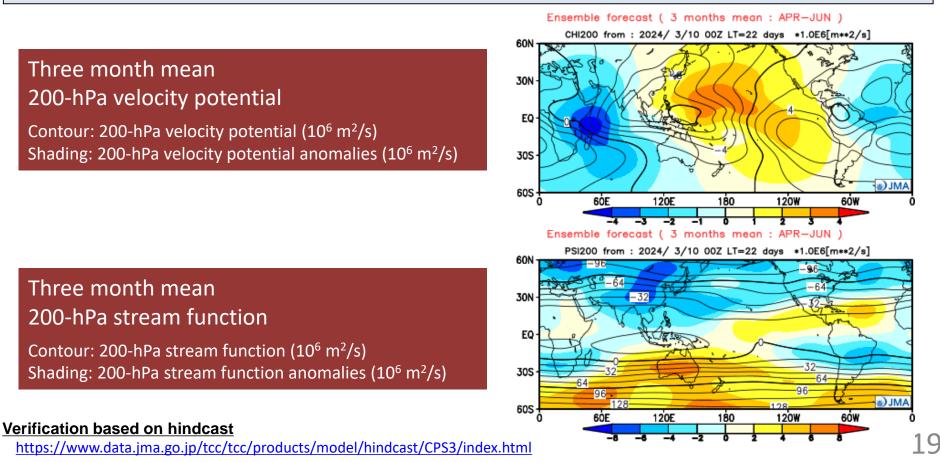


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(See "Explanatory Notes (2)" for the definition of the SST indices.)

<AMJ 2024> Global Circulation

- In the 200-hPa velocity potential field, negative (large-scale divergence) anomalies are predicted over the Indian Ocean and from South America to the Atlantic, while positive (large-scale convergence) anomalies are predicted over a wide area in the Pacific.
- In the 200-hPa stream function field, anti-cyclonic circulation anomalies straddling the equator are predicted from the eastern tropical Pacific to the Atlantic. Cyclonic circulation anomalies straddling the equator are predicted from the eastern Indian Ocean to the Maritime Continent, particularly over East Asia, corresponding to the southward shift of the subtropical jet over Eurasia.



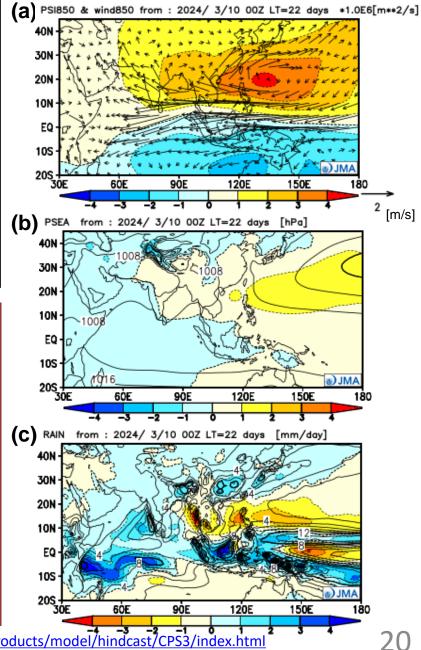
<AMJ 2024> Asian Circulation

- In the 850-hPa stream function field, anti-cyclonic circulation anomalies are predicted from the Bay of Bengal to the subtropical western North Pacific, which are possibly associated with the positive IOBW-related above-normal precipitation over the equatorial Indian Ocean and the below-normal precipitation over the latitude band of 10°N in the western North Pacific through the process of Kelvin-wave induced Ekman divergence.
- In the sea level pressure field, positive and negative anomalies are predicted over the subtropical western North Pacific and the equatorial Indian Ocean, respectively.
- Above-normal precipitation is predicted over the western equatorial Pacific.

Three month mean (a) 850-hPa stream function anomalies and wind vector anomalies Contour&Shading: 850-hPa stream function anomalies (10⁶ m²/s) Vector: wind vector anomalies (m/s)

(b) sea level pressure and its anomalies Contour: sea level pressure (hPa) Shading: sea level pressure anomalies (hPa)

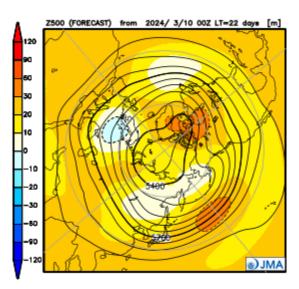
(c) precipitation and its anomalies Contour: precipitation (mm/day) Shading: precipitation anomalies (mm/day)

