

**No. 9-2006 MONTHLY PACIFIC ENSO DISCUSSION FOR MICRONESIA
AND AMERICAN SAMOA**

October 2006

The Pacific ENSO Applications Center (PEAC) disseminated the third quarter 2006 newsletter and a special intermediate newsletter announcing the current weak El Niño (warm) event (refer to http://www.soest.hawaii.edu/MET/Enso/peu/2006_SB1/2006SpecialBulletin1.htm). Oceanic conditions in the region have changed from ENSO-neutral to weak El Niño. The Climate Prediction Center (CPC) stated the following in its October 5, 2006 *ENSO Diagnostic Discussion* (refer to <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>): “Equatorial Pacific SST [sea surface temperature] anomalies greater than +0.5°C were observed in most areas of the equatorial Pacific, with anomalies exceeding +1.0°C between 165°E and 165°W and in several areas east of 150°W.” Weaker than normal equatorial easterly winds have been observed over the last 3 months and a negative Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) has been observed over the last 5 months. The CPC indicates that: “Collectively, these oceanic and atmospheric anomalies are consistent with the early stages of El Niño in the tropical Pacific.

Most of the latest climate forecast models predict weak to moderate El Niño conditions into the northern hemisphere (NH) spring of 2007. These climate models then indicate a return to ENSO-neutral conditions by the NH summer, but we will have to monitor rainfall and tropical cyclone patterns through the spring before we can place high confidence in these predictions.

Tropical cyclone development and movement patterns for Micronesia and American Samoa will be displaced toward the east due to the El Niño. This means that the Mariana Islands, Pohnpei State, Kosrae State, and the Marshall Islands will see a 3-fold increase in their risk of a tropical cyclone along with enhanced rainfall for the next 2-3 months. American Samoa will also see increased rainfall and an increased risk of tropical cyclones with a likely early start to the season. At this point, we expect drier than normal conditions in Micronesia from December through the next dry season, but it is too early to quantify the amount of dryness.

PREPARED BY NOAA'S NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
Coordinated with the Climate Prediction Center and the Pacific ENSO Applications Center.