

Seasonal Outlook for summer 2011 over Japan

Kohshiro Dehara

Climate Prediction Division, Japan Meteorological Agency

dehara@met.kishou.go.jp

ABSTRACT

JMA issued the seasonal outlook for the summer (June-July-August) 2011 over Japan on February 24, 2011. The outline is as follows.

JMA's numerical model predicts that the SST anomalies averaged over the NINO.3 region will be near normal in this spring and will be above normal in this summer. However, at the end stage of La Niña conditions in spring, the prediction of NINO.3's SSTs in summer has relatively low accuracy and tends to be higher than the observed one. Therefore, it is considered that SST anomalies in NINO.3 will be mostly near normal in summer. The SST in the NINO.WEST is predicted to be normal in summer 2011.

Positive anomalies of three-month (June-July-August) precipitation around and to the east of the Philippines are predicted. As a result, the extension of the North Pacific high is predicted to be almost normal around Japan during the summer despite the predicted El Niño-like SST anomalies. This indicates that the circulation pattern around Japan will be almost normal in summer.

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

Considering the factors mentioned above, summer mean temperatures are expected to be above normal with 50 % probability in Eastern and Western Japan, and Okinawa/Amami (Southern Japan). Summer precipitation has no particular features for all regions.