The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Earth System Science Programme

Different Flavors of ENSO and their Implications on the Predictability of the East Asian Climate

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Date: 7 February 2014 (Friday)
Time: 11:00a.m. – 12:00noon
Venue: Rm. 128, Science Centre North Block
Registration: Click Here

Abstract El Nino-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is a major contributor to Asian climate variations. The ENSO phenomenon is also an important source of short-term climate predictability; successful predictions of the East Asian climate oftentimes rely on the presence of strong ENSO and ENSO-related teleconnection signals in dynamical seasonal forecast models. In recent decades, a new "flavor" of ENSO has emerged which is associated with a recurrent anomalous sea surface temperature (SST) pattern rather different from that typical of the canonical ENSO. In this presentation, I will talk about the different climate impacts of these two types of ENSO. The ability of a variety of dynamical models in distinguishing between these ENSO flavors, as well as their influences on the climate over East Asia, will be examined. Implications on the short-term climate predictability over this region will be discussed.

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