

PRESS RELEASE

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Hottest Year on Record and Less Rainfall in 2020

Taipei, Taiwan - December 29, 2020 –The mean temperature of the year 2020 island-wide will hit a record high, while the accumulated annual rainfall is less than normal, with the central mountainous area seeing only 50-70% of climate mean, according to the Central Weather Bureau (CWB).

The CWB adds that, apart from April and October, which saw near-normal temperature, the other months are the 10 warmest since records began. Up to 27 December, the annual mean temperature of 24.62°C is the highest ever, breaking the previous record of just a year earlier (24.55°C of 2019). The highest daily maximum temperature was 40.2°C at Tawu, a tie with the hottest day on record, while weather stations at Taipei, Yushan and Chiayi all recorded their highest maximum temperature this past July. As to precipitation, most happened in May and August, with June, July and September seeing significantly less rain than normal. While the northeast region and southern coastal region saw near- to above-normal rainfall, other regions had considerably less rain than normal; the central mountainous area, specifically, saw only 50-70% of climate mean.

As to seasonal outlook, with significantly colder-than-usual sea surface temperature over tropical central to eastern Pacific, a strong La Niña is appearing and likely to decay gradually in spring of 2021. Statistics show that Taiwan tends to be slightly colder than usual and dry in the western region in January to March of the La Niña years. On the basis of the latest information, the CWB predicts that the coming season is likely to see normal temperature and below- to near-normal precipitation. However, La Niña's impact on Taiwan can vary greatly from year to year, and model's outlook is highly uncertain, so the CWB will keep updating its forecast to provide essential reference for water resource management.

In view of the shortage of rainfall this year, the public is urged to make every effort to save water. Meanwhile, since January and February are the coldest months in Taiwan, it is important to keep warm and ensure good indoor ventilation when using gas heater to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. Moreover, as stable weather conditions and transboundary pollution often cause high concentration of fine suspended particles, it is advisable to wear a mask when

going outdoors.