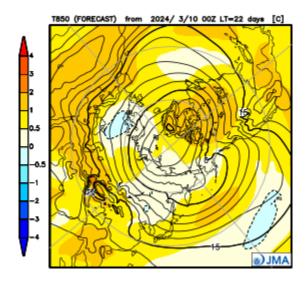


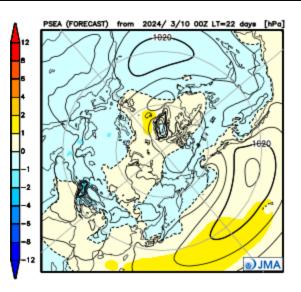
Verification based on hindcast https://www.data.jma.go.jp/tcc/tcc/products/model/hindcast/CPS3/index.html

<AMJ 2024> Northern Hemisphere circulation

- In the 500-hPa height field, positive anomalies are predicted over a wide area of the Northern Hemisphere mid- and high-latitudes, except over northern Europe.
- In the 850-hPa temperature field, positive anomalies are predicted over a wide area of the Northern Hemisphere, particularly from Northern Africa to South Asia and over northern North America and the mid-latitude North Pacific.
- In the sea level pressure field, the stronger-than-normal westward extensions of the subtropical highs over the North Pacific are predicted.







Three month mean geopotential height and its anomalies at 500-hPa Contour: geopotential height (m) Shading: geopotential height anomalies (m)

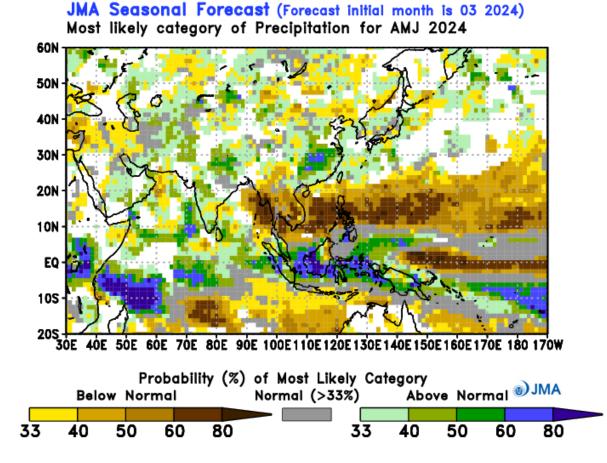
Three month mean temperature and its anomalies at 850-hPa Contour: temperature (°C) Shading: temperature anomalies (°C) Three month mean sea level pressure (SLP) and its anomalies

Contour: sea level pressure (hPa) Shading: sea level pressure anomalies (hPa)

Verification based on hindcast https://www.data.jma.go.jp/tcc/tcc/products/model/hindcast/CPS3/index.html

<AMJ 2024> Probability Forecasts (precipitation)

- A high probability of above-normal precipitation is predicted from the tropical Indian Ocean to the Maritime Continent.
- A high probability of below-normal precipitation is predicted from the Indochina Peninsula to the subtropical western North Pacific.

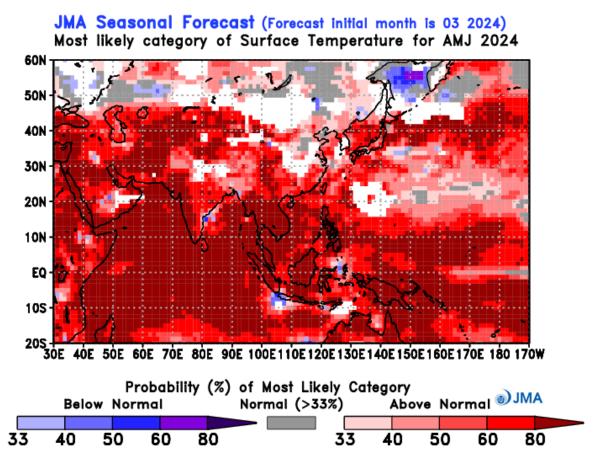


Verification based on hindcast

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<AMJ 2024> Probability Forecasts (temperature)

- A high probability of above-normal temperatures is predicted over a wide area of Asia, particularly in the tropics from the Indian Ocean to the western Pacific, implying a significantly hot pre-monsoon period in South Asia and the Indochina Peninsula.
- A high probability of below-normal temperatures is predicted over the Sea of Okhotsk.



