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**Westward Migration of Tropical Cyclone Rapid-Intensification over
the Northwestern Pacific during Short Duration El Niño**

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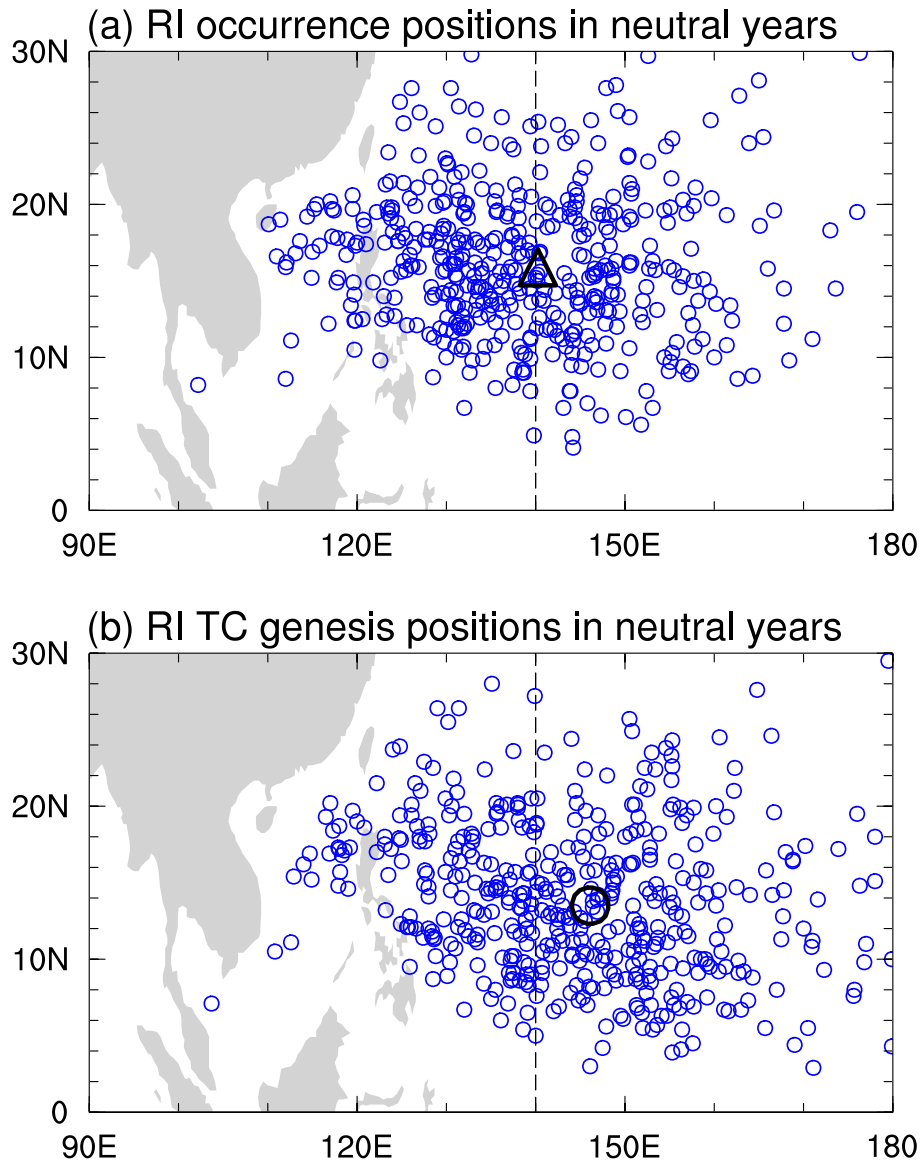
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Atmospheric Sciences, Nanjing University, Nanjing, China

Nature Communications

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22 **Contents of this file:** Supplementary Figures 1–23 and Tables 1–2.

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25 **Supplementary Figure 1. Rapid intensification occurrence positions and rapid**

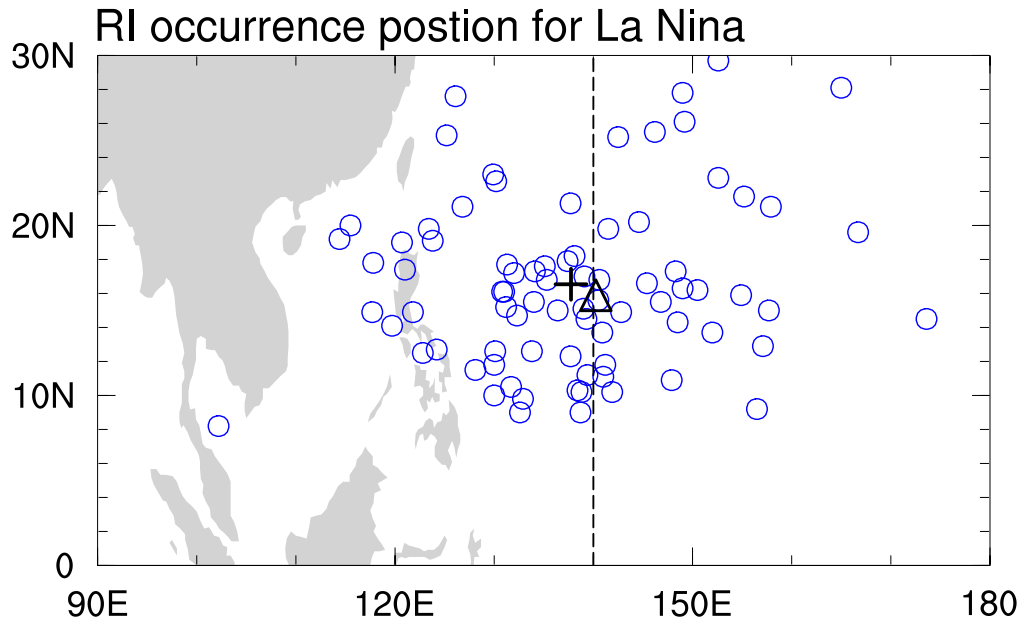
26 **intensification tropical cyclone genesis positions during neutral years** The

27 composites of (a) rapid intensification (RI) occurrence positions and (b) RI tropical

28 cyclone (TC) genesis positions for neutral years. The triangle and circle indicate the

29 mean RI occurrence position and mean RI TC genesis position in the neutral years,

30 respectively. The dashed lines indicate the 140°E longitude.



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32 **Supplementary Figure 2. Rapid intensification occurrence positions during La**

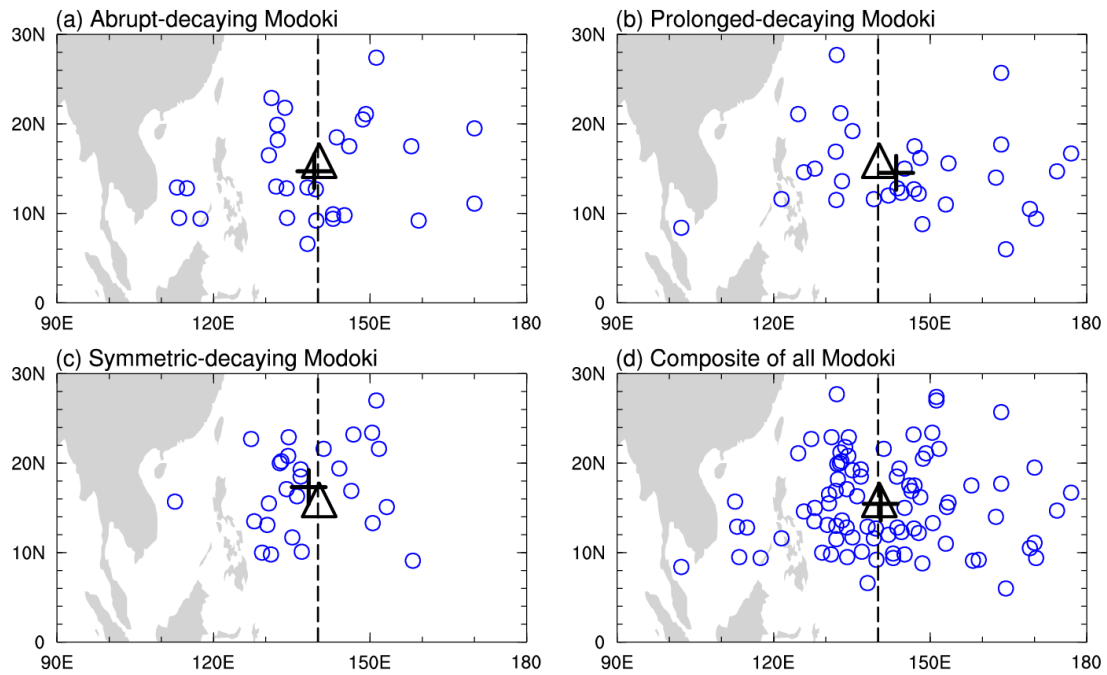
33 **Niña years** The composites of rapid intensification (RI) occurrence positions for La

34 Niña decaying years. The cross and triangle indicate the mean RI occurrence

35 positions for La Niña events and neutral years, respectively. The dashed lines

36 indicate the 140°E longitude.

