

JMA's El Niño Outlook for the 2006/07 Winter

By Shingo Yamada
Tokyo Climate Center, JMA
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1. El Niño Monitoring and Outlook for 2006/07 winter issued on 11 October 2006

1.1 Current Status of Equatorial Pacific

SSTs were above normal in much of the equatorial Pacific and the positive anomalies are prominent especially in the central and eastern parts. Positive subsurface temperature anomalies were found from the central to eastern equatorial Pacific.

1.2 El Niño Outlook

The NINO.3 SST will continue to be above normal through the coming autumn to winter, and then, decrease and become near normal in the late winter to spring 2007. At present, it is less likely that El Niño event will develop in the prediction period. However, there is some possibility that the warm SST condition would persist through the winter to be an El Niño event.

[Appendix] Most up-to-date situation until 22nd October 2006

A.1 SST

Positive anomalies in the eastern part have been strengthened and these in the central part have expanded eastward.

A.2 OHC

The warm waters appeared in early October and are propagating eastward now.

A.3 Low Level Wind

In accordance with the passage of active convection area due to MJO, westerly wind anomalies prevailed in much of the equatorial Pacific during October.

A.4 CGCM Prediction

The NINO.3 SST prediction by CGCM gets gradually larger as the initial date progress from August to October. The NINO.3 SST is likely to be predicted higher in the outlook to be issued in November than that in the October.

Judging from the above situation, it might be concluded that the NINO.3 SST will continue to be above normal during the coming winter and gradually return to near normal by the end of next spring. So it is likely that this warm SST condition in the eastern Pacific is going to be identified as an El Niño event.