Verification based on hindcast

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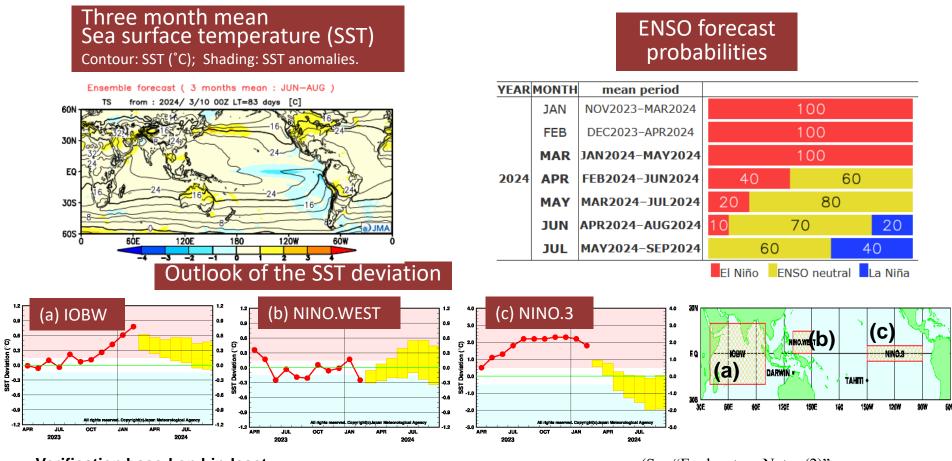
4. Warm Season Predictions

June – July – August 2024 (JJA 2024)

(Initial date for the Seasonal EPS: 10 March 2024)

<JJA 2024> Sea Surface Temperature (SST)

- During boreal summer, it is more likely that ENSO-neutral conditions will continue (60%) than La Niña conditions will develop (40%).
- The NINO.WEST SST is likely to be almost near normal during boreal summer.
- The IOBW SST is likely to be above normal until boreal summer.



Verification based on hindcast

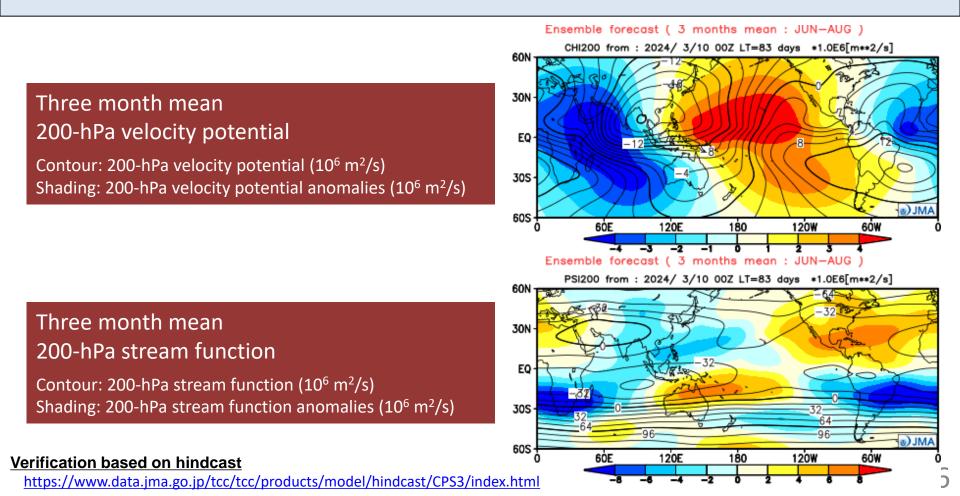
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(See "Explanatory Notes (2)" for the definition of the SST indices.)

<JJA 2024> Global Circulation

- In the 200-hPa velocity potential field, negative (large-scale divergence) anomalies are predicted over the Indian Ocean and over the Atlantic, while positive (large-scale convergence) anomalies are predicted over a wide area in the Pacific.
- In the 200-hPa stream function field, anti-cyclonic circulation anomalies straddling the equator are predicted from the tropical eastern Pacific to Africa, and cyclonic circulation anomalies straddling the equator are predicted from the Southeast Asia to the western Pacific.