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38

39 **Supplementary Figure 3. Rapid intensification occurrence positions during El**

40 **Niño Modoki years** The composite rapid intensification (RI) occurrence positions

41 for (a) abrupt-decaying Modoki events, (b) prolonged-decaying Modoki events, (c)

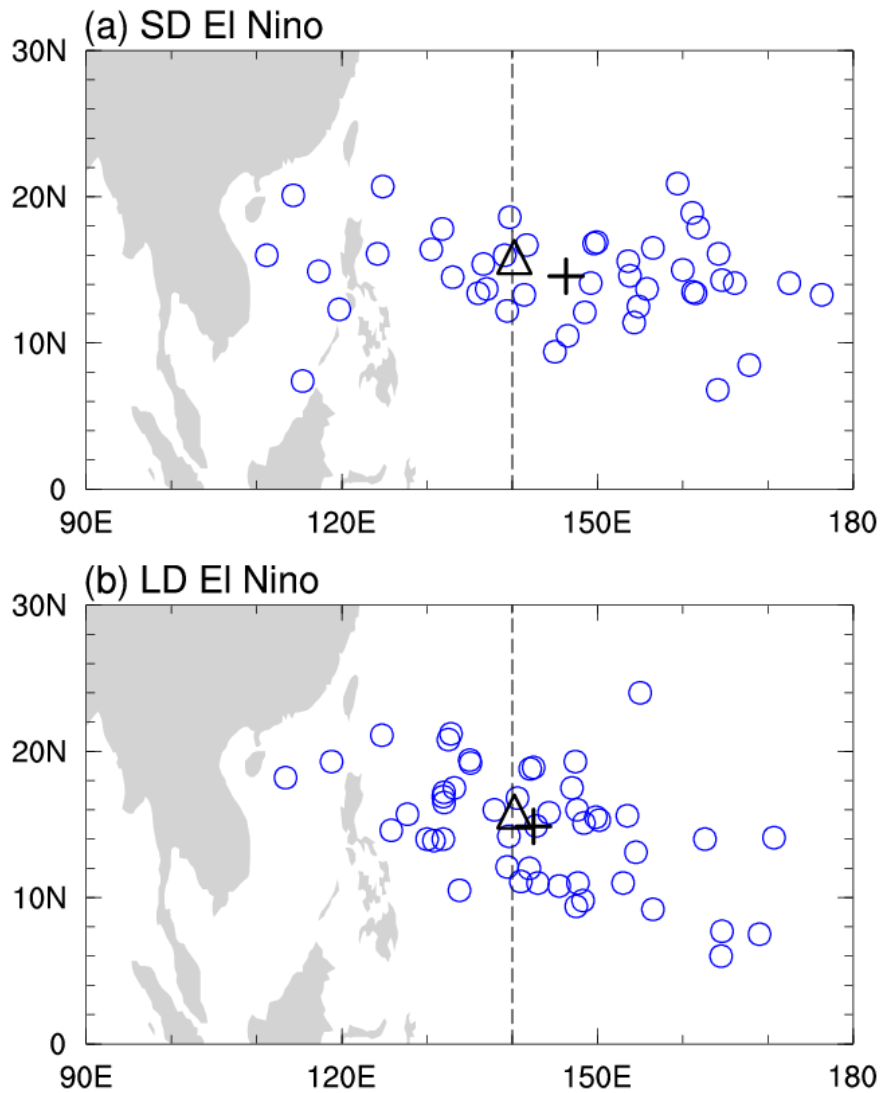
42 symmetric-decaying Modoki events and (d) all Modoki events. The triangles in (a–d)

43 indicate the mean RI occurrence position for neutral years, and the crosses indicate

44 mean RI occurrence positions of corresponding types of Modoki events, respectively.

45 The dashed lines indicate the 140°E longitude.

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48 **Supplementary Figure 4. Rapid intensification occurrence positions during El**

49 **Niño developing years** The composite rapid intensification (RI) occurrence

50 positions for (a) short duration (SD) El Niño developing years and (b) long duration

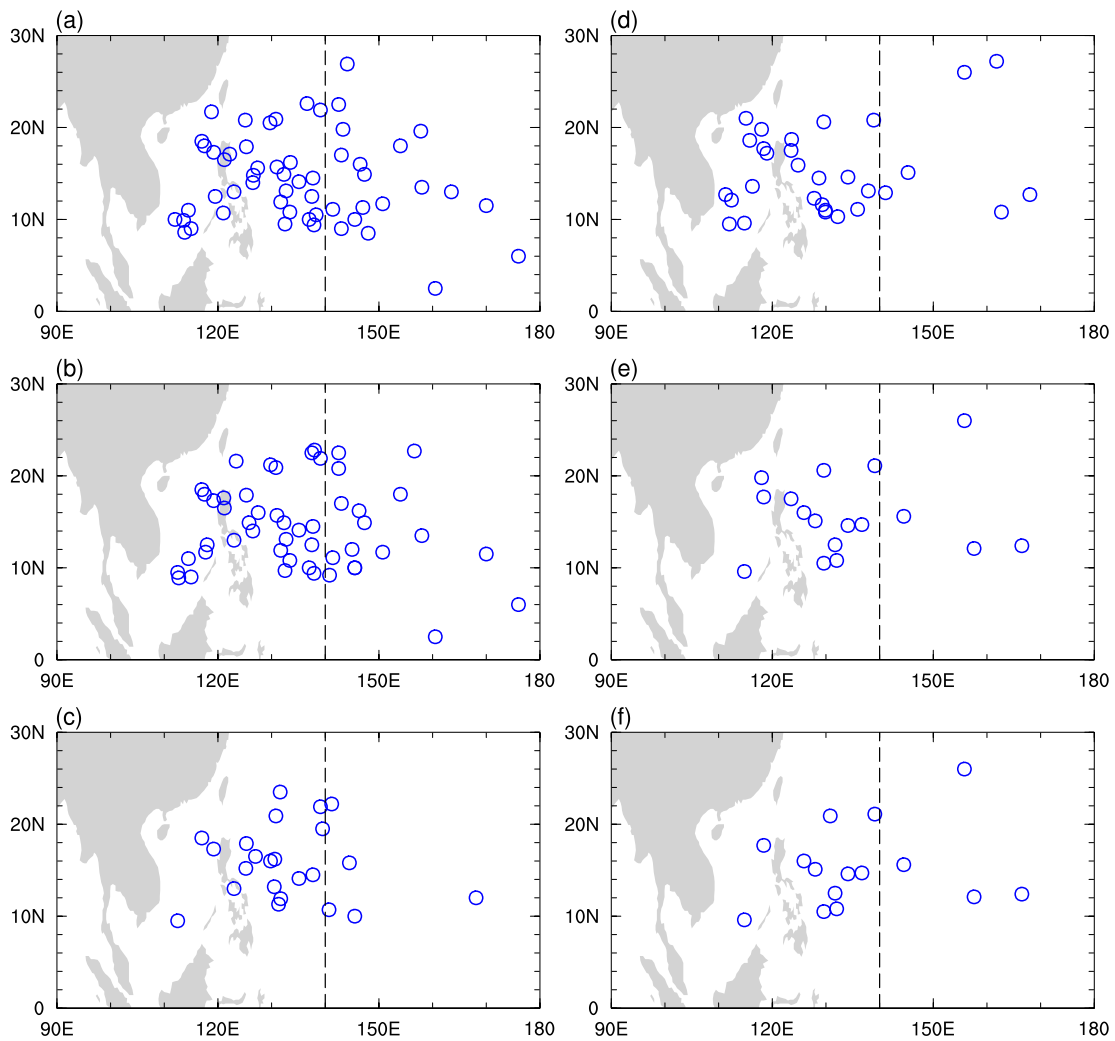
51 (LD) El Niño developing years. The crosses indicate the mean RI occurrence

52 positions for (a) SD El Niño developing years and (b) LD El Niño developing years,

53 respectively. The triangles indicate the mean RI occurrence position for neutral years.

54 The dashed lines indicate the 140°E longitude.

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57 **Supplementary Figure 5. Westward migration of rapid intensification**

58 **occurrence positions in different tropical cyclone best-track datasets** Composite

59 rapid intensification (RI) occurrence positions for short duration El Niño years based

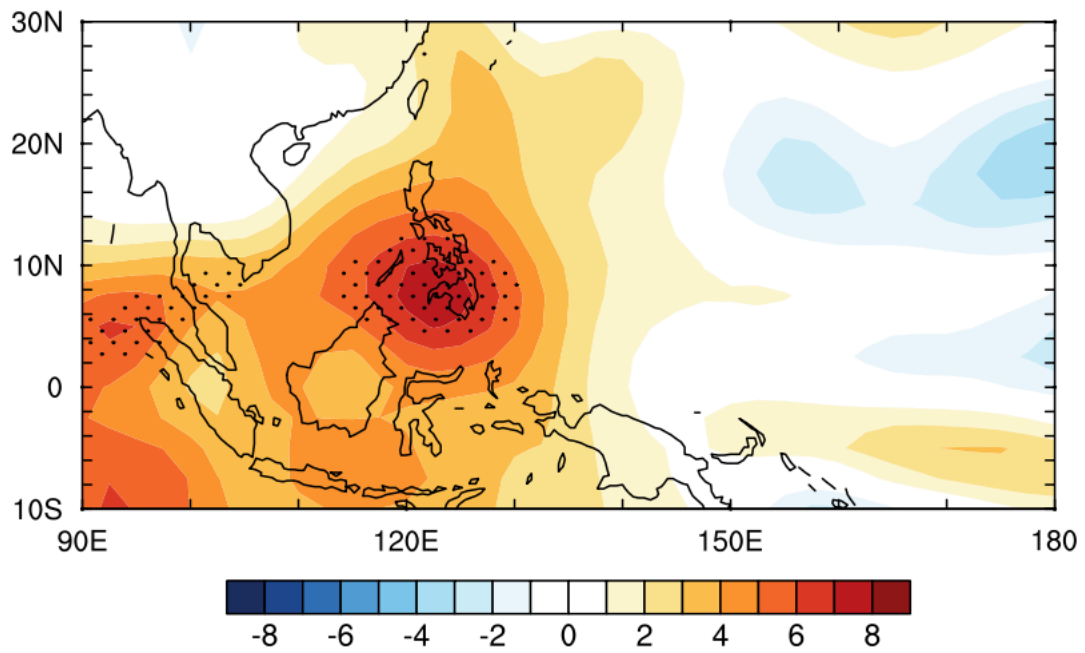
60 on JMA (left panels) and CMA (right panels) best track datasets. The criteria to

61 define RI for JMA are (a) 30 kt per 24 hrs, (b) 40 kt per 24 hrs and (c) 50 kt per 24 hrs,

62 and for CMA are (d) 30 kt per 24 hrs, (e) 35 kt per 25 hrs and (f) 40 kt per 24 hrs. The

63 dashed lines indicate the 140°E longitude.

