

Severe Weather Advisory for the Philippines

Tropical Storm Sarika

Issued on Friday, 14 October 2016 at 05:21 local time (all times are based on UK local time)

Headline

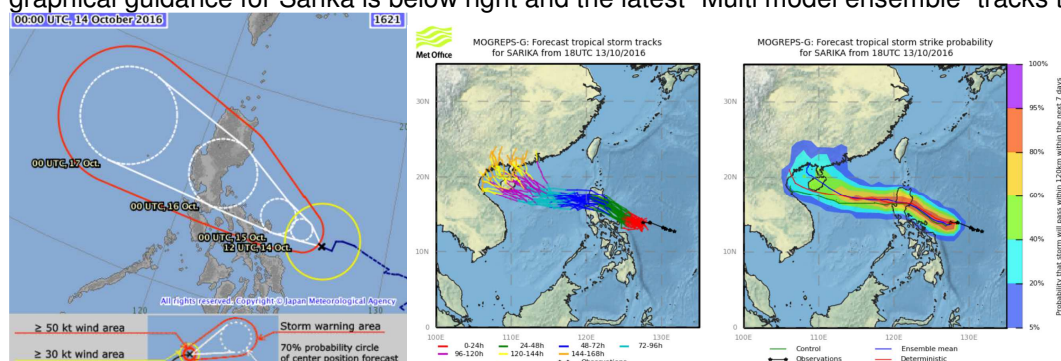
Tropical Storm Sarika (known as Karen in the Philippines) currently to the east of the Philippines is expected to track west across Luzon later today and over the weekend, while strengthening to become a Typhoon. Potential for some significant wind and rainfall impacts for Luzon. Manila should miss the worst of the storm but still some impacts here. Thereafter Sarika tracking towards Hainan and Northern Vietnam by mid-week.

Impacts

- Winds are forecast to peak at 80 knots/90mph with gusts to 110 knots/125mph.
- Torrential rainfall, locally 300-500mm, will bring a flooding and landslide risk.
- A storm surge may bring a risk of coastal flooding on Saturday to the E coast of Luzon

Discussion

Tropical Storm Sarika (named Karen by PAGASA in the Philippines) is currently (14/00Z) located around 370 miles E of Manila and is moving WNW at 5 knots. The JMA forecasts Sarika to make landfall across the Bicol and Northern Samar regions, Philippines around 21Z on Friday (today), the track across Luzon over the weekend. Sarika is expected to strengthen to become a Typhoon during Saturday, and although may weaken a little across Central Luzon, will strengthen once again to the west of the islands. The latest JMA graphical guidance for Sarika is below right and the latest "Multi model ensemble" tracks to the left:



Heavy rainfall 200-400mm and wind speeds initially of 70mph, gust 90mph at first landfall will bring some disruption to the east coast of Luzon later tomorrow and overnight into Saturday. Risk of damaging winds, flash flooding, plus coastal flooding associated with very rough seas and a storm surge. As Sarika strengthens during the Saturday while still to the east of Luzon, the combination of wind gusts to 125mph and torrential rain (300-500mm) totals will bring a significant risk of flash flooding and landslides as the storm passes west across the mountains and towards the South China Sea. Manila should miss the worst of the storm, but 50-100mm, perhaps exceptionally 125mm of rain is expected to fall in around 6-9 hours on Sunday across the area, bringing an enhanced flood risk to the capital (perhaps enhanced by "tidal locking") with potential impacts to the local infrastructure (power and water supply).

There is generally very good consistency between the GM, EC GFS and their ensemble products as highlighted by the graphic above. Consequently there is good confidence in the evolution and track of Sarika at this time.

Sources

Met Office, JMA, ECMWF, NCEP.

Issued at: 140415Z **Meteorologist:** Tony Wardle **Global Guidance Unit**

This forecast may be amended at any time

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