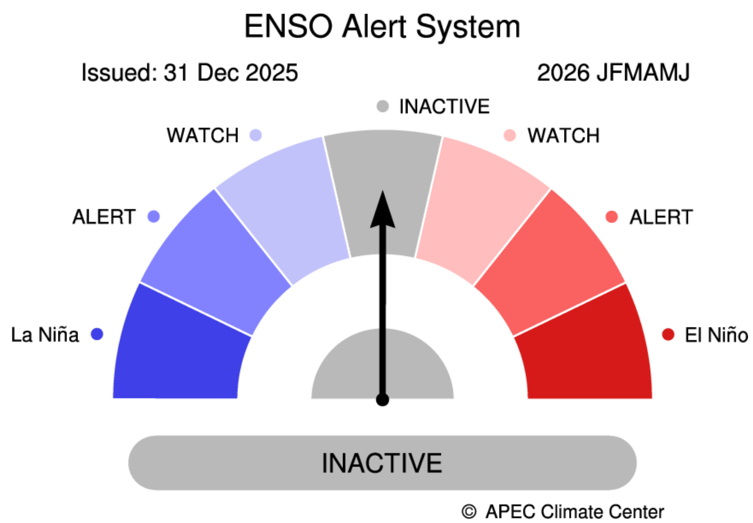
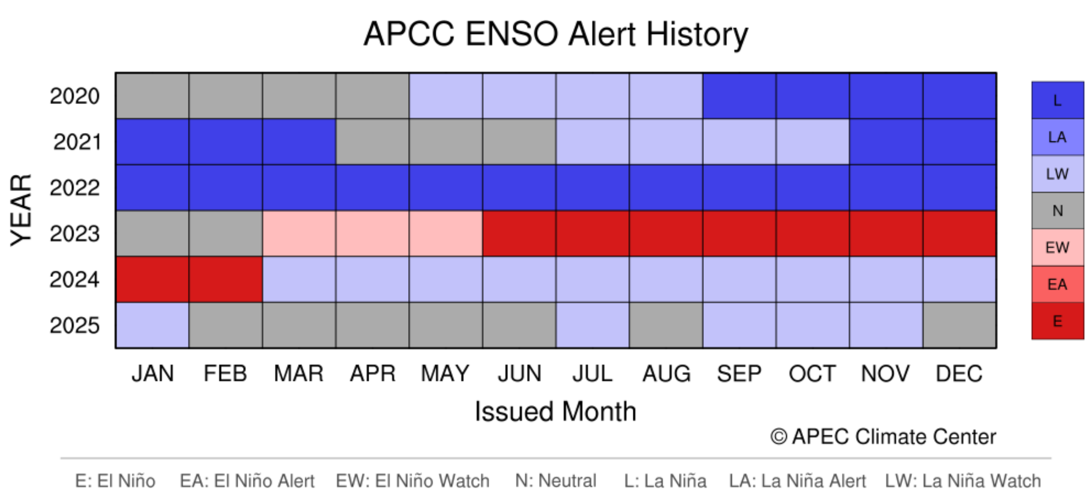
SEASONAL WEATHER AND FIRE RISK FORECAST FOR ASEAN REGION JANUARY – MARCH 2026

Reports from the ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre (ASMC[1]) suggest La Niña conditions are predicted for January 2026, with a transition to ENSO-neutral predicted in February – March 2026. La Niña events tend to bring wetter conditions to parts of Southeast Asia.

The APEC Climate Center (APCC[2]) ENSO Alert suggests “Inactive”. ENSO neutral condition will be dominant throughout January to June 2026.



(a)



(b)

Figure 1: (a) ENSO warnings for January to June 2026; and (b) history of monthly ENSO Alert for 2020-2025

[1] Information from ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre (http://asmc.asean.org/home/)
[2] Information from APEC Climate Center (https://apcc21.org/main.do?lang=en)

Short report prepared by Global Environment Centre (GEC) on 16 January 2026; Information mainly from ASMC and APCC.