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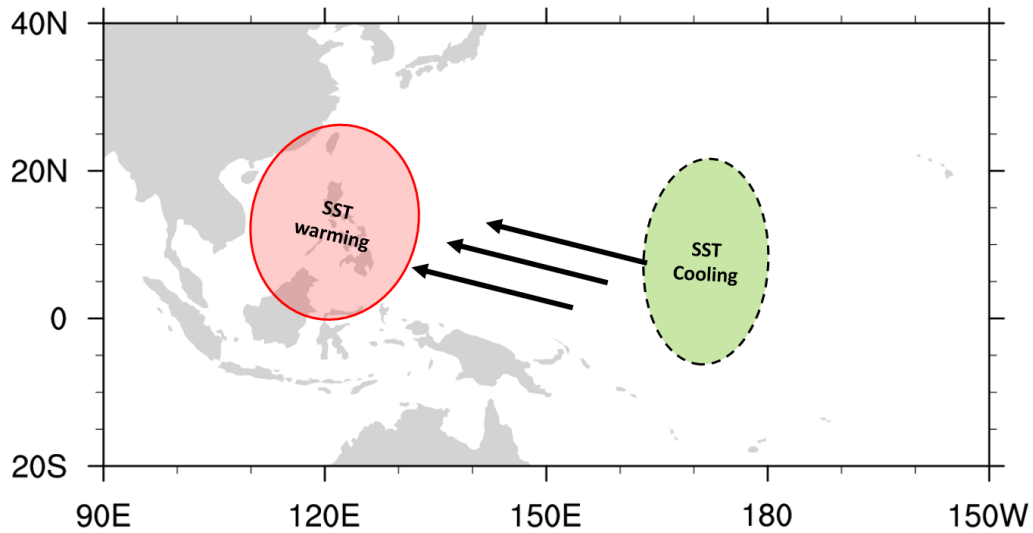
65

66 **Supplementary Figure 6. Moistening of troposphere in short duration El Niño**

67 **events** Composite relative humidity anomalies for short duration El Niño decaying

68 years. The stippled areas indicate the values exceeding the 95% confidence level.

69



70

71 **Supplementary Figure 7. Schematic for the relationship between sea surface**

72 **temperature gradient and surface wind over the western Pacific** Due to the

73 warming of the South China Sea and the western Philippine Sea region (denoted by

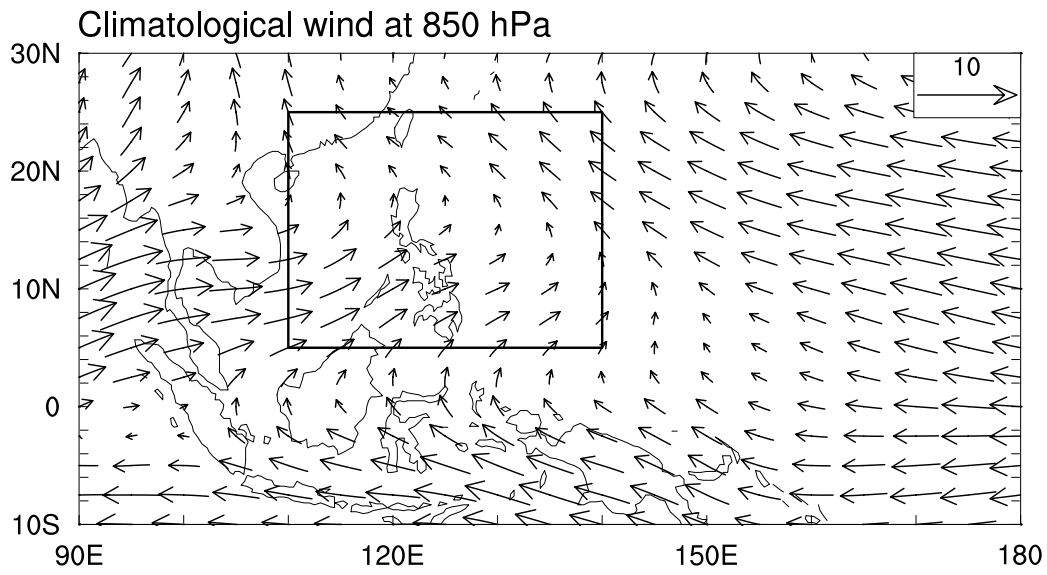
74 red ellipse) and cooling of the middle Pacific (denoted by green ellipse), the zonal

75 sea surface temperature (SST) gradient over the western North Pacific (WNP) is

76 enlarged. The enlarged zonal SST gradient leads to anomalous easterly wind

77 (denoted by black arrows) over the WNP.

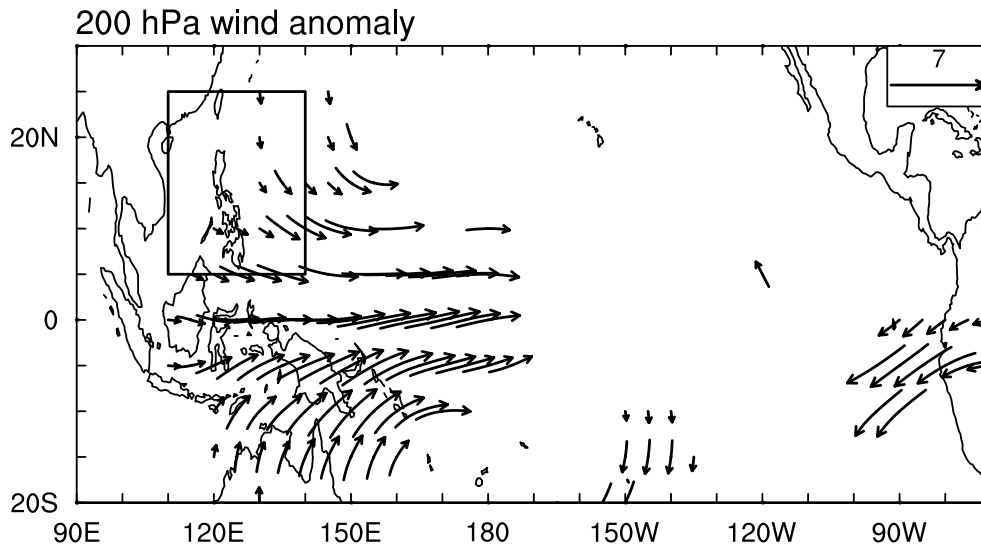
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80 **Supplementary Figure 8. Low-level wind climatology** Climatological wind at 850
 81 hPa in July–November based on the period 1950–2010. The black box indicates the
 82 South China Sea and the western Philippine Sea region.

