

THE SPATIAL AND TEMPORAL VARIABILITY OF THE RAINFALL DISTRIBUTION OVER MALAYSIA IN RELATION TO THE EL NIÑO SOUTHERN OSCILLATION (ENSO)

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ABSTRACT

It is known that Malaysia has high spatial and temporal variations in its rainfall distribution. Therefore, in order to study these variations, an examination of the seasonal rainfall on regional scale has been carried out so as to study the ENSO impact on the Malaysian rainfall. In this study, Malaysia is divided into 4 regions, that is, the west coast and east coast of Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak. Further research has been carried out to study the relationships between the ENSO phenomenon and the 1-month, 2-month as well as 3-month rainfall lags over these regions. It is found that the ENSO impact is prominent during northeast monsoon especially over Sabah region. The lag-relationships between the SOI and rainfall are also found to be significant in the seasons during which the ENSO impact is pronounced.