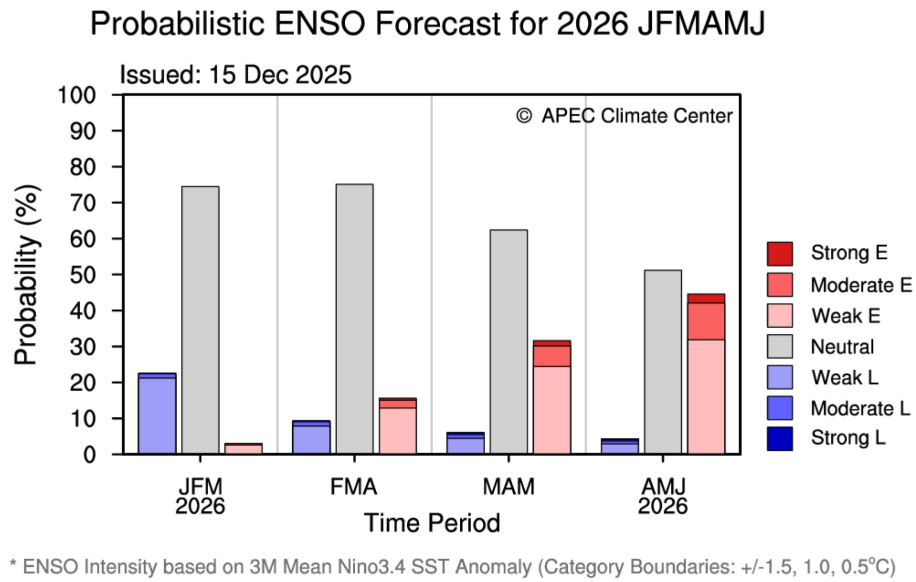


Figure 2: Three-month average ENSO type and intensity probability forecast from January to June 2026

Northeast Monsoon conditions are expected to continue across ASEAN region from January to March 2026. During this period, winds over the northern ASEAN region generally blow from the northeast or east. In the southern ASEAN region, the light and variable winds experienced in December 2025 are expected to gradually shift to westerly to northeasterly winds.

Rainfall

For January 2026, above-normal rainfall is expected over much of the northeastern and southern Maritime Continent. This wetter-than-usual condition is also likely to extend to parts of the northwestern Maritime Continent and southern Mekong region for the overall period from January to March 2026. In contrast, below-normal rainfall is expected over southeastern Kalimantan, northern Thailand and Myanmar, as well as most parts of Sulawesi during the next three months.

Temperature

Above-normal temperature is predicted for most of Southern ASEAN region and western Mekong region for January to March 2026.

Hotspots and Haze

While parts of the northern ASEAN region are expected to receive near-normal to above-normal rainfall during the outlook period, hotspot and haze activities may still increase due to generally dry conditions across the region. This could lead to a higher risk of transboundary smoke haze. ASMC has issued an **Alert Level 1** on 26 December 2025, marking the start of the dry season in Northern ASEAN.

In contrast, hotspot activity in the southern ASEAN region is expected to remain low because of wetter weather conditions. However, isolated hotspots and localised smoke haze may still occur on some days, particularly in parts of Borneo where below-normal rainfall is expected.

Overall, hotspot activity may increase during the drier phase of the Northeast Monsoon, which typically occurs between late January and February.

Short report prepared by Global Environment Centre (GEC) on 16 January 2026; Information mainly from ASMC and APCC.