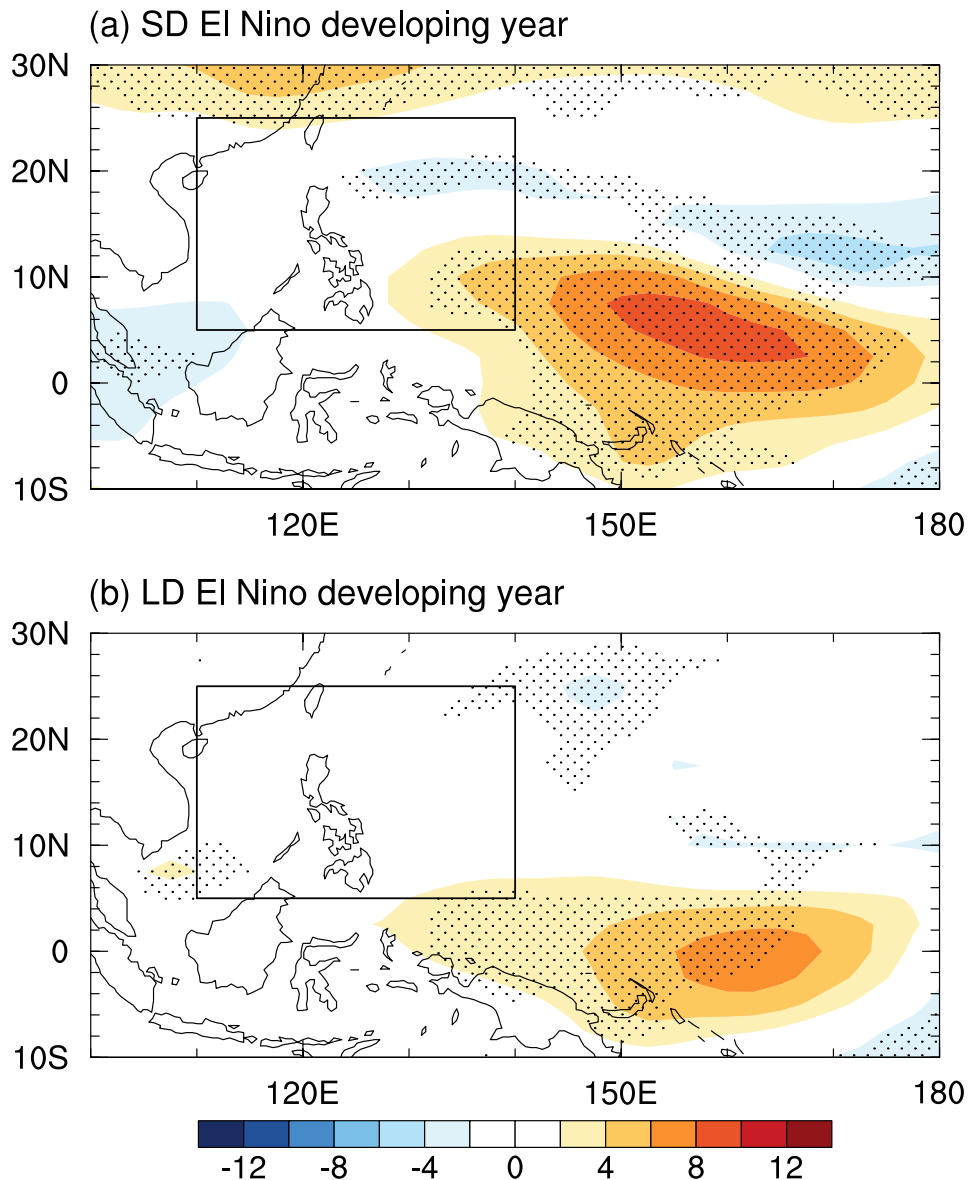
83



84

85 **Supplementary Figure 9. 200 hPa wind anomalies** Composite anomalies of the
 86 200 hPa horizontal wind for short duration El Niño years. The wind vectors only
 87 show the anomalies exceeding the 95% confidence levels. The black box indicates
 88 the South China Sea and the western Philippine Sea region.

89



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91 **Supplementary Figure 10. Vertical wind shear anomalies in short duration and**

92 **long duration El Niño developing years** Composite vertical wind shear anomalies

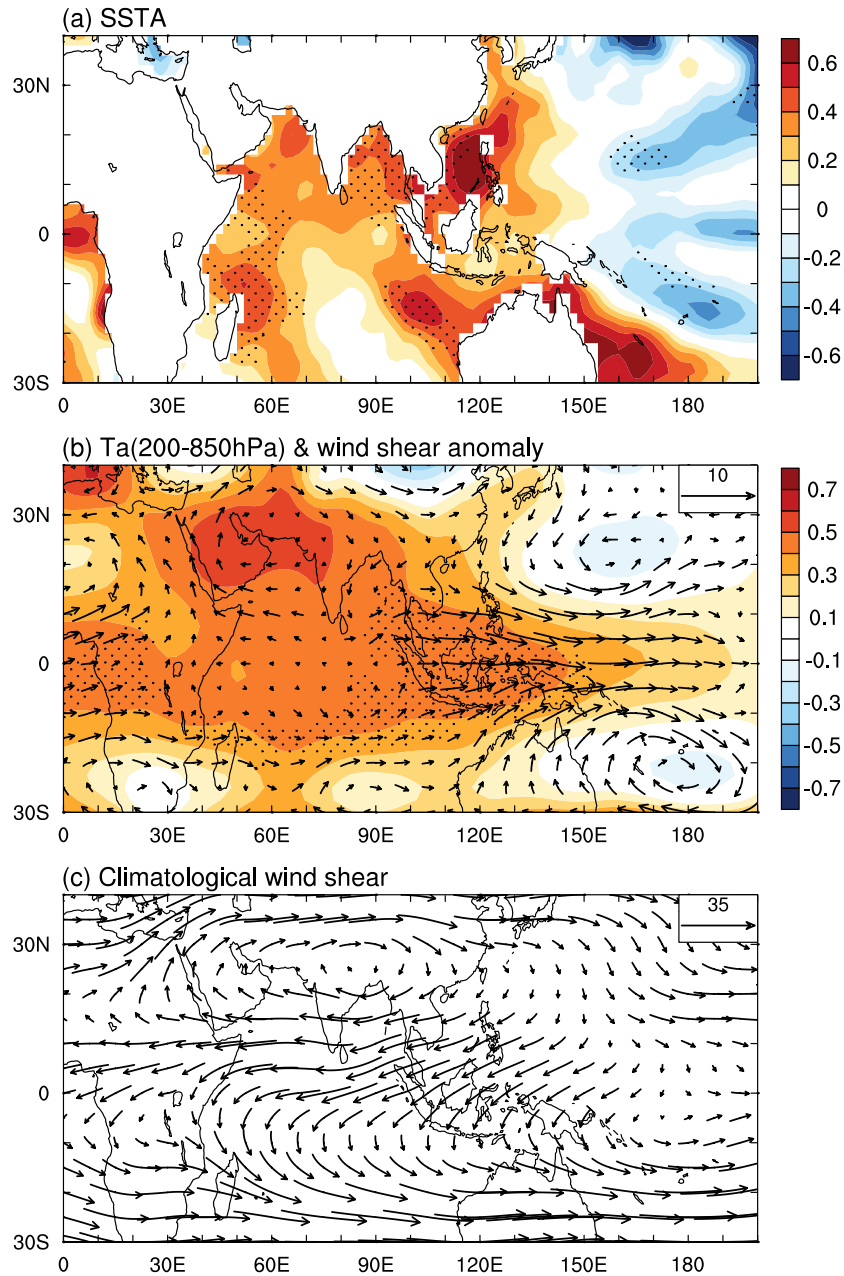
93 (shading, units: m s^{-1}) between 200 hPa and 850 hPa for (a) short duration El Niño

94 developing years and (b) long duration El Niño developing years. The stippled areas

95 indicate the values are statistically significant at the 95% confidence level. The black

96 boxes indicate the South China Sea and the western Philippine Sea region.

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99 **Supplementary Figure 11. Impacts from Indian Ocean** Composite anomalies of

100 (a) sea surface temperature (units: K) and (b) air temperature averaged between 200

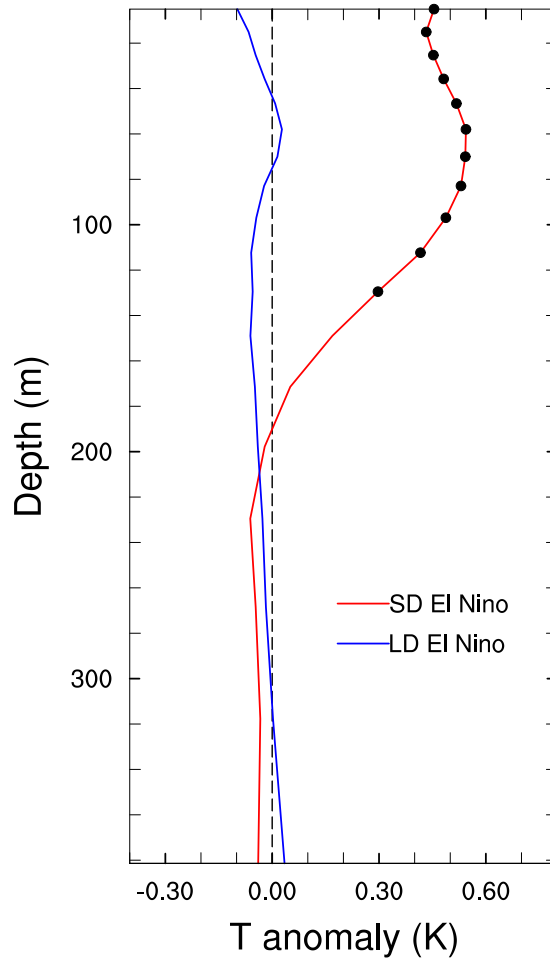
101 hPa and 850 hPa (shading, units: K) and vertical shear of horizontal wind between

102 200 hPa and 850 hPa (vectors, units: m s^{-1}) for the short duration El Niño events. (c)

103 shows the climatological mean vertical shear of the horizontal wind between 200

104 hPa and 850 hPa based on the period 1950–2010. The stippled areas indicate the

