



Thai Meteorological Department
Ministry of Information and Communication
Technology

Climate Characteristic Expectations of Thailand during the winter Season 2015 - 2016

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Climate Characteristic Expectations of Thailand during the Winter Season: About from December 2015 until middle February 2016

The winter of this year is expected that the general weather of the Upper Thailand will be cold or cool like that of last year; the mean minimum temperature will be near that of last year. The coldest or coolest period will be during the 2nd half of December until late January. For mount tops, mountain tops and mountainous areas, cold to very cold weather with frost happens during some periods. For the Southern Thailand, cool weather appears periodically, mostly at the upper portion. And during December until middle January, densely abundant rain occurs with heavy rain at many areas and very heavy rain occurs at some areas; especially at the East Coast from the Chumphon province downward, overflow and flood may happen at some areas. Whereas wind waves in the Gulf of Thailand are active from time to time as 2 – 4 meters high during some periods while those in the Andaman Sea will be about 1 meter high.

The winter of this year is expected to end around middle February 2016.

General Climatic Characteristics

Upper Thailand (Northern, Northeastern, Central and Eastern parts)

During December until January: More actively and continuously high pressure air masses from China will still prevail over the Upper Thailand periodically causing to reduce temperature further. Northern and northeastern parts will experience cool or cold weather generally while the central and eastern parts will experience cool weather almost generally. Cold weather occurs at many areas, mostly at the upper portion of these parts. For mountain tops, mount tops and mountainous areas, cold to very cold weather occurs with frost happening on some days.

During the 1st half of February: Prevailing high pressure air mass cells will weaken discontinuously influencing warming weather to appear with hot weather during day time. However, the northern and northeastern parts will still experience morning cold or cool weather.

Southern Thailand

During December until about middle January: Active northeastern monsoon will prevail over the Gulf of Thailand and the Southern Thailand from time to time; especially during November and December. Additionally, some monsoon troughs will place over the middle and lower portions of the Southern Thailand periodically in November and December consecutively. As a result, the Southern Thailand will experience densely abundant rain with heavy rain at many areas and very heavy rain at some areas; mostly around the Eastern Coast from the Chumphon province downward. Flood and overflow may happen at some areas. Whereas wind waves in the Gulf of Thailand will be active from time to time as 2 – 4 meters high during some periods while those in the Andaman Sea will be about 1 meter high.

Then during middle January until middle February, the amount and distribution of rainfall will decrease generally as the prevailing northeastern monsoon over the Gulf of Thailand and the Southern Thailand weakens and changes to be the prevailing easterly or southeasterly direction over the area.

Details of each part are as follows:

Northern and Northeastern part:

During December until January, cold or cool weather appears generally and thick fog appears at many areas. For mountain tops, mount tops and mountainous areas, cold to very cold weather appears and frost may happen during some periods. While in February, warmer weather will appear causing hot weather to occur during day time. Still, morning cool or cold weather appears at the upper portion with thick morning fog happening at many areas

Central and Eastern parts:

During December until January, cool weather will generally appear and cold weather occurs at some areas on some days, especially around mountainous areas of the Nakhon Sawan, Utai Tani, Kanchana Buri, Ratcha Buri, Suphan Buri, Sara Buri, Nakornnayok, Chachoengsao, Prachin Buri and Chantha Buri provinces. Also, thick fog appears at many areas during some periods. While during February, warmer weather will appear causing hot weather to occur during day time whereas morning cool weather occurs at the upper portion and mountainous areas with thick fog occurring at many areas.

Southern Thailand - Eastern Coast (The Gulf of Thailand side):

During December until middle January, densely abundant rain will occur as almost widespread rainfall (70-80% of the area) happens with heavy rain appearing at many areas and very heavy rain appearing at some areas; specifically from the Chumphon province downward. Flash flood, forest flood and overflow may inundate at some areas. Furthermore, wind waves will be active periodically as 2 – 4 meters high during some periods. Then during middle January until February, the amount and distribution of rainfall will reduce while widely scattered rainfall (20-30% of the area) still appears at the lower portion of the part with heavy rain occurring on some days.

Southern Thailand – Western Coast (The Andaman Sea):

During December onward, the amount and distribution of rainfall will reduce whereas wind waves in the Andaman Sea will be about 1 meter high.

Bangkok Metropolis and neighbor provinces:

During December until January, cool weather appears from time to time with thick fog on some days. While during February, warmer weather will happen with thick fog on some days and hot weather appears during day time.

