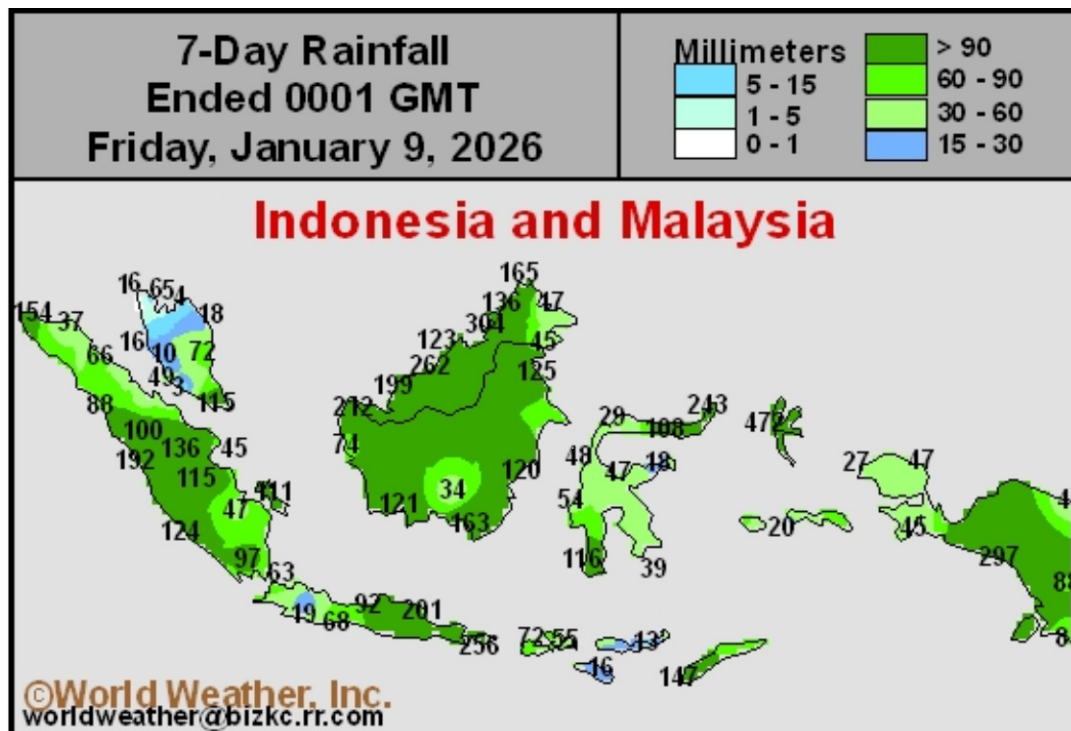


Portions of Southeast Asia Flooding; More Rain On The Way

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, January 9 (World Weather Inc.) – Many areas from the Philippines into Indonesia and Malaysia have dealt with frequent rainfall over the past few months and the topsoil has frequently been saturated with moisture which has led to multiple bouts of flooding. Some flooding was reported recently in portions of Indonesia and from Samar Island into southeastern Luzon Island, Philippines. Some drier weather is needed to reduce the risk of more serious flooding. However, a large section of Indonesia and Malaysia, along with several areas in the Philippines, will receive additional rain during the coming week. The ground will remain saturated and additional flooding will be possible. Damage to personal property and some crops cannot be ruled out.