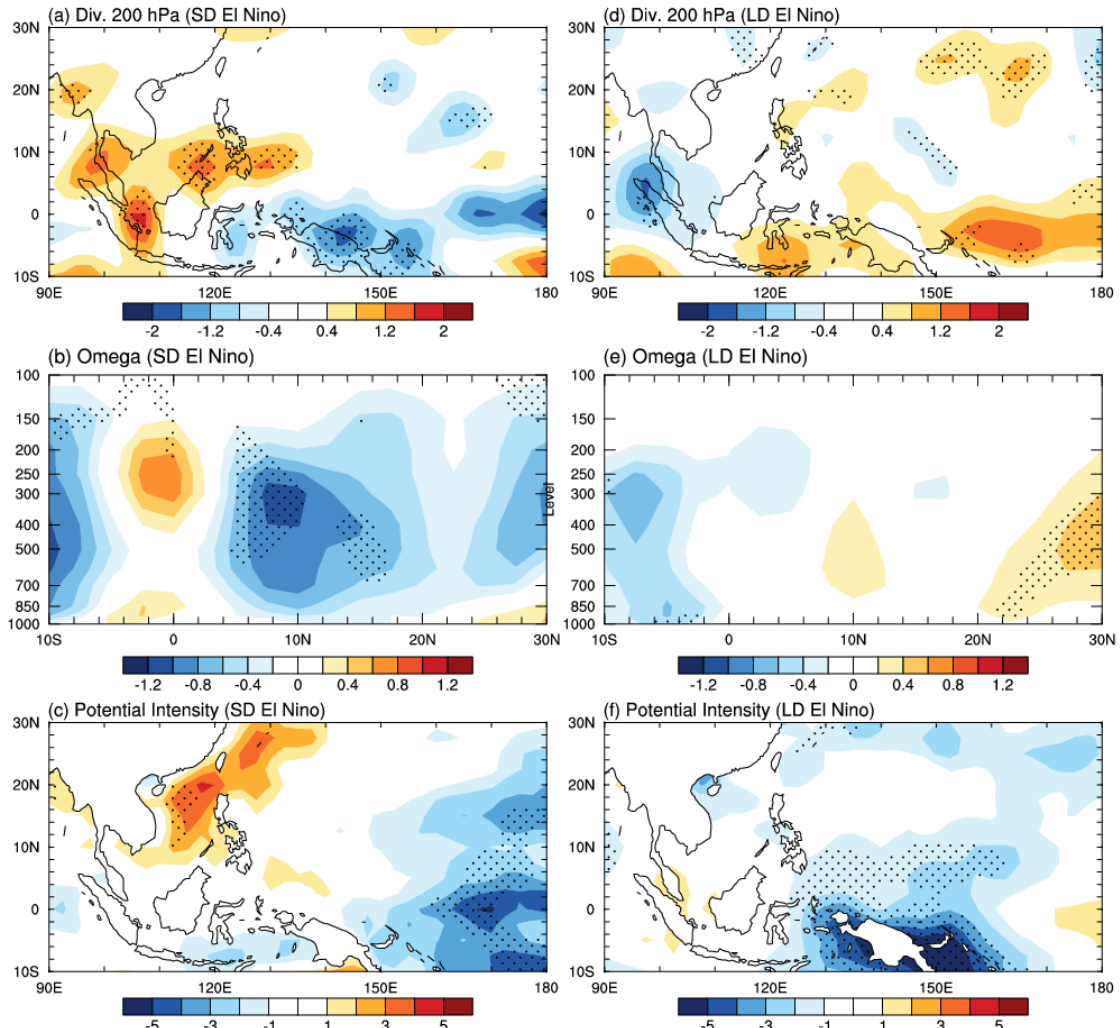
105 values are statistically significant at the 95% confidence level.



107

108 **Supplementary Figure 12. Ocean temperature profiles** Composite vertical profile
 109 of ocean temperature anomalies (units: K) over the South China Sea and the western
 110 Philippine Sea region for short duration El Niño years (red line) and long duration El
 111 Niño years (blue line), respectively. The black dots on the line indicate the values are
 112 statistically significant at the 95% confidence level.

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115 **Supplementary Figure 13. Anomalies of environment factors** Composite

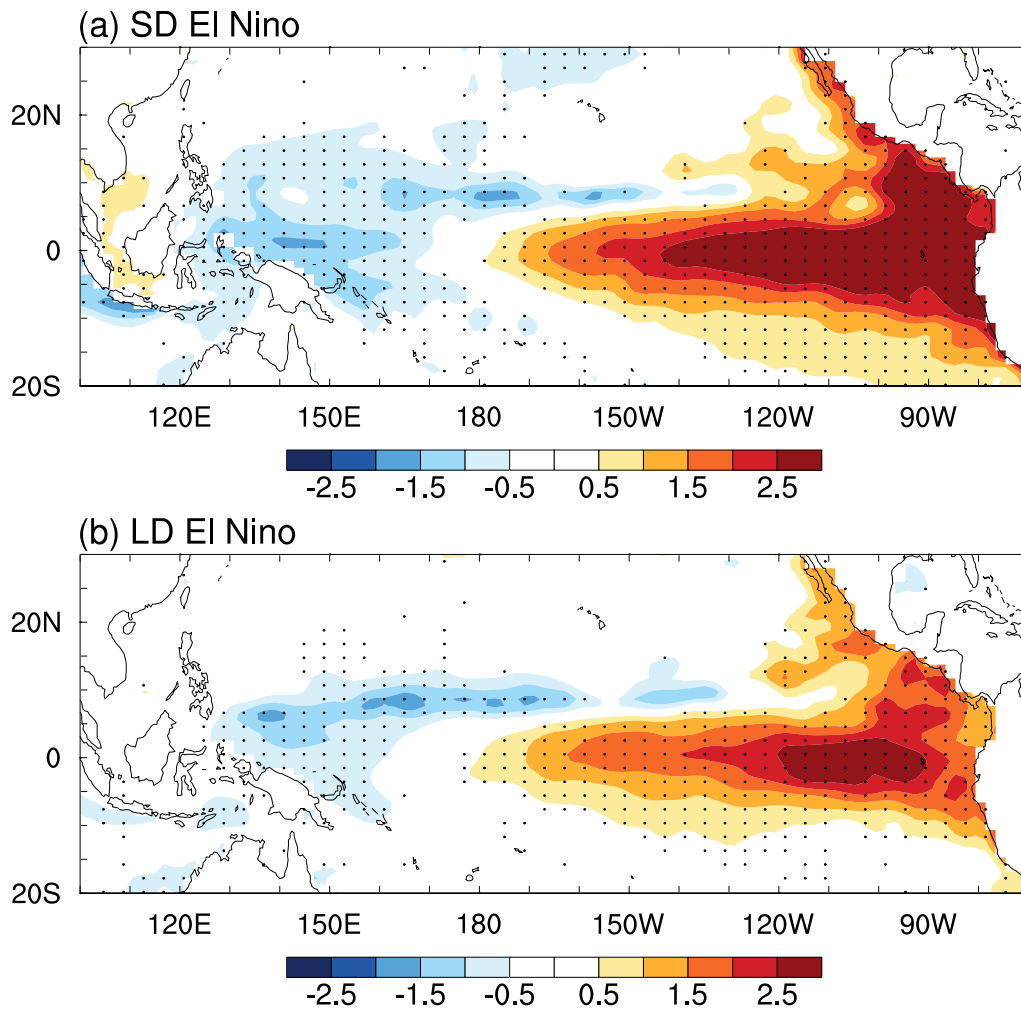
116 anomalies of (a) divergence at 200 hPa (10^{-6} s^{-1}), (b) vertical motion ($10^{-2} \text{ Pascal s}^{-1}$)

117 and (c) maximum potential intensity (m s^{-1}) for short duration El Niño events. (d–f)

118 As in (a–c), but for long duration El Niño events. The stippled areas indicate the

119 values are statistically significant at the 95% confidence level.

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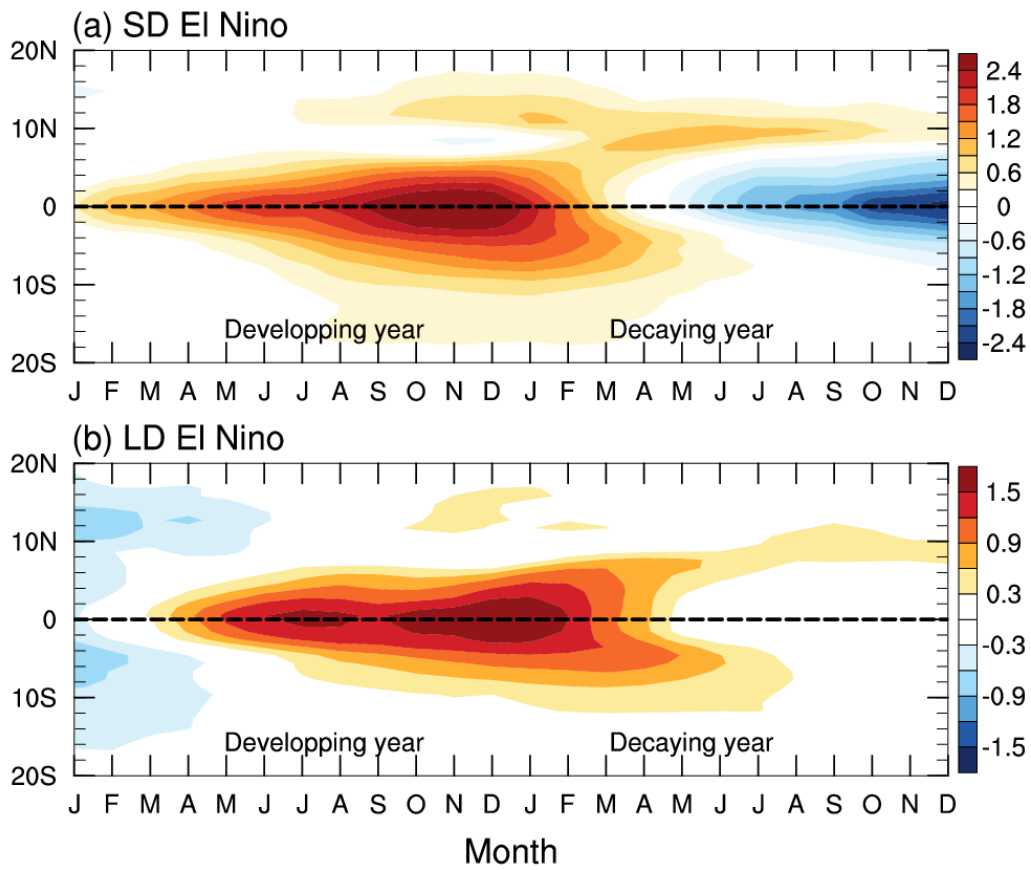
122 **Supplementary Figure 14. Ocean heat content anomalies** Composite anomalies of

123 December–February mean ocean temperature between 5–100 m (K) for (a) short

124 duration El Niño years and (b) long duration El Niño years. The stippled areas

125 indicate the values are statistically significant at the 95% confidence level.