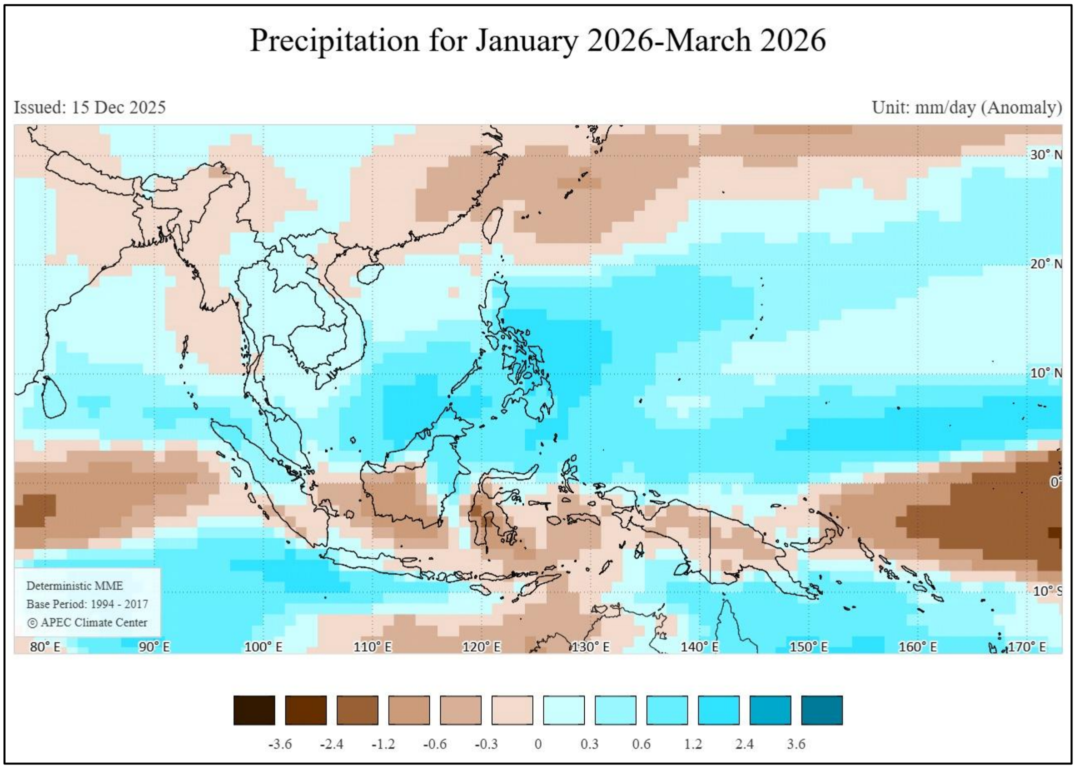
Other information on weather conditions, hotspot, haze and fire danger rating can be found on the following links:

Hotspot and haze information at ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre (http://asmc.asean.org/home/)

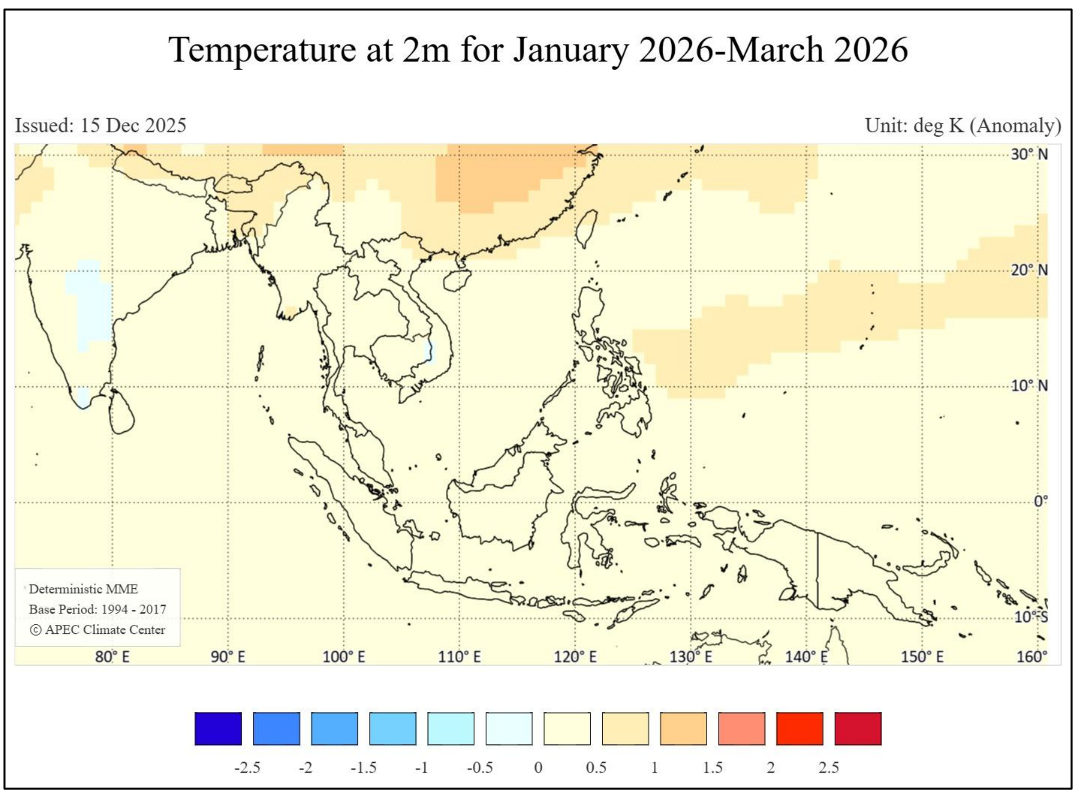
Information on Fire Danger Rating System (FDRS) at Malaysian Meteorological Department (Observation: https://myclimate.met.gov.my/fdrsWmsObsAseanMetPortal; Forecast: https://myclimate.met.gov.my/fdrsWmsNwpAseanMetPortal)