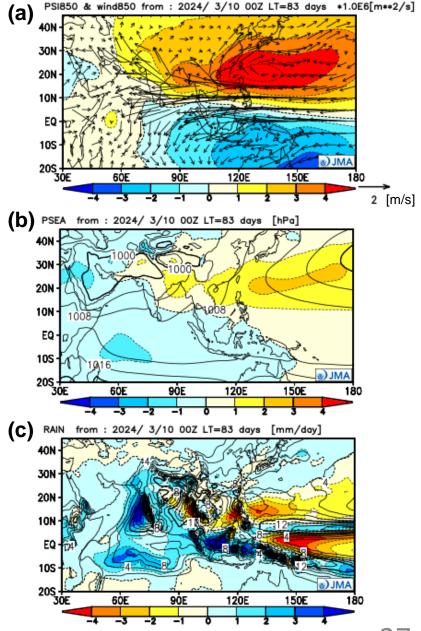
<JJA 2024> Asian Circulation

- In the 850-hPa stream function field, anti-cyclonic circulation anomalies straddling the equator are predicted over Southeast Asia in association with the below-normal precipitation near the tropical western Pacific and possibly the positive IOBWrelated above-normal precipitation over the Indian Ocean through the process of Kelvin-wave induced Ekman divergence.
- In the sea level pressure field, positive and negative anomalies are predicted over the subtropical western North Pacific and the Indian Ocean, respectively.

Three month mean (a) 850-hPa stream function anomalies and wind vector anomalies Contour&Shading: 850-hPa stream function anomalies (10⁶ m²/s) Vector: wind vector anomalies (m/s)

(b) sea level pressure and its anomalies Contour: sea level pressure (hPa) Shading: sea level pressure anomalies (hPa)

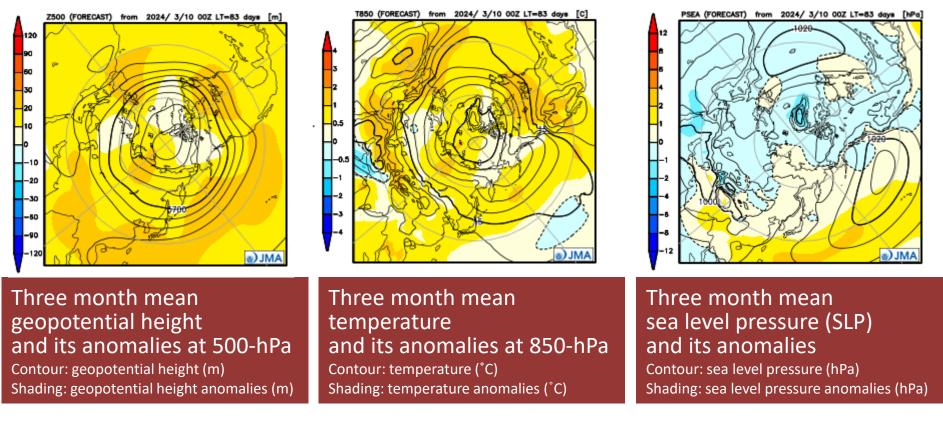
(c) precipitation and its anomalies Contour: precipitation (mm/day) Shading: precipitation anomalies (mm/day)



Verification based on hindcast <u>https://www.data.jma.go.jp/tcc/tcc/products/model/hindcast/CPS3/index.html</u>

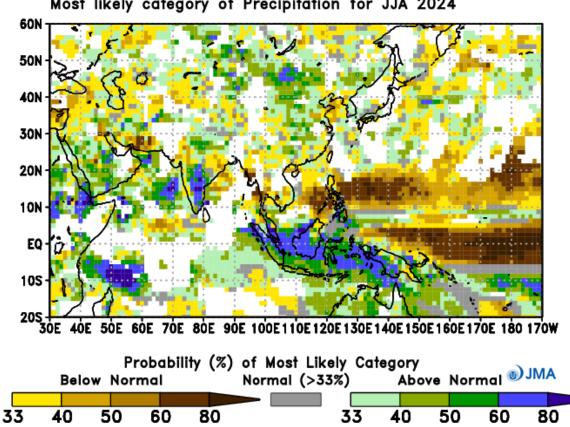
<JJA 2024> Northern Hemisphere circulation

- In the 500-hPa height field, positive anomalies are predicted over a wide area of the Northern Hemisphere.
- In the 850-hPa temperature field, positive anomalies are predicted over a wide area of the Northern Hemisphere.
- In the sea level pressure field, positive anomalies are predicted over the subtropical western North Pacific, indicating the westward extension of the North Pacific subtropical high.



<JJA 2024> Probability Forecasts (precipitation)

- A high probability of above-normal precipitation is predicted around the Maritime Continent.
- A high probability of below-normal precipitation is predicted over the tropical western Pacific.



