



News

Various tropical cyclones in the Pacific– August 2018

During the last two weeks, heightened tropical cyclone activity has been experienced in the western and eastern Pacific Ocean. The most notable ones are listed below.

Hurricane Lane

Tropical depression Lane formed in the eastern Pacific and has intensified up to a category 5 hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson scale. However, on its way towards the Hawaiian islands, Hurricane Lane has weakened and passed south of the Hawaiian archipelago without making landfall. Nevertheless, starting from August 23, the storm brought torrential rainfall especially to Big Island, which caused flooding in the affected regions. So far, damage appears to be limited according to recent reports.

Typhoon Soulik

Typhoon Soulik formed in the western Pacific Ocean and has intensified up to a category 2 typhoon on the Saffir-Simpson scale. On its path westwards, the storm passed south of Japan before it turned north and made landfall in southwestern South Korea on August 23. At the time of landfall, Soulik was a tropical storm and brought heavy rain and dangerous winds to the region. Again, damage appears to be limited according to recent reports.

Typhoon Cimaron

Just shortly after Typhoon Soulik, another typhoon called Cimaron has formed in the western Pacific and made its way north towards Japan. On August 23, Typhoon Cimaron made landfall in the eastern part of Shikoku islands, Japan as a category 1 storm and caused flooding and obstruction of traffic.

Based on a current assessment, the portfolio manager does not expect an impact on the performance from the above mentioned events on a standalone basis.

It is not unusual to observe heightened tropical cyclone activity in the Pacific during a period of low tropical storm activity in the Atlantic Ocean. This negative correlation can be explained by a number of climate factors including currently warmer waters in the Pacific which support storm formation there but cause increased vertical wind shear in the Atlantic Ocean, hindering storm formation there. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

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