

PRESS RELEASE

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Global average temperature hits record high, Taiwan ranks 6th in history

Taipei, Taiwan--December 29, 2023-- 2023 is set to become the hottest year since 1850 as global average temperature of this year hits a new high and Taiwan's annual average temperature ranks sixth in history, says the Central Weather Administration (CWA).

Looking back on the weather in Taiwan this past year, CWA points out, the first half changes frequently between cold and warm while the second half is relatively warm, with generally higher annual average temperature all over the island. Annual rainfall is close to 90% of the climate average and mainly brought by Mei-yu fronts and typhoons. However, it is worth noting that the number of days of rain is 23.9 days less than the climate average, which was the second-lowest since 1951. Such concentrated rainfall is in line with the rainfall characteristics caused by climate change.

Looking ahead to 2024, the ongoing El Niño event is expected to gradually weaken in the coming spring. Historical data indicates that in the year following the development of El Niño events, Taiwan tends to experience warmer weather and above-average rainfall in January to March. On the basis of latest model forecasts, the CWA predicts that Taiwan is likely to see normal to above normal temperature and near to above normal precipitation in January to March next year.

Meanwhile, CWA reminds the public, since January and February are the colder months in Taiwan, low temperatures are to be expected even though this winter has been warmer than the climatic average. It is important to keep warm and ensure good indoor ventilation when using gas heaters to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. Moreover, the stable atmosphere in some areas in winter and transboundary pollution often result in high concentration of fine suspended particles, so it is advisable to wear a mask when going outdoors. For latest weather forecasts, the CWA updates its one-month and three-month climate outlooks on a weekly and monthly basis, respectively, which are available on its website at: <http://www.cwa.gov.tw>.