Information on Forest and Land Fire Warning System (SPARTAN) by *Badan Meteorologi, Klimatologi dan Geofisika (BMKG)* of Indonesia (https://spartan.bmkg.go.id/MapInteractive#4.11/-0.4/113.85)

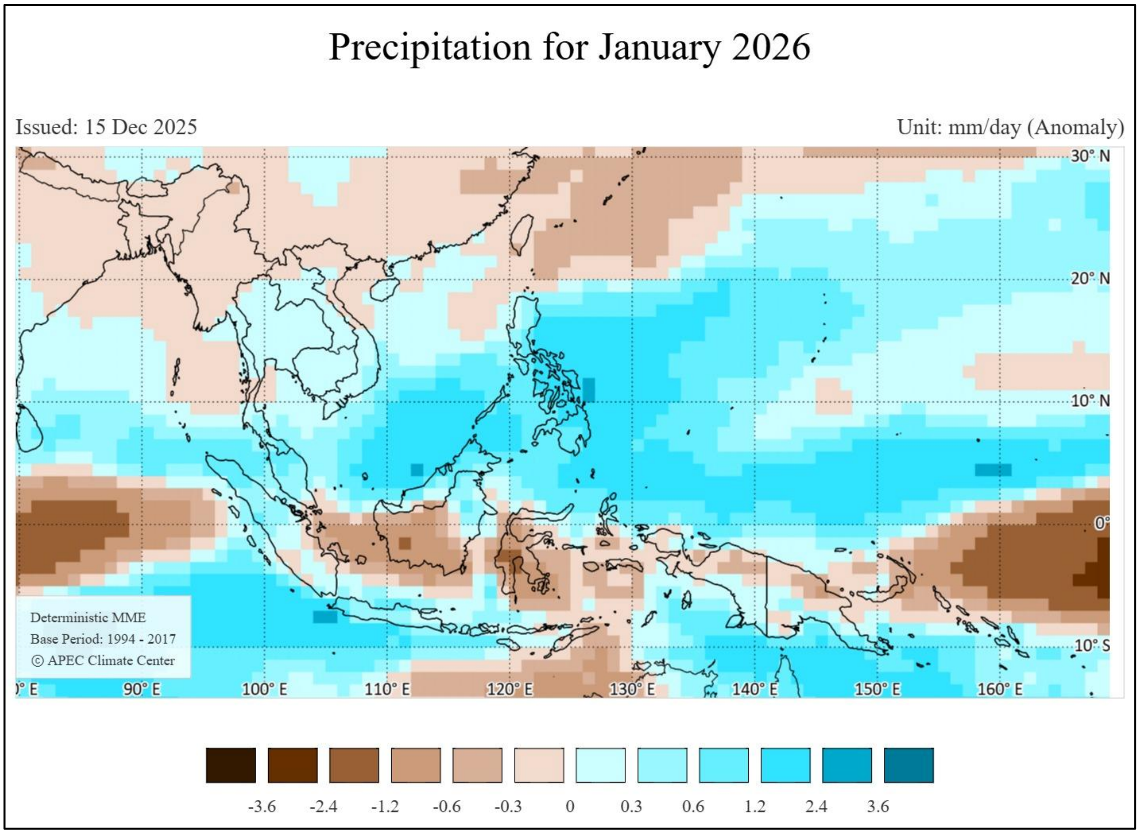
Information on FDRS for Northern Southeast Asia by Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation of Thailand (http://www2.dnp.go.th/gis/fdrs/fdrs.php)