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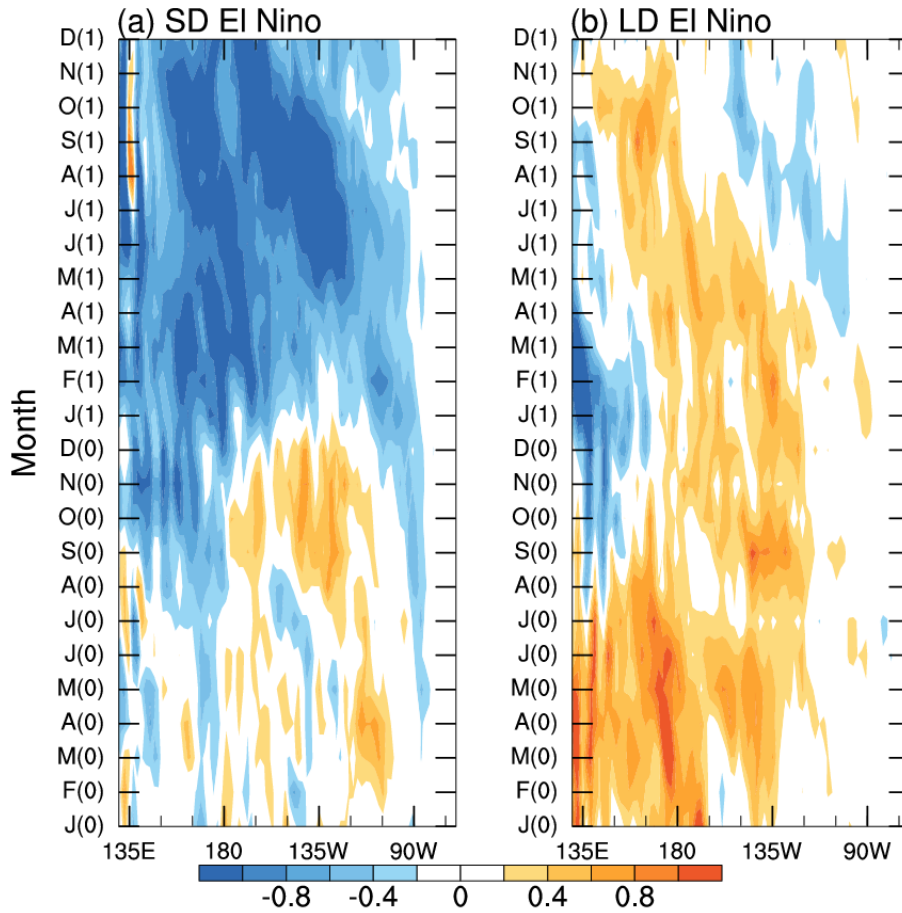
128 **Supplementary Figure 15. Latitude-time cross section of the ocean heat content**

129 **anomalies** Composite evolutions of mean ocean temperature anomalies between 5–

130 100 m (K) averaged over the middle and eastern Pacific (180°–70°W) for (a) short

131 duration El Niño and (b) long duration El Niño events.

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134 **Supplementary Figure 16. Longitude-time cross section of the ocean zonal**

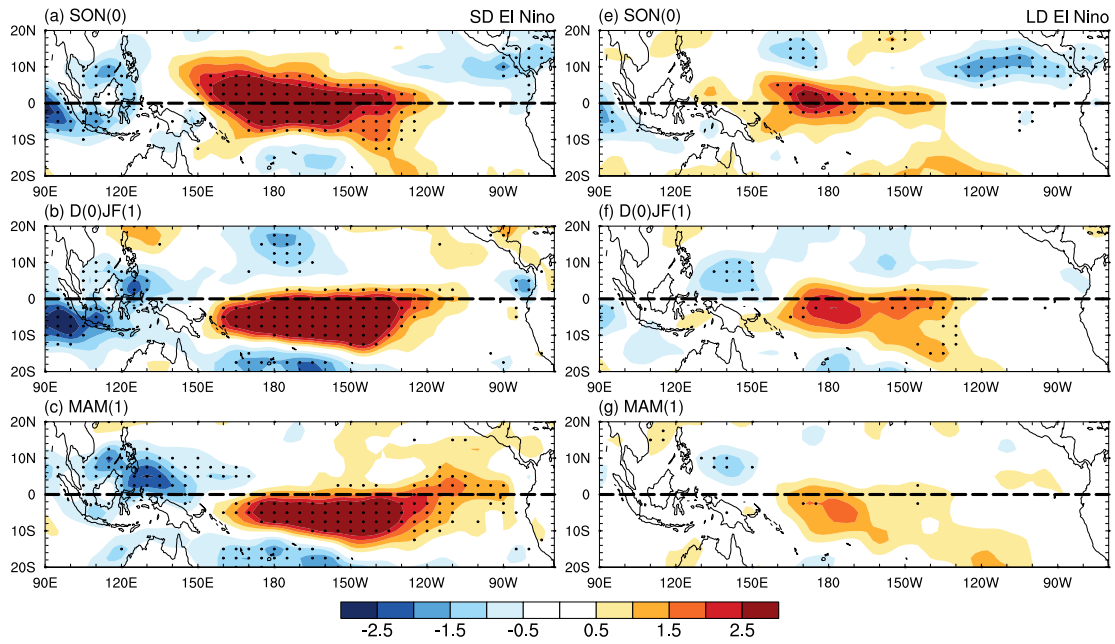
135 **current anomalies** Composite evolutions of the upper ocean (5–100 m) zonal

136 current anomalies averaged over the Northern Hemisphere equatorial region (5°–

137 10°N) for (a) short duration El Niño and (b) long duration El Niño events,

138 respectively. The values are multiplied by a factor of 10.

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141 **Supplementary Figure 17. Evolution of zonal winds anomalies** Composite 1000

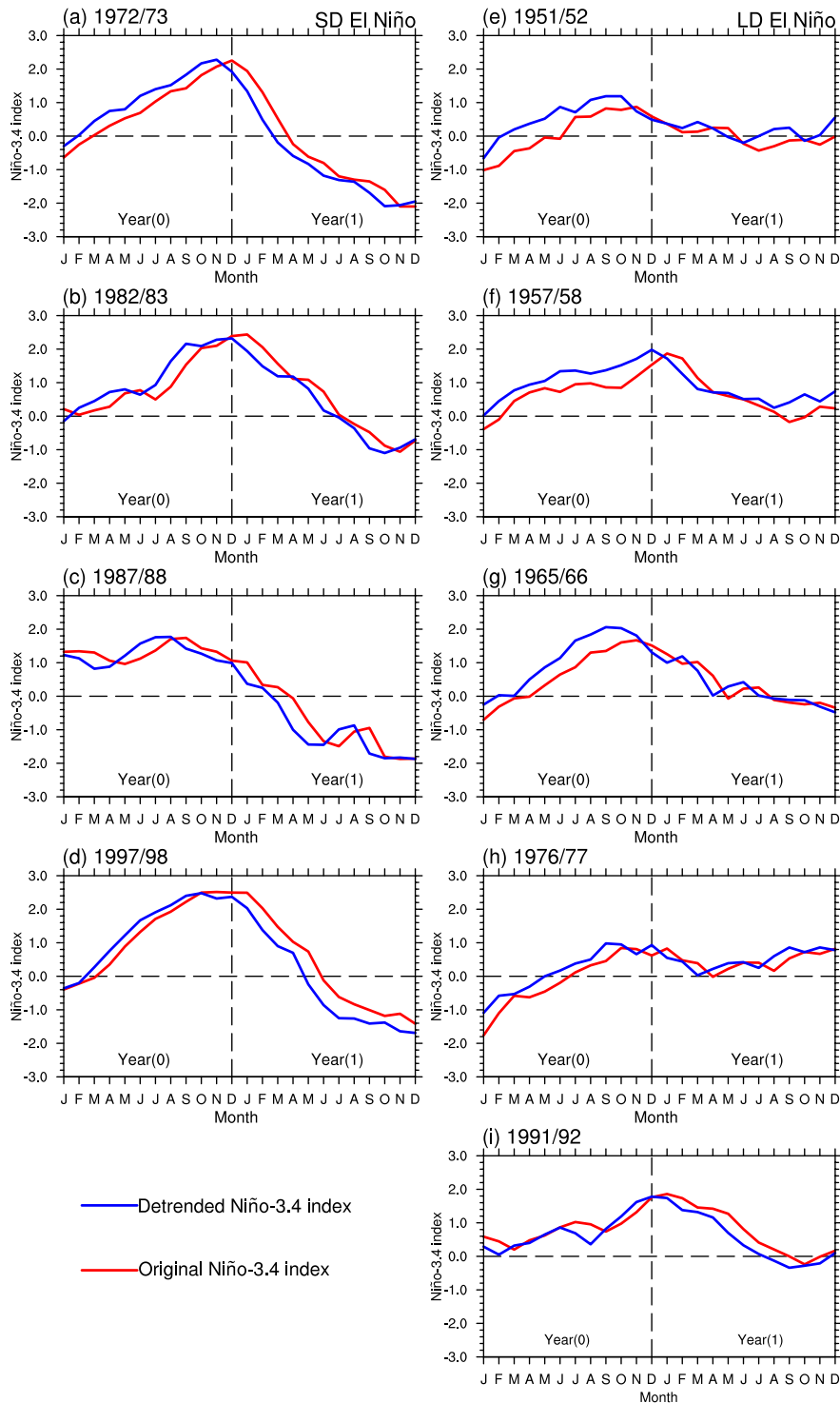
142 hPa zonal wind anomalies (units: m s^{-1}) in (a) September(0)–November(0), (b)

143 December(0)–February(1) and (c) March(1)–May(1) for short duration El Niño

144 events. (e–g) as in (a–c), but for long duration El Niño events. The stippled areas

145 indicate the values are statistically significant at the 95% confidence level.

