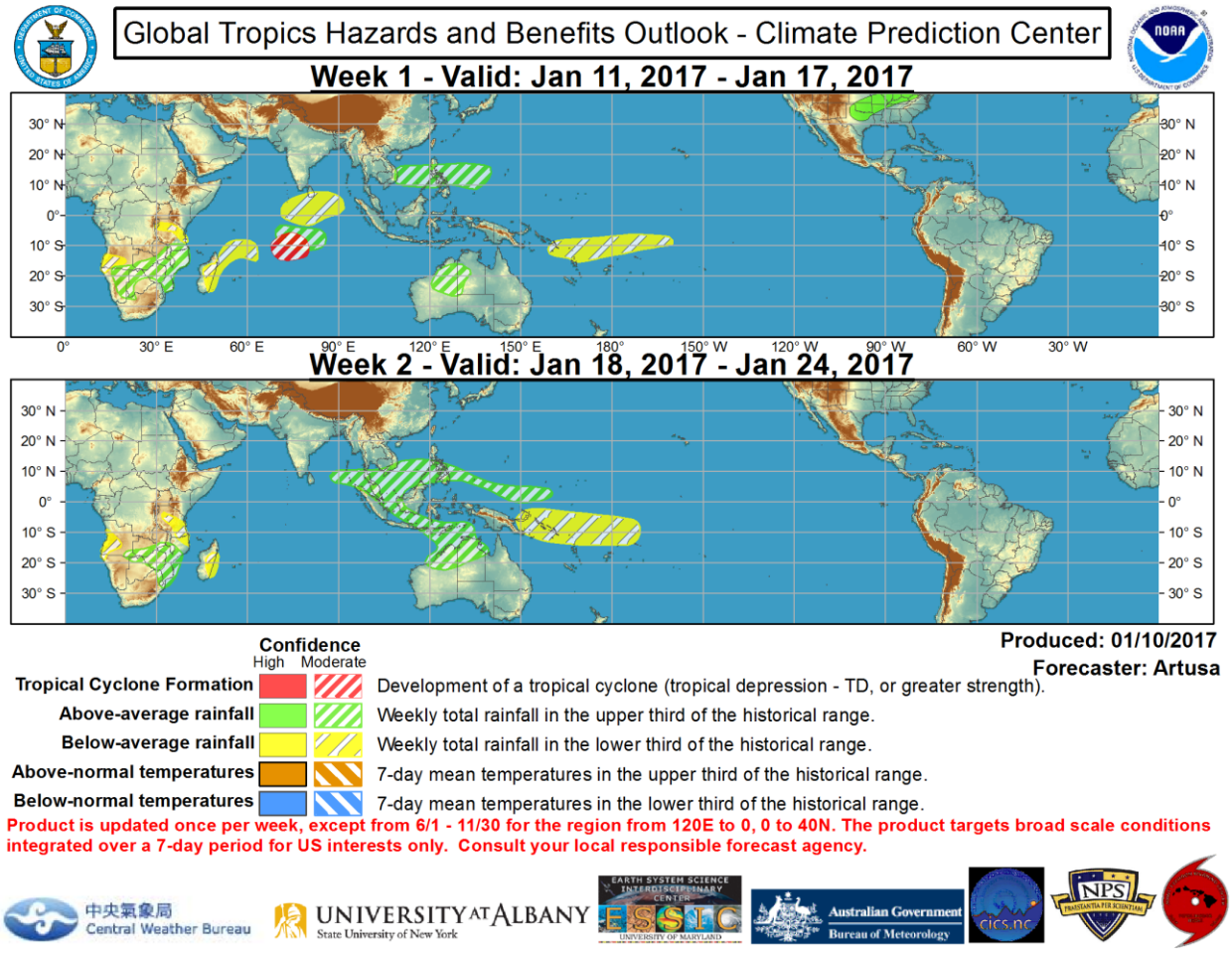

The MJO has remained relatively weak over the past week, though some organized convective signal is still evident from the eastern Indian Ocean to the Maritime Continent. The RMM index is currently in Phase 5 with an amplitude just outside the unit circle. The CPC velocity potential index places the enhanced phase slightly farther east over the Maritime Continent and western Pacific. The background La Nina, and a negatively phased Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) continues to help anchor the pattern of anomalous tropical convection, with the OLR pattern remaining fairly stationary from the eastern Indian Ocean to the western Pacific over the past month. Dynamical model forecasts of the RMM index generally maintain a weak intraseasonal signal during Week-1. During Week-2, however, most model forecasts predict a significant increase in amplitude of the RMM index, initially over Phases 8 and 1 (Western Hemisphere and Africa), then progressing into Phase 2 (western Indian Ocean).

During the past week, only one TD (TD 1) formed close to the Philippines and drifted very slowly in that immediate area before dissipating. The development of this TD appears related to the passage of an atmospheric Kelvin wave (which projected fairly well onto the OLR field) that moved through the region in early January. During Week-1, a moderate confidence TC formation area is predicted over central

portions of the southern Indian Ocean. No TC shapes were introduced on the graphic for Week-2, due to the lack of any significant indications.

During Week-1, forecasts favoring above- or below-average rainfall are based largely on dynamical model forecasts from the CFS and ECMWF, which are broadly consistent with the low-frequency state and ongoing areas of tropical convection. Over the contiguous U.S., well above-average precipitation is predicted from the southern Plains northeastward into the eastern Great Lakes region, associated with a slow-moving frontal boundary and several waves of low pressure expected to ride along the front.

The Week-2 shapes are derived primarily by the consensus between the CFS and ECMWF ensemble means. An area of above-normal precipitation is anticipated from the eastern Indian Ocean across the Maritime Continent and northern Australia to about 160E (moderate confidence). An area of below-normal rainfall (moderate confidence) is generally expected to persist from near Papua New Guinea eastward to Samoa and the Cook Islands.

Forecasts over Africa are made in consultation with CPCs international desk, and can represent local-scale conditions in addition to global-scale variability.