Negative values indicate below-normal rainfall (drier conditions) and positive values indicate above-normal rainfall (wetter conditions)



Negative values indicate lower temperature and positive values indicate higher temperature


Precipitation for January 2026
Issued: 15 Dec 2025
Unit: mm/day (Anomaly)
30° N
20° N
10° N
0°
10° S
90° E
100° E
110° E
120° E
130° E
140° E
150° E
160° E
Deterministic MME
Base Period: 1994 - 2017
© APEC Climate Center
-3.6
-2.4
-1.2
-0.6
-0.3
0
0.3
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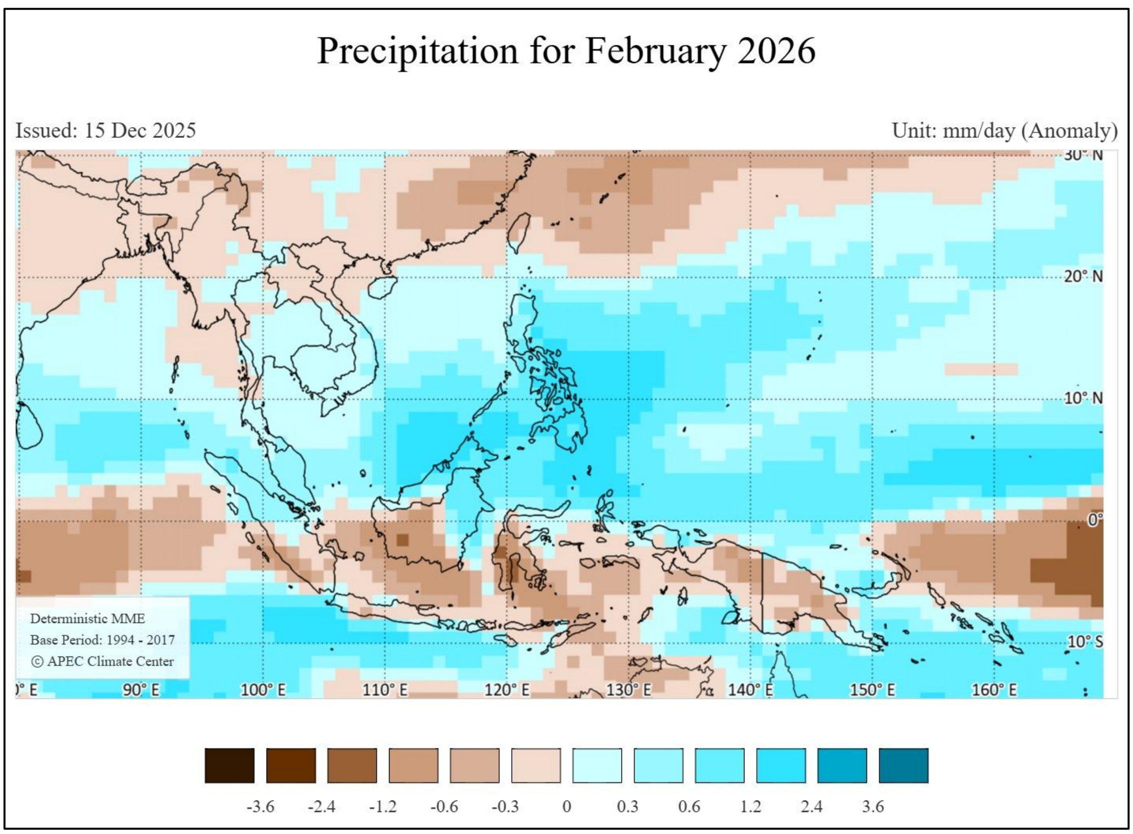
Precipitation for February 2026
Issued: 15 Dec 2025
Unit: mm/day (Anomaly)
30° N
20° N
10° N
0°
10° S
