

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Winter Rainfall in Western Taiwan Hits Record Low Since 1951; Spring Rainfall Forecasted as Below Normal to Normal, Public Urged to Conserve Water**

Taipei, Taiwan – February 24, 2026 – The Central Weather Administration (CWA) stated that from December 2025 to February 2026, apart from early to mid-January—which saw two strong continental cold air masses and one cold surge resulting in longer periods of cold weather—temperatures were generally higher than usual due to only occasional influences from northern weather systems. Overall, the average temperatures at 11 main stations across Taiwan were categorized as above normal. Regarding precipitation, rainfall was concentrated in Northern and Eastern Taiwan, while Western Taiwan experienced significantly lower rainfall. For the period ending February 22, five stations—Pengjiayu, Taipei, Hsinchu, Taichung, and Chiayi—recorded their lowest rainfall for the same period on record. Furthermore, cumulative rainfall at Western Taiwan stations (including Taipei, Hsinchu, Taichung, Chiayi, Tainan, and Hengchun) reached its lowest level since 1951.

The CWA noted that sea surface temperatures in the tropical Pacific exhibited a La Niña pattern in the past season, which is expected to weaken and gradually return to neutral conditions this spring. Based on historical analysis of similar atmospheric and oceanic circulation patterns, temperatures in Taiwan are likely to be normal to slightly above normal, while rainfall is expected to be below normal. However, the impact of La Niña has varied considerably. Based on the latest model forecasts, the CWA predicts near to above normal temperature for March to May and rainfall in March to April is likely to be below to near normal. May's conditions remain highly uncertain due to the influence of the Mei-Yu front.

CWA reminds the public that as cold air mass from the north may still reach Taiwan in March, lowering temperatures, so warm clothing remains necessary. Dense fog is also common in western Taiwan, as well as Kinmen, and Matsu during March and April. This can significantly reduce visibility, potentially affecting traffic and transportation schedules, so travelers should plan accordingly. Due to the rainfall shortage in the past season and the typically dry spring months, the public is urged to conserve water. Lastly, as spring weather can be unpredictable, the CWA advises staying updated with their latest weather reports.