

**No4-2006 MONTHLY ENSO DISCUSSION FOR MICRONESIA
AND AMERICAN SAMOA**

April 2006

The Pacific ENSO Applications Center (PEAC) disseminated the first quarter 2006 newsletter (refer to <http://lumahai.soest.hawaii.edu/Enso/index.html>). The second quarter Newsletter is in preparation and is nearly complete. The Climate Prediction Center (CPC) stated the following in its April 6, 2006 *ENSO Diagnostic Discussion* (refer to <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>): “The patterns of anomalous ocean temperatures, atmospheric circulation and precipitation are consistent in indicating La Niña conditions in the tropical Pacific. During March negative equatorial SST anomalies less than -0.5°C were observed at most locations between 180°W and 90°W , and negative SST departures were observed in all of the Niño regions, except for Niño 1+2 [near the coast of South America].” Equatorial surface and subsurface ocean temperature distribution, stronger than average low-level equatorial winds, and precipitation patterns indicate that La Niña conditions will continue during the next 1-3 months.”

Most of the latest climate forecast models indicate ENSO-neutral conditions in the tropical Pacific through the end of 2006. However, the increased spread in the climate model forecasts during the last half of 2006 indicates uncertainty in the forecasts after the northern hemisphere spring. From now until June, climate forecast models generally have diminished skill in their predictions.

For the next few months, tropical cyclone development and movement patterns for Micronesia and American Samoa will be displaced toward the west in response to La Niña, and sea levels will be higher than normal due to the above average trade winds. Only Palau has an increased chance for tropical cyclone activity, and this activity should be less than typhoon intensity. The trade wind trough has been re-established over southern Micronesia, and rainfall should return to normal for most areas south of 8°N by the end of April, for areas south of 10°N by the end of May, and for the Mariana Islands by the end of July. Residents in the northern Marshall Islands are encouraged to conserve water until the rains return. Rainfall in American Samoa should remain near normal now that the South Pacific Convergence Zone has moved away from the islands.

PREPARED BY NOAA'S NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

Coordinated with the Climate Prediction Center and the Pacific ENSO Applications Center.