

## Thailand Annual Weather Summary, 2006

Year 2006 was one of several wet years from 1951. Annual rainfall was 7% above the recent 30-year normal (1971-2000) and slightly above that of the last year which was 1% above normal. Temperatures averaged above normal almost the whole year except in April and May. This year, there were 2 tropical cyclones entering Thailand in October and December. Tropical cyclone rains were heaviest across the track and caused flash floods with redundant rainfall in many areas. In addition, there were disasters during other period of the year as well. The details of significant weather are given as below.

During early year, Thailand was identified by winter. High pressure area from China covering upper Thailand caused cool weather especially in northern and northeastern parts with cold in upper portion. Cold to very cold occurred in mountainous areas and mountain tops. The mean early year temperature was about 1°C above normal with 6.7°C extreme minimum at Umphang district, Tak province on January 18 and 1.0°C at Doi Ang Kang, Fang District, Chiang Mai province on January 4 and 5. In January, rainfall was slightly below normal whereas it was inversely above normal during the second half of February due to the influence of westerly trough across upper Thailand. Easterly and southerly winds were observed Thailand from March instead of Northeast monsoon. Heat low pressure cell occasionally covered upper Thailand. These resulted generally hot with very hot in some areas especially in northern part. Mean temperature climbed up to 28-30°C and slightly above normal. Extreme maximum temperature was 42.2°C at Muang district, Tak province on April 13. However, temperature averaged throughout April was slightly below normal in most areas because of unseasonable rain produced by the confluence of southeasterly and southerly winds, the high pressure area from China that extended its ridge to cover the upper Thailand and the tropical cyclone MALA<sup>1</sup> in the Bay of Bengal moving into the western Myanmar during the end of April that brought rain to Thailand coincided with thunderstorms, gusty winds and hails.

This year, the rainy season started from May 5, about one and a half week earlier than normal. The rather active southwest monsoon prevailed over the Andaman Sea, Thailand and the Gulf of Thailand during the second half of May. Low pressure trough moved northward to lie across northern and northeastern parts during the end of the month. In addition, low pressure cell covered the lower northern and the upper central on May 21-23. These caused abundant rainfall in most part of Thailand particularly in mountain range between Uttaradit, Sukhothai and Phrae provinces. The maximum record for 24 hour accumulated rainfall was 330.0 millimeter at Lub Lae district, Uttaradit province on May 22. Flash floods, landslides and mudslides observed at Uttaradit, Sukhothai, Phrae, Nan, Lampang and Tak provinces on May 23 and 24. Severe damages i.e. dead and lost person were reported at several areas especially in Lub Lae, Ta Pla and Muang districts, Uttaradit province and Sri Satchanalai district, Sukhothai province and Muang district, Phrae province. May rainfall was above normal in most of the country.

June – July rainfall was above normal. The excessive rainfall produced by the influence of the active southwest monsoon, low pressure cell covering the upper Vietnam and the Gulf of Tonkin. Moreover, during June 18 – 20, active low pressure cell covered lower northern part and upper central part and low pressure trough lay across northern and northeastern parts during early July as well.

From August to mid-October, Thailand received downpour rainfall that was relatively above its normal value in most areas. Flash floods and severe damages occurred in many areas particularly in northern, central and eastern parts. The effects were from low pressure trough which lay across upper Thailand and active southwest monsoon which prevailed over Thailand almost the period. In addition, low pressure cell moved to cover lower northern part at the end of September and there was tropical storm Xangsane<sup>2</sup> moving to Thailand at Ubon Ratchatani province on October 2. This storm downgraded into tropical depression and continued to move to cover the lower northeastern part. From mid-October, while upper Thailand experienced less rain especially in northern and northeastern parts, southern Thailand observed torrential rain continuously. Low pressure trough moved southward to lie across middle part of southern Thailand and the gulf of Thailand with northeast monsoon prevailed over Thailand. Moreover, high pressure area extended its ridge to cover northern and northeastern parts. These caused decreasing in temperature and morning cool weather in northern and northeastern parts.

During the end of the year, weak high pressure area dominated upper Thailand in the second half of November towards mid-December causing hot weather in daytime and above normal temperature, 1-2°C. Moreover, southeasterly wind mainly prevailed over Thailand and the Gulf of Thailand causing much rain in most places. Active high pressure area from China continually extended its ridge to cover Thailand associated with active northeast monsoon prevailed over southern Thailand and the Gulf of Thailand during the second half of December. Consequently, the weather was comparatively cool and temperature was notable decreased. The extreme minimum was 5.0°C at Umphang district, Tak province on December 23 and 24. Frost occurred at the mountain top of the northern part during December 19-21. The extreme minimum over the mountainous area was 1.0°C at Doi Ang Kang, Fang district, Chiang Mai province on December 24-26. While the upper Thailand received light rain and well below normal, reasonable rain occurred in southern Thailand due to the tropical depression Durian<sup>3</sup> which moved into Chumphon province on December 6. This tropical depression brought heavy to very heavy rainfalls in southern Thailand east coast during December 5 and 6. Flash floods were reported at Chumphon and Prachuap Khiri Khan provinces. Moreover, high wave and rough sea, caused by the active northeast monsoon, occurred along the southern Thailand east coast in the vicinity of Prachuap Khiri Khan, Chumphon, Surat Thani, Nakhon Si Thammarat, Songkhla and Narathiwat provinces on December, 21.

- 
- Note :
1. Mala is the name of the tropical cyclone in the Northern Indian Ocean, assigned by Sri Lanka
  2. Xangxane is the name of the tropical cyclone in the western North Pacific Ocean, assigned by Lao P.D.R.
  3. Durian is the name of the tropical cyclone in the western North Pacific Ocean, assigned by Thailand.
  4. Rainfall amount, temperatures and natural disasters are the preliminary information.

Climatological Group  
Meteorological Development Bureau  
Meteorological Department