

News Release

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Guy Carpenter Asia-Pacific Climate Impact Centre Releases 2009 Tropical Cyclone Predictions Briefing Details Western North Pacific Tropical Cyclone Activity and Number of Landfalling Tropical Cyclones in South China

New York, May 12, 2009

A study issued by the Guy Carpenter Asia-Pacific Climate Impact Centre (GCACIC), a joint initiative of Guy Carpenter & Company, LLC, the leading global risk and reinsurance specialist, and the City University of Hong Kong, concludes that 2009 tropical cyclone (TC) activity in the West North Pacific (WNP) region is likely to be close to normal in 2009.

Based on detailed statistical analysis of atmospheric and oceanic conditions up to March 2009, the briefing also predicts that the number of tropical cyclones making landfall in South China will be slightly below normal. The study, which is available for download at GCCapitalIdeas.com – Guy Carpenter’s new intellectual capital website – is the first in a series of GCACIC articles that will be published on the website.

EL NIÑO/SOUTHERN OSCILLATION

- The El Niño/Southern Oscillation (ENSO), an important determining factor in tropical cyclone activity, has been predicted as either neutral or weak by five of the six primary forecasting authorities.
- A weak El Niño (warm surface water) event remains possible, but overall 2009 is likely to be an ENSO-neutral year.

SUMMARY OF PREDICTIONS

- Taking the major ENSO and non-ENSO indices into account, the briefing forecasts near-normal overall activity, with 31 TCs (and 18 at typhoon strength).
- For South China, the briefing forecasts a total of four landfalling events for the year, with most of the events occurring between May and August.

QUOTES

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

“We have noted a recent weakening of the easterly winds and anomalous westerly winds in the central equatorial Pacific. If this trend continues, the atmospheric condition could become more favorable for tropical cyclone formation.”

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David Lightfoot, Managing Director, Guy Carpenter

“Based on new research supporting a high degree of correlation between South China landfalling tropical cyclones and certain climate factors, we are excited to have added this capability and analysis to GCACIC’s TC predictions for 2009.”

TAGS/KEYWORDS

Guy Carpenter, City University of Hong Kong, Asia, Pacific, tropical storm, cyclone, climate, typhoon

LINKS/URLs

<http://www.gccapitalideas.com/2009/05/06/gcacic-2009-tropical-cyclone-predictions/>

About GCCapitalIdeas.com

Guy Carpenter’s new intellectual capital website, www.GCCapitalIdeas.com, leverages blog technology, including Real Simple Syndication (RSS) feeds as well as searchable category tags, to deliver Guy Carpenter’s latest research as soon as it is posted. In addition, articles can be delivered directly to BlackBerrys and other handheld devices.

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.quycarp.com.

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