JMA Seasonal Forecast (Forecast initial month is 03 2024) Most likely category of Precipitation for JJA 2024

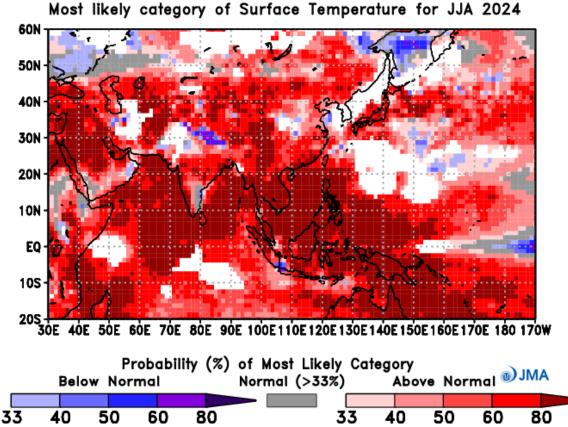
Verification based on hindcast

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<JJA 2024> Probability Forecasts (temperature)

- A high probability of above-normal temperatures is predicted from the Middle East to the tropical western Pacific through the northern Indian Ocean.
- A high probability of below-normal temperatures is predicted over the Sea of Okhotsk.

JMA Seasonal Forecast (Forecast initial month is 03 2024)



Verification based on hindcast

https://www.data.jma.go.jp/tcc/tcc/products/model/probfcst/warm_cold_season/hind/html/skill_score_reg.html https://www.data.jma.go.jp/tcc/tcc/products/model/probfcst/warm_cold_season/hind/html/skill_2d_warm_cold_season.html

Explanatory Notes (1)

Latest state of the climate system

- Extreme climate events and surface climate conditions are based on CLIMAT messages. For details, see <u>https://www.data.jma.go.jp/tcc/tcc/products/climate/index.html</u>
- SST products are based on MGDSST and COBE-SST2 data. For details, see MGDSST <u>https://www.data.jma.go.jp/goos/data/rrtdb/jma-pro/mgd_sst_glb_D.html</u>

COBE-SST2 https://www.data.jma.go.jp/tcc/tcc/products/elnino/cobesst2_doc.html

• Atmospheric circulation products are based on JRA-3Q data:

https://jra.kishou.go.jp/JRA-3Q/index_en.html

For details, see https://www.data.jma.go.jp/tcc/tcc/products/clisys/index.html

• The base period for the normal is 1991 - 2020.

Three-month predictions and warm/cold season predictions

• Products are generated using JMA's seasonal EPS which is based on the CGCM. For details, see <u>https://www.data.jma.go.jp/tcc/tcc/products/model/index.html</u>

• Unless otherwise noted, atmospheric circulation prediction products are based on the ensemble mean, and anomalies are deviations from the 1991 - 2020 average for hindcasts.

Contact: tcc@met.kishou.go.jp

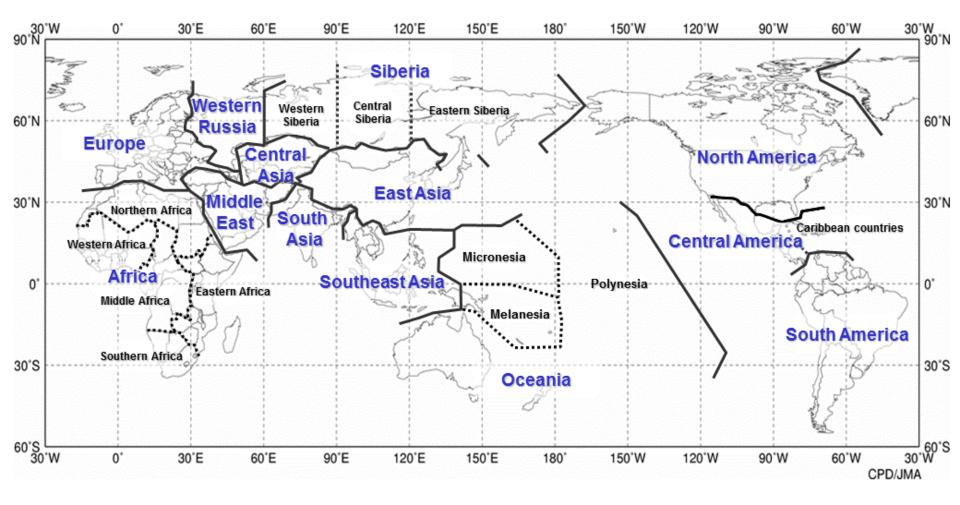
Explanatory Notes (2)

SST monitoring indices (NINO.3, NINO.WEST and IOBW)