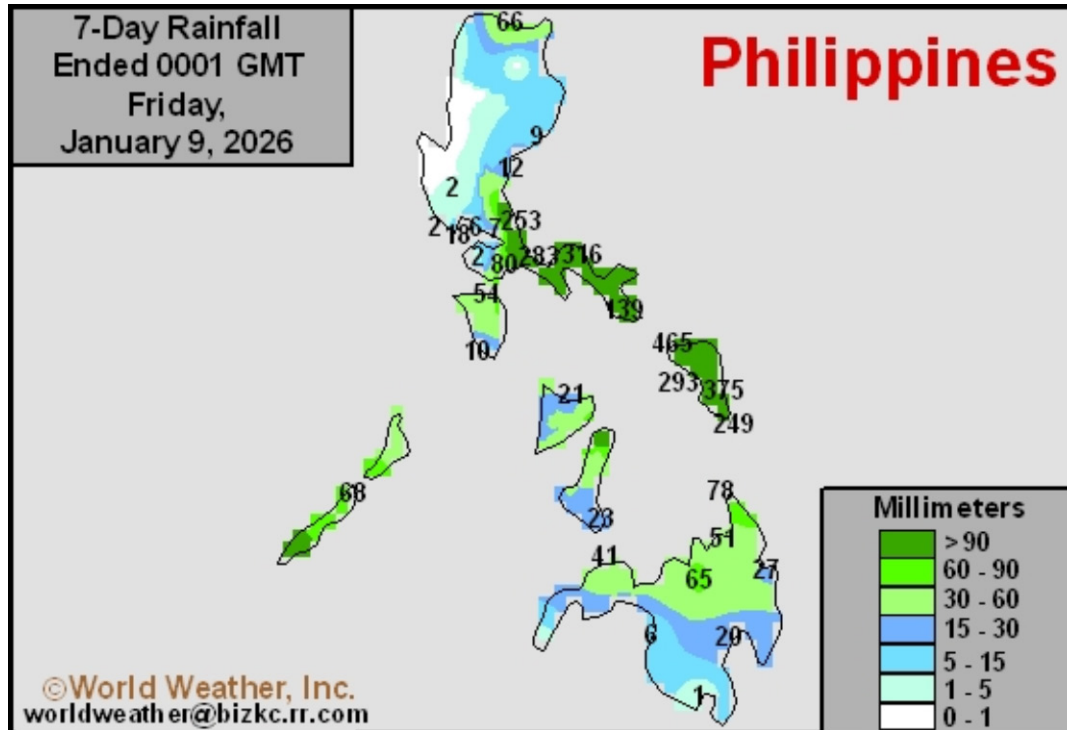
Indonesia and Malaysia saw several waves of rain during the past week. Moisture totals for the seven-day period ending this morning ranged from 1.50 to 5.00 inches with local amounts up to 12.00 inches in Sarawak, central Sumatra, and central Java. Localized flooding was noted in several locations which may have damaged crops and infrastructure. All kinds of farming activity was probably disrupted by the greater volumes of rain. This year's wet bias can be largely attributed to La Nina conditions.



Rainfall varied significantly across the Philippines during the past week. Samar Island and southeastern Luzon Island reported anywhere from 5.47 to 18.31 inches of rain for the seven-day period ending this morning. Several other areas in southern and extreme northern Luzon, the Visayan Islands and the northern half of Mindanao received 0.91 to 3.07 inches of rain. Little to no rain was noted elsewhere. Localized flooding was likely in Samar Island and southeastern Luzon Island due to the periods of heavy rain.

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Some damage to crops and delays to farming activity occurred in the areas just like that in Sarawak Malaysia with some greater potential for crop damage in Samar where the most generalized heavy rain was noted. Rice, sugarcane, several row crops and even some tree crops like oil palm may not have welcomed all of the rain and some concern over crop production may result.



FORECAST WEATHER

Waves of rain will continue over **Indonesia and Malaysia** through the end of next week. Some of the most significant rain will fall through early next week. Moisture totals by next Friday morning will range from 2.00 to 6.00 inches with locally more in Java. A few locations in Peninsular Malaysia, Sulawesi, and northern Sumatra will receive much lighter rain in the range of 0.50 to 1.50 inches of rain. The wet weather pattern will likely prevail January 17-23 in part due to the enhanced phase of Madden-Julian Oscillation.

Additional rain in Indonesia and Malaysia in coming weeks will keep the ground saturated. Flash flooding will remain a concern as the ground remains saturated. Additional crop and structural damage will be possible, though overall losses should be low due to the more pocketed distribution of the greatest rain from one day to another. All forms of farming activity will be hindered when the rain falls abundantly.

The Philippines will also have several opportunities for rain through the end of next week. Erratic rainfall will occur on a near daily basis. A tropical disturbance could also track close to the country late Wednesday and Thursday that could promote more significant rain over Samar Island, eastern Luzon Island, and neighboring areas. Moisture totals by next Friday morning will range from 1.00 to 4.00 inches in much of the Philippines with drier pockets in western Luzon Island. Samar Island, eastern Luzon Island, and neighboring areas

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could receive more significant rain as well depending on the exact track the tropical disturbance takes next week. Waves of rain will likely prevail January 17-23.

The lack of abundant rainfall through the middle of next week will help reduce flooding in the wettest areas of Samar Island and southeastern Luzon Island. However, flood potentials may increase later next week depending on the tropical disturbance. Additional crop and structural damage will be possible if the system reaches the Philippines.

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