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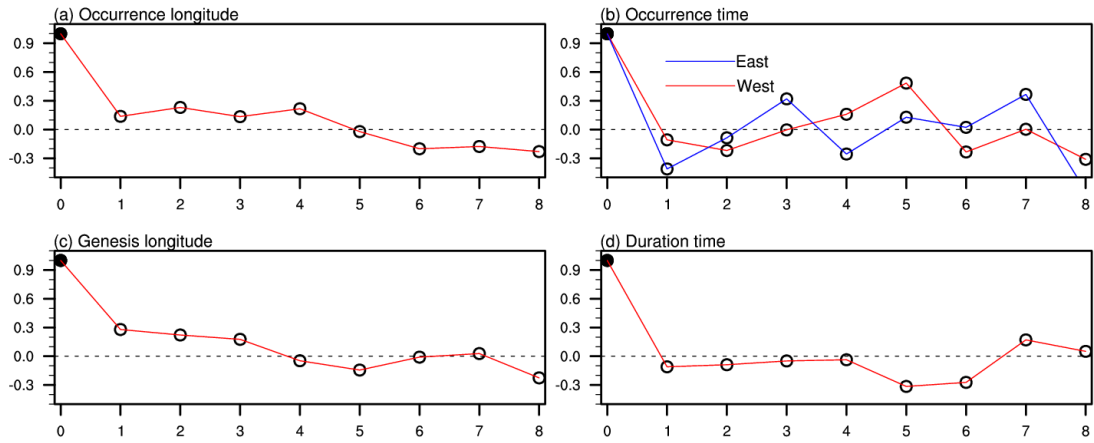
147

148 **Supplementary Figure 18. Evolution of El Niño events** Evolution of the original

149 (red lines) and the detrended (blue lines) Niño-3.4 indices for short duration El Niño

150 events (left panels) and long duration El Niño events (right panels).

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153 **Supplementary Figure 19. Auto-correlation of rapid intensification related**

154 **variables** Auto-correlation of mean rapid intensification (RI) (a) occurrence

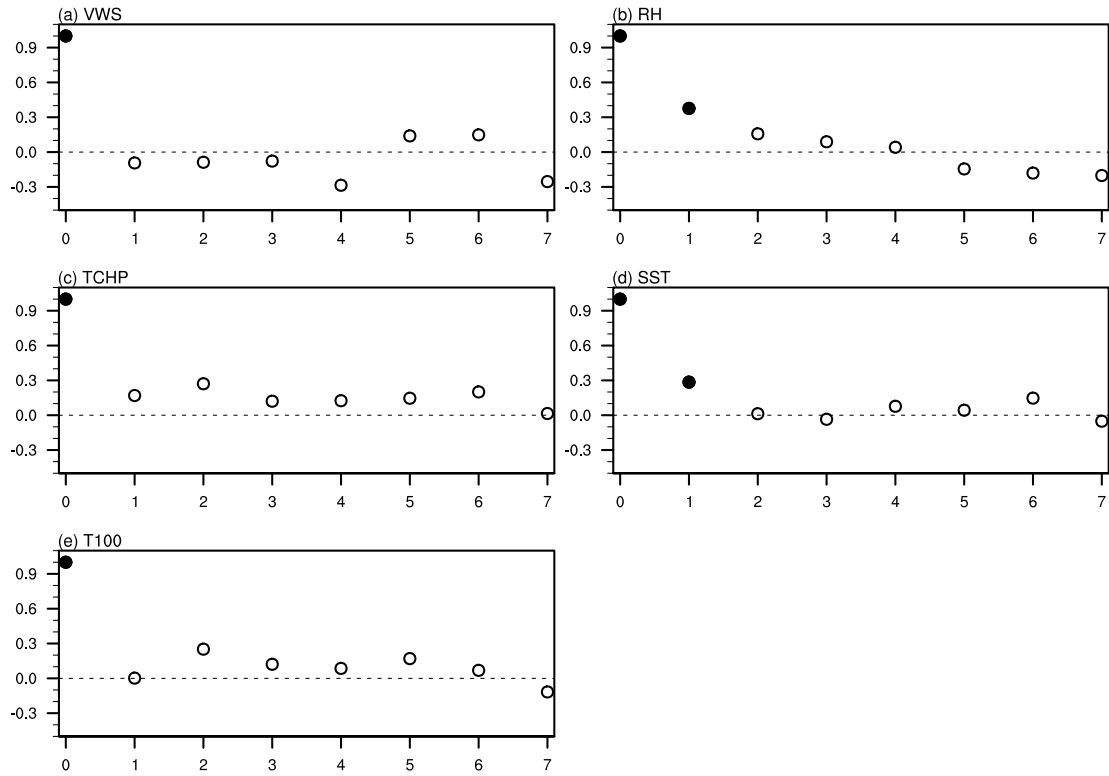
155 longitude, (b) occurrence time, (c) genesis longitude, and (d) duration time. The

156 filled black circles denote significant correlation at a confidence level of 95%. Blue

157 and red lines in (b) indicate the RI tropical cyclones formed in the east and west of

158 140°E, respectively.

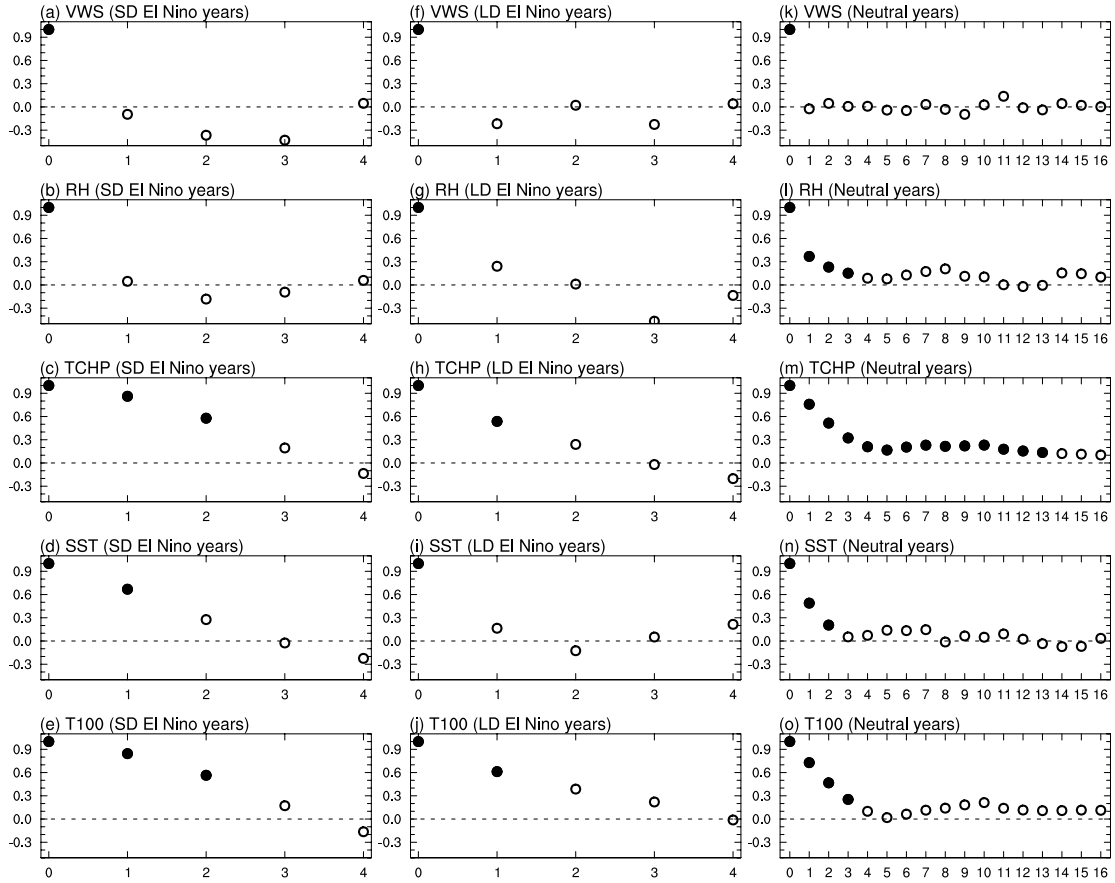
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160

161 **Supplementary Figure 20. Auto-correlation of atmospheric and oceanic**
 162 **variables** Auto-correlation of indices of (a) vertical wind shear, (b) relative humidity,
 163 (c) tropical cyclone heat potential, (d) sea surface temperature and (e) averaged
 164 ocean temperature between 5–100 m of neutral years. The filled black circles denote
 165 significant correlation at a confidence level of 95%.