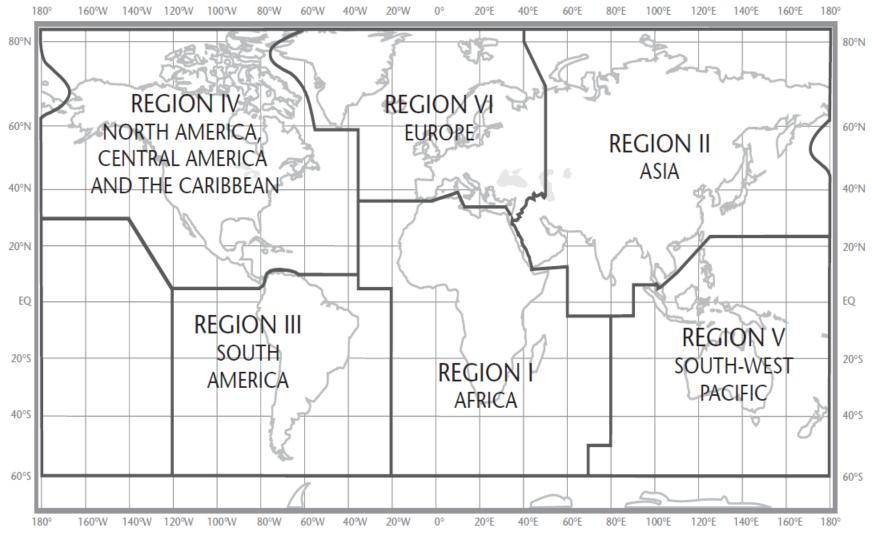
- The SST baseline for NINO.3 region $(5^{\circ}S 5^{\circ}N, 150^{\circ}W 90^{\circ}W)$ is defined as a monthly average over a sliding 30-year period (e.g., 1994 2023 for 2024). The thresholds of above the baseline, near the baseline, and below the baseline categories are +0.5 and -0.5.
- The SST baselines for the NINO.WEST region (Eq. -15° N, 130° E -150° E) and the IOBW region (20° S -20° N, 40° E -100° E) are defined as linear extrapolations with respect to a sliding 30-year period in order to remove the effects of significant long-term warming trends observed in these regions. The thresholds of above the baseline, near the baseline, and below the baseline categories are +0.15 and -0.15.
- •These SST indices are derived from MGDSST datasets after June 2015 and those of COBE-SST2 before this.

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Names of world regions

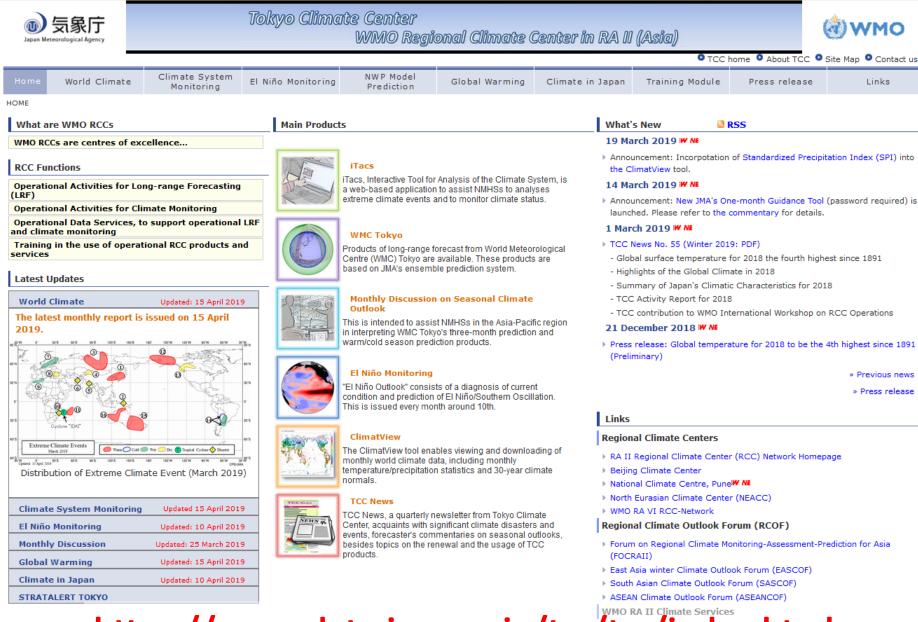


WMO Regional Association regions



Reference: WMO General Regulations

TCC website



https://www.data.jma.go.jp/tcc/tcc/index.html