Cautions:

1. During December, low pressure air mass cells often develop in the lower portion of the South China Sea. Then, they may strengthen to become some tropical cyclones (depressions, tropical storms or typhoons). Also, they favor a high chance to move pass the Gulf of Thailand toward the Southern Thailand. As a result, the Southern Thailand will experience wide areas of rainfall with heavy to very heavy rain at many areas. Whereas wind waves in the Gulf of Thailand will be actively windy with 2-4 meters high and storm surges may happen along the Southern Thailand (East Coast). Then, the public should follow the weather forecast news from the Thai Meteorological Department closely further.
2. During December and January, frost may occur at the mountain tops or mount tops. Thick fog will often happen at many areas, especially at the northern and northeastern parts. The public then should be cautious of any possible accidents from vehicles or transportation.
3. During January, some westerly wind waves from Myanmar may pass the Upper Thailand. Consequently, the Upper Thailand will experience thunder rain and gusty wind at some areas. Some hails may also appear.

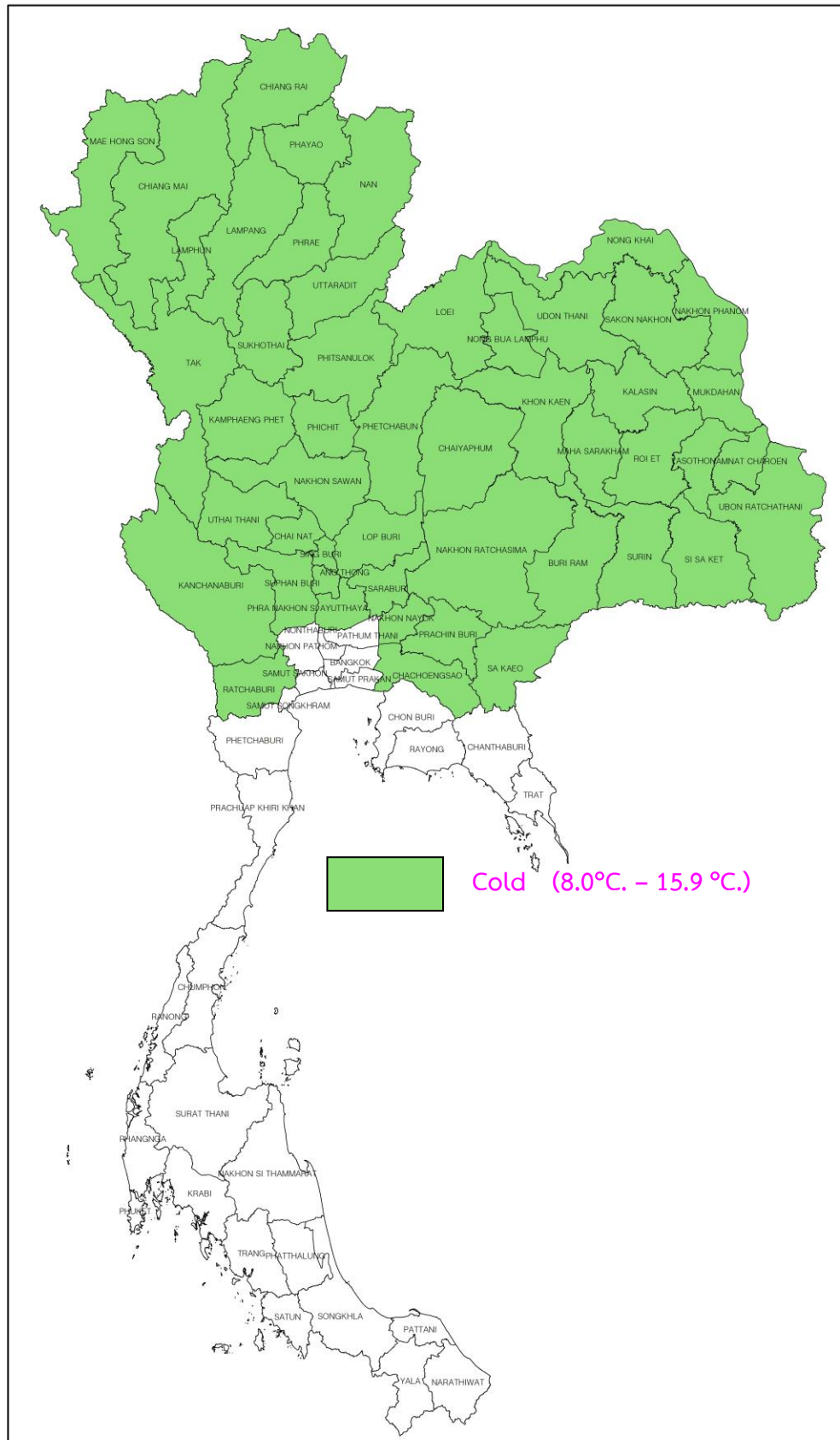
Remarks:

- Daily minimum temperature criteria for the winter season:

Cool air	=	16.0 - 22.9 ° C.
Cold air	=	8.0 - 15.9 ° C.
Very cold air	=	below 8.0 ° C.
- These long rang climate expectation is derived from utilizing statistical methods and climate model analyses.
- This expectation will be updated at the last week of December 2015.
- Monthly or seasonal climate forecast can be enquired at Tel: 02-398-9929 or Fax: 02-383-8827
- Please follow weather forecast news and climate forecasts at www.tmd.go.th or at www.tmd.go.th/en: climate tab.