166



167

168 **Supplementary Figure 21. Monthly auto-correlation of atmospheric and oceanic**

169 **variables** Auto-correlation of indices of (a) vertical wind shear, (b) relative humidity,

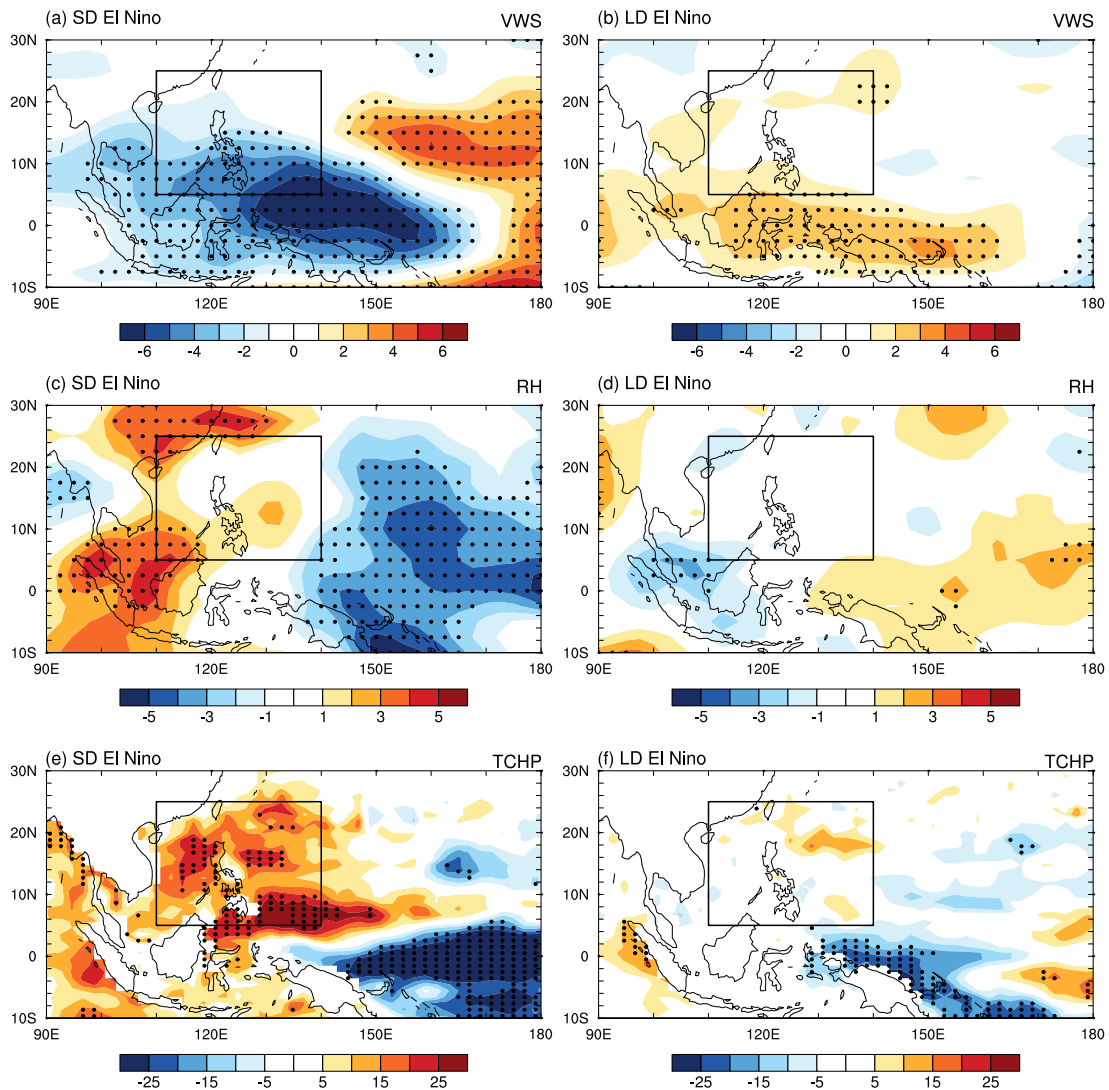
170 (c) tropical cyclone heat potential, (d) sea surface temperature and (e) averaged

171 ocean temperature between 5–100 m of short duration El Niño years. (f–j) and (k–o)

172 are same as (a–e), but for long duration El Niño and neutral years, respectively. The

173 filled black circles denote significant correlation at a confidence level of 95%.

174



175

176 **Supplementary Figure 22. Large-scale climate factors associated with the short**

177 **duration and long duration El Niño events** Composite anomalies of monthly (a)

178 vertical wind shear (units: m s^{-1}), (c) relative humidity (units: %), and (e) tropical

179 cyclone heat potential (units: 10^7 J m^{-2}) in July–November in the short duration El

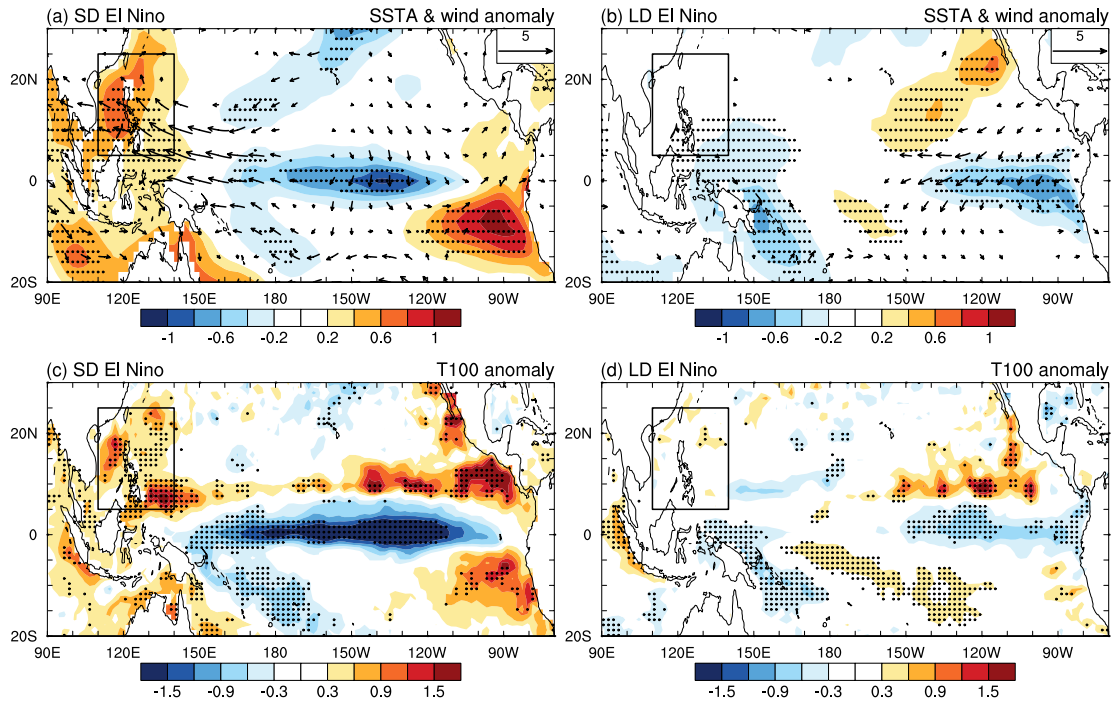
180 Niño decaying years, (b, d and f) as in (a, c, and e), but for long duration El Niño

181 events. Black boxes indicate the South China Sea and the western Philippine Sea

182 region. The stippled areas indicate the values are statistically significant at the 95%

183 confidence levels.

184



185

186 **Supplementary Figure 23. Low-level wind and upper ocean thermal conditions**

187 **during the short duration and long duration El Niño events Composite**

188 anomalies of (a) sea surface temperature (shading, units: K), and 850 hPa wind

189 (vectors, units: m s^{-1}), and (c) averaged ocean temperature between 5–100 m (units:

190 K) during the short duration El Niño events; (b, d) as in (a, c), but for the long

191 duration El Niño events. The stippled areas indicate the values are statistically

192 significant at the 95% confidence levels. Black boxes indicate the South China Sea

193 and the western Philippine Sea region. Wind anomalies less than 0.2 m s^{-1} are not

194 shown.

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	Occurrence Longitude (degree)	TC Genesis Longitude (degree)	Occurrence Time (hr)		Duration Time (hr)	Frequency	Peak Intensity (knot)
			West	East			
SD El Niño	-8.04** (0.001)	-5.56 (0.108)	-20.94** (0.005)	43.69** (0.023)	4.52* (0.078)	-0.58 (0.281)	7.11 (0.315)
LD El Niño	1.23 (0.635)	0.61 (0.794)	-2.81 (0.887)	-2.16 (0.838)	3.09 (0.117)	1.32 (0.584)	5.59 (0.27)
All El Niño	-2.30 (0.237)	-1.74 (0.39)	-11.37 (0.307)	12.17 (0.212)	3.64** (0.024)	-0.19 (0.903)	6.17 (0.148)

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Supplementary Table 1. Statistics of the rapid intensification related variables over western North Pacific Composite differences of the

202

rapid intensification (RI) related mean occurrence longitude, tropical cyclone (TC) genesis longitude, occurrence time, duration time, frequency

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and peak intensity for short duration, long duration and all El Niño events with respect to those of neutral years. The positive (negative)

204

Occurrence Longitude and RI TC Genesis Longitude anomalies indicate eastward (westward) migration of the TC RI occurrence position and

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RI TC genesis position, respectively. The positive (negative) Occurrence Time anomalies indicate the RIs occur later (earlier) than those in

206

neutral years. The positive Duration Time anomalies indicate the RI processes last longer than those in neutral years. The positive (negative)

207

Frequency anomalies indicate more (less) RI TCs occur than those in neutral years. The positive Peak Intensity anomalies indicate the peak

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intensity of RI TCs is stronger than those in neutral years. The values in the bracket are the *P*-values indicating the significance levels of the

209 composite difference. “West” and “East” in the RI occurrence time column indicate the values associated with the TCs formed over the west
210 and east of 140°E, respectively. ** and * represent the 95% and 90% confidence levels, respectively.

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	VWS	RH	TCHP	SST	T100
SD El Niño (N=20)	20 (1)	20 (1)	7 (3)	10 (2)	7 (3)
LD El Niño (N=25)	25 (1)	25 (1)	12 (2)	25 (1)	12 (2)
Neutral (N=220)	220 (1)	55 (4)	16 (14)	73 (3)	55 (4)

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215

216 **Supplementary Table 2. Effective degrees of freedom of atmospheric and oceanic variables** Effective degrees of freedom (EDF) of the
217 vertical wind shear (VWS), relative humidity (RH), TC heat potential (TCHP), sea surface temperature (SST), and ocean temperature averaged
218 between 5–100 m (T100) for short duration El Niño, long duration El Niño and neutral years. N is the sample size, and values in the brackets
219 indicate the decorrelation time scale.