

**EMPIRICAL PREDICTION OF THE ONSET OF SW MONSOON
RAINS IN THE PHILIPPINES**

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ABSTRACT

Thirty year rainfall data was used to study the synoptic and statistical relationship between the southwest monsoon rainfall in the Philippines, the ENSO and tropical cyclone events and the midtropospheric circulation in southeast Asia.

The Darwin pressures during January to April and the latitudinal position of the sub-tropical ridge over the western north pacific ocean were used as two-independent predictor parameters to predict the onset of the southwest monsoon rainfall.

Since the observational data needed to define the predictor parameters are available well before the southwest monsoon season this method could be used for long-range forecasting of the average rainfall for the coming season. The relationship between the late or early onset of the monsoon rains with subsequent amount of rainfall was also studied.