90° E
100° E
110° E
120° E
130° E
140° E
150° E
160° E
Deterministic MME
Base Period: 1994 - 2017
© APEC Climate Center
-3.6
-2.4
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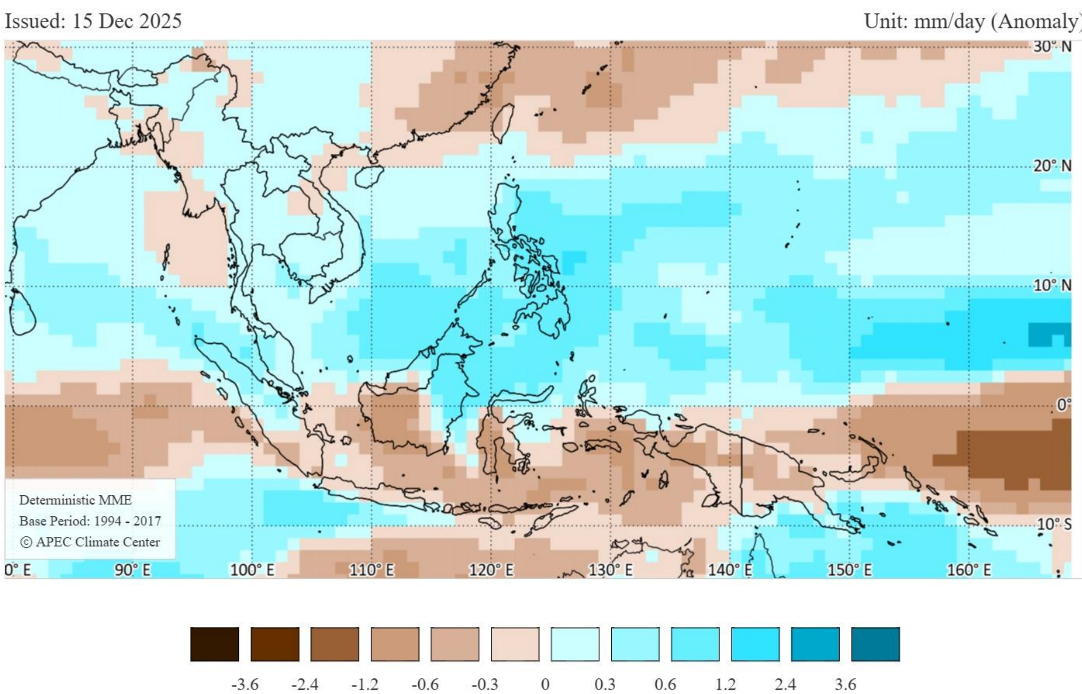
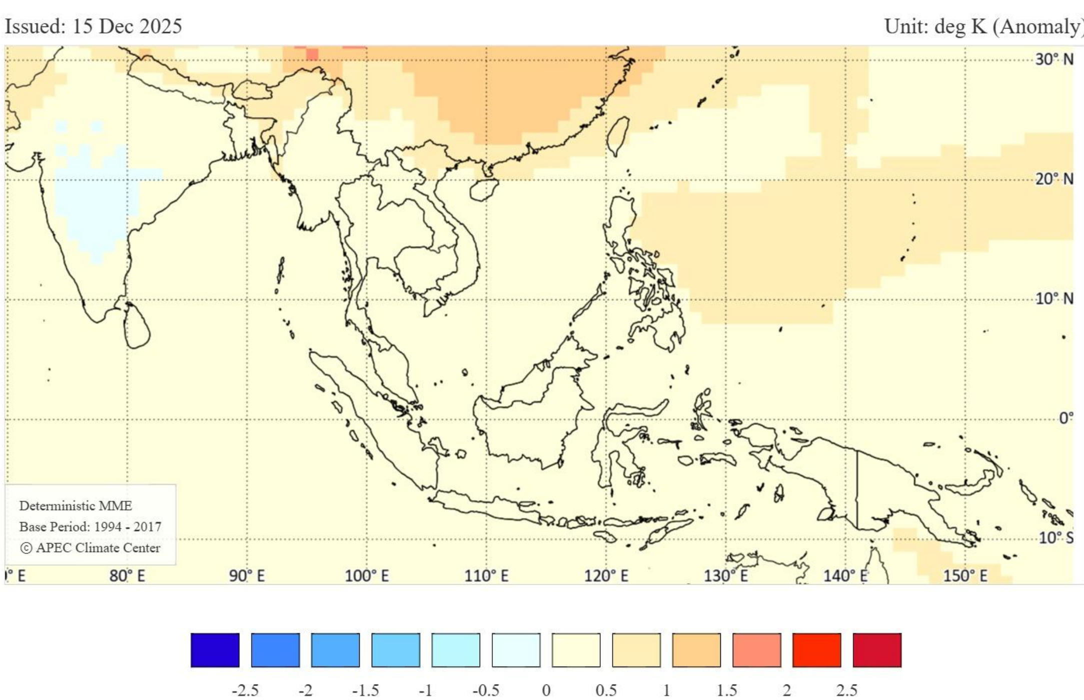
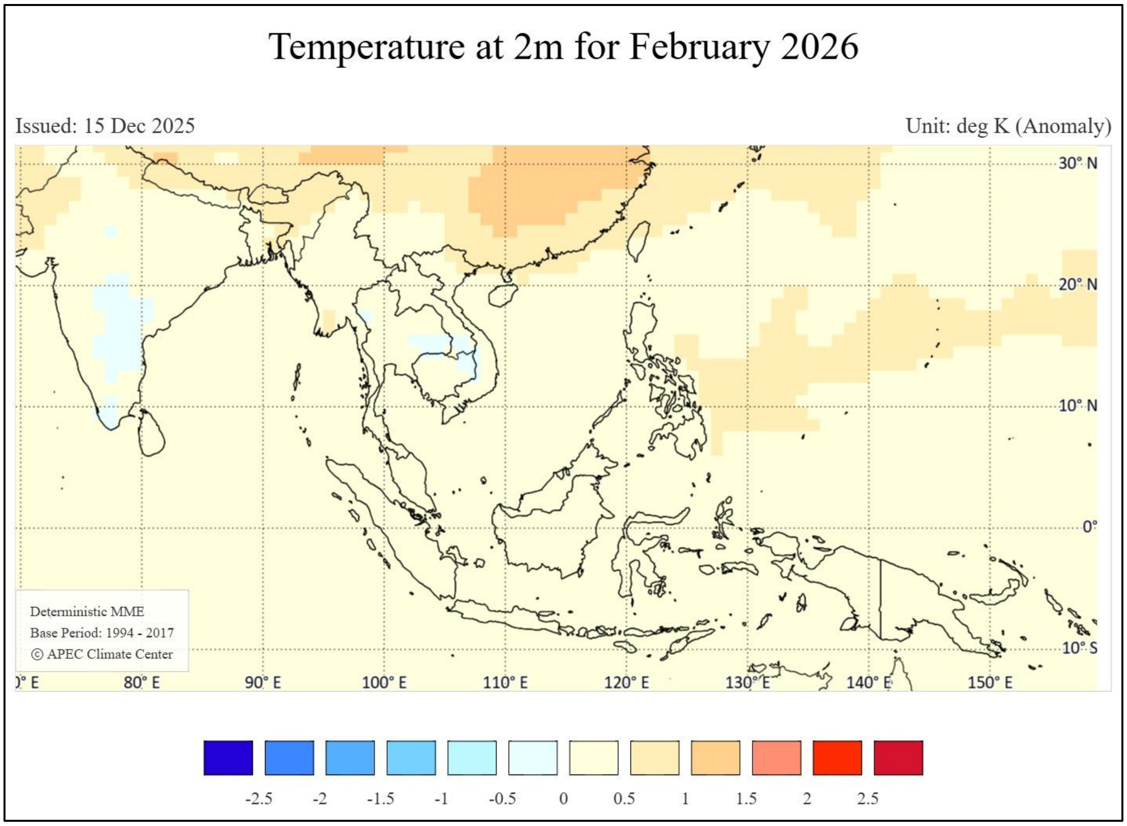
Precipitation for March 2026



