

News Release

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Guy Carpenter Asia-Pacific Climate Impact Centre Foresees Below-Normal Level of Tropical Cyclone Activity for Australia Indications Suggest Modest Number of Events in 2009-2010

New York, December 10, 2009

The Guy Carpenter Asia-Pacific Climate Impact Centre (GCACIC), a joint initiative of Guy Carpenter & Company, LLC and the City University of Hong Kong, has published a report predicting the total number of tropical cyclones (TC) affecting the Australia region in general, as well as the Western Australian subregion for the 2009-2010 cyclone season. According to the report, the El Niño/Southern Oscillation (ENSO) predictors suggest below-normal tropical cyclone activity for the remainder of 2009 and into 2010.

The full briefing is available at: http://www.cityu.edu.hk/gcacic/Research%20Brief_2009-03.pdf

SUMMARY OF PREDICTIONS

- For the entire Australian region, ENSO predictors – including the NINO4 index, trade wind index and OLR index – forecast a below-normal activity, ranging from seven to nine tropical cyclones with tropical storm intensity or above.
- With the other major indicator, the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD), in neutral condition, the GCACIC expects below-normal tropical cyclone activity for the Australian region.
- For the western Australian subregion, ENSO and IOD predictors again suggest below-normal tropical cyclone activity, resulting in a final forecast of five tropical cyclones with tropical storm intensity or above.

QUOTES

Professor Johnny Chan, Director, Guy Carpenter Asia-Pacific Climate Impact Centre

“With El Niño conditions likely to persist throughout the 2009-2010 tropical cyclone season, we expect that activity across the Australian and Western Australian regions will remain at fairly modest levels, consistent with the history of the region during El Niño years.”

David Lightfoot, Head of InStrat® Unit – Asia Pacific, Guy Carpenter

“The GCACIC’s addition of the tropical cyclone forecast for the Australian region to its suite of cyclone predictions is consistent with its mission to be the recognized leader in the research of climate-related perils in the Asia Pacific region. By doing so, the GCACIC can better help companies, governments and individuals better prepare for potential catastrophic events.”

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TAGS/KEYWORDS

Guy Carpenter, City University of Hong Kong, Asia, Australia, Pacific, tropical storm, cyclone, climate, El Niño

About Guy Carpenter Asia-Pacific Climate Impact Centre

The Guy Carpenter Asia-Pacific Climate Impact Centre (www.cityu.edu.hk/gcacic) was established in June 2008 with City University of Hong Kong. The Centre integrates academic and industry research to advance the understanding of climate-related perils and catastrophic risks across the Asia-Pacific region.

About Guy Carpenter

Guy Carpenter & Company, LLC is the world's leading risk and reinsurance specialist and a part of the Marsh & McLennan Companies. With over 50 offices worldwide, Guy Carpenter creates and executes reinsurance solutions and delivers capital market solutions* for clients across the globe. The firm's full breadth of services includes line of business expertise in Agriculture; Aviation; Casualty Clash; Construction and Engineering; Excess and Umbrella; Life, Accident and Health; Marine; Medical Professional Liability; Political Risk and Trade Credit; Professional Liability; Property; Retrocessional Reinsurance; Surety; Terrorism and Workers Compensation. GCFac® is Guy Carpenter's dedicated global facultative reinsurance unit that provides placement strategies, timely market access and centralized management of facultative reinsurance solutions. In addition, Guy Carpenter's InStrat® unit utilizes industry-leading quantitative skills and modeling tools that optimize the reinsurance decision-making process and help make the firm's clients more successful. Guy Carpenter's website address is www.guycarp.com.

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