Climatological Center, Meteorological Development Bureau
Thai Meteorological Department

Map for possible areas for cold air
In December 2015 – January 2016



- Remarks:
1. Long range expectations, the public should follow daily weather forecasts.
 2. Not including mountain and mount tops, and mountainous areas.

Table of rainfall distribution and mean minimum temperature at each part of Thailand for the winter season of 2015 - 2016

Regions	December 2015	January 2016	February 2016	
			First half	Second half
Northern	Upper 15-17 °C. With isolated slight rain	15-17 °C. With isolated slight rain	17-19 °C. With isolated slight rain	19-21 °C. With isolated slight rain
	Lower 17-19 °C.	17-19 °C.	18-20 °C.	21-23 °C.
Northeastern	Upper 16-18 °C. With isolated slight rain	16-18 °C. With isolated slight rain	18-20 °C. With isolated slight rain	19-21 °C. With isolated slight rain
	Lower 18-20 °C.	18-20 °C.	20-22 °C.	21-23 °C.
Central	20-22 °C. With isolated slight rain	20-22 °C. With isolated slight rain	21-23 °C. With isolated slight rain	23-25 °C.
East	21-23 °C. With isolated slight rain	21-23 °C. With isolated slight rain	21-23 °C. With 10% isolated rainfall	23-25 °C.
Southern Thailand (East coast)	22-24 °C. With thunder rain 60-70% of the area, mostly from the Surat Tani province downward	22-24 °C. With thunder rain 20-30% of the area, mostly during the first half of the month	22-24 °C. With thunder rain 10% of the area, mostly around the lower portion	
Southern Thailand (West coast)	23-25 °C. With thunder rain 20-30% of the area.	22-24 °C. With 10% isolated rainfall	23-25 °C. With 10% isolated rainfall	
Bangkok Metropolis and Vicinity	22-24 °C. With isolated slight rain	22-24 °C. With isolated slight rain	23-25 °C. With 10% isolated rainfall	25-27 °C.

Table of extreme minimum temperature expectation during December 2015 – January 2016

	December					January				
	Extreme minimum temperature (1951-2013)			Extreme minimum temperature in 2014	Ext. minimum temperature forecast in 2015	Extreme minimum temperature (1951-2014)			Extreme minimum temperature in 2015	Ext. minimum temperature forecast in 2016
	(°C.)	Date	Year	(°C.)	(°C.)	(°C.)	Date	Year	(°C.)	(°C.)
Northern										
Chiang Rai	1.5	25	1999	7.8	11-13	1.5	2	1974	7.0	10-12
Chiang Mai	3.8	25	1999	10.5	13-15	3.7	2	1974	11.0	12-14
Phitsanulok	8.9	26	1999	12.0	15-17	7.5	13	1955	10.5	14-16
Northeastern										
loe	2.2	31	1973 1975	8.0	11-13	0.1	2	1974	5.5	10-12
Nakhon Phanom	4.1	30	1975	10.1	12-14	1.8	12	1955	9.4	11-13
Nakhon Ratchasima	6.2	31	1975	12.2	15-17	4.9	12	1955	11.2	14-16
Ubon Ratchathani	8.5	30	1975	12.4	14-16	7.6	12	1955	12.1	13-15
Central										
Nakhon Sawan	7.7	25	1999	12.2	15-17	6.1	13	1955	10.3	14-16
Suphanburi	10.0	31	1975	14.2	15-17	9.2	13	1955	12.6	14-16
Kanchanaburi	6.8	31	1975	13.8	14-16	5.5	13	1955	12.0	13-15
Eastern										
Sa kaew	9.0	24	1999	13.0	15-17	11.4	12	2009	11.9	14-16
Chon Buri	12.0	29	1975	16.4	18-20	9.9	12	1955	15.5	17-19
South										
Prachuap Khiri Khan	11.4	31	1956	17.5	19-21	10.5	19	1963	14.5	18-20
Phuket	18.4	1	1982	23.9	23-25	17.8	4	1957	24.0	22-24
Bangkok	10.5	30	1975	17.8	19-21	9.9	12	1955	16.6	18-20

Remark : Excludes minimum temperature in mountainous areas.