Temperature at 2m for January 2026




Temperature at 2m for February 2026
Issued: 15 Dec 2025
Unit: deg K (Anomaly)
30° N
20° N
10° N
0°
10° S
80° E
90° E
100° E
110° E
120° E
130° E
140° E
150° E
Deterministic MME
Base Period: 1994 - 2017
© APEC Climate Center
-2.5
-2
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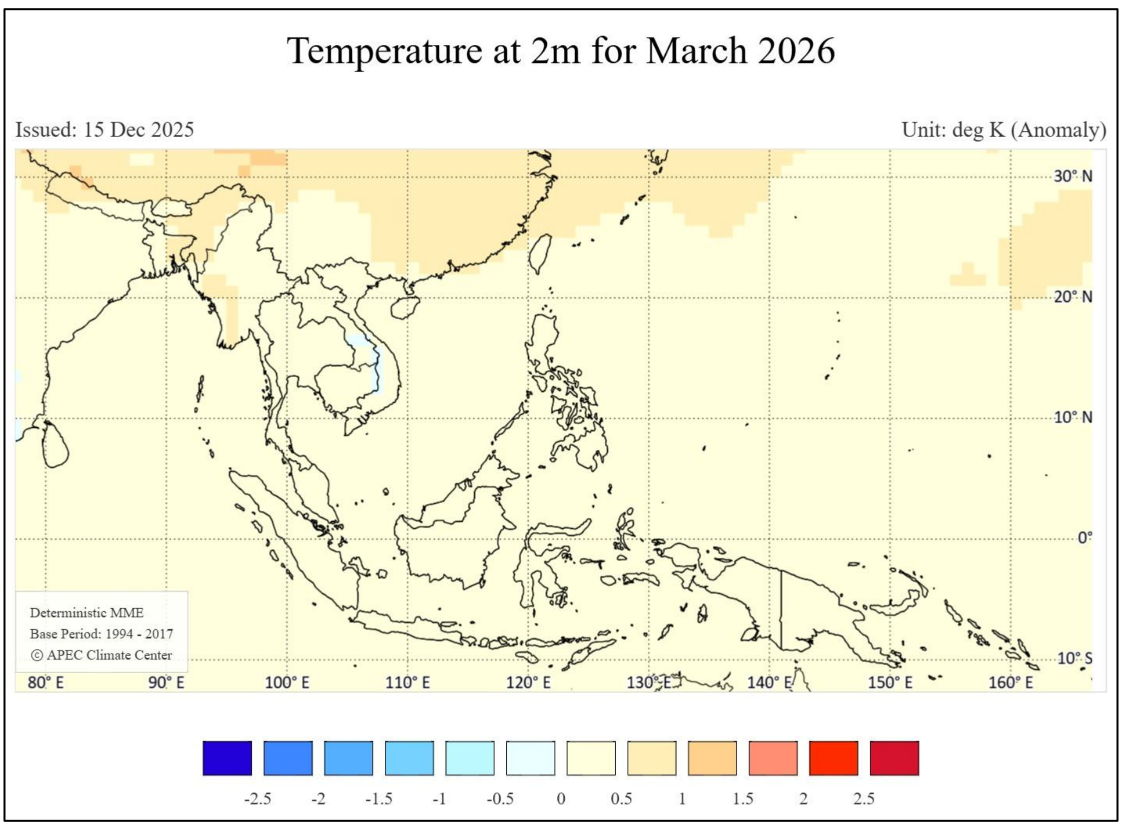
Temperature at 2m for March 2026
Issued: 15 Dec 2025
Unit: deg K (Anomaly)
30° N
20° N
10° N
0°
10° S
80° E
90° E
100° E
110° E
120° E
130° E
140° E
150° E
160° E
Deterministic MME
Base Period: 1994 - 2017
© APEC Climate Center
-2.5
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