



Supplement of

Role of the Indian Ocean basin mode in driving the interdecadal variations of summer precipitation over the East Asian monsoon boundary zone

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Glossary of acronyms

| 20CRv2c | Twentieth Century Reanalysis version 2c |
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| CESM1 | Community Earth System Model version 1 |
| CESM1_IOPES | CESM1 Indian Ocean Pacemaker Ensemble Simulation |
| CESM1_LENS | CESM1 Large Ensemble Numerical Simulation |
| CIRES | Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences |
| CRU | Climatic Research Unit |
| EAMBZ | East Asian monsoon boundary zone |
| EASM | East Asian summer monsoon |
| EOF | Empirical orthogonal function |
| ERSSTv5 | Extended Reconstructed sea surface temperature version 5 |
| IOBM | Indian Ocean basin mode |
| IPO | Interdecadal Pacific oscillation |
| JJA | June–July–August |
| NCAR | National Center for Atmospheric Research |
| NOAA | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration |
| RWS | Rossby wave source |
| SST | Sea surface temperature |
| SSTAs | SST anomalies |
| SWP | Subtropical western Pacific |
| SWPCGA | SWP clockwise gyre anomaly |
| TCC | Temporal correlation coefficient |
| TIO | Tropical Indian Ocean |
| TP | Tibetan Plateau |
| WVT | Water vapor transport |
| WVT_div | WVT-associated divergence |
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Figure S1. Annual cycle of the climatological-mean (1901–2014) EAMBZ precipitation (mm). The error bars
denote one standard deviation from the mean. The precipitation is derived from the CRU TS3.26 precipitation
data.



Figure S2. Time-evolving observed summertime SSTAs over the narrower TIO domain for defining *I*_{IOBM} (20 S–
20 N, 40 °-100 E; blue line) and SSTAs over the broader TIO domain in CESM1_IOPES (15 S-15 N, 40 °-174 E;
red line) from 1901-2014. The time series are detrended and 11-year low-pass filtered. The numeral at the bottom
represents the TCC between the corresponding time series. The base period for calculating SSTAs is 1901-2014.
The areal mean SSTAs are calculated based on the ERSSTv5.





Figure S3. Time-evolving simulated summertime SSTAs over the narrower TIO domain for defining *I*_{IOBM} (20 S–
20 N, 40 °–100 E; blue line) and SSTAs over the broader TIO domain in CESM1_IOPES (15 S–15 N, 40 °–174 E;
red line) from 1920–2005. The time series are detrended and 11-year low-pass filtered. The numeral at the bottom
represents the TCC between the corresponding time series. The areal mean SSTAs are calculated based on the
difference between the CESM1_IOPES ensemble mean and the CESM1_LENS ensemble mean (former minus
latter).





Figure S4. Composite differences of (a) observed and (b) simulated JJA-mean SST (°C) between warm and cold SST years over the broader TIO domain in CESM1_IOPES (15 S-15 N, 40 °-174 E; purple box). In panel (a), the warm and cold TIO SST years are selected based on the ±0.5 standard deviations of the observed time-evolving SSTAs during 1901-2014, as shown in Fig. S2 (red line). In panel (b), the warm and cold TIO SST years are selected based on the ±0.5 standard deviations of the simulated time-evolving SSTAs during 1920-2005, as shown in Fig. S3 (red line). The black frame (20 S-20 N, 40 °-100 E) outlines the domain for delineating the IOBM mode (the same hereinafter). All variables are detrended and 11-year low-pass filtered. Areas with significant values exceeding the 95% confidence level are dotted. The observed SSTAs are derived from the ERSSTv5; whilst the simulated SSTAs are calculated based on the difference between the CESM1_IOPES ensemble mean and the CESM1_LENS ensemble mean (former minus latter), highlighting the internally driven impacts of TIO SSTAs.

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Figure S5. Composite anomalies of JJA-mean (a) Z400 (shading; m) and UV400 (vectors; m s⁻¹), (b) Z850 (shading; m) and UV850 (vectors; m s⁻¹), (c) \langle WVT \rangle (vectors; kg m⁻¹ s⁻¹) and \langle WVT_div \rangle (shading; 10⁻⁵ kg m⁻²) s^{-1}), and (d) precipitation (mm month⁻¹) during the warm phase years of the IOBM. All variables are detrended and 11-year low-pass filtered. Areas with significant values of Z400, Z850, and <WVT_div> that exceed the 95% confidence level are stippled, respectively. Only vectors that are significant at the 95% confidence level are shown. The base period is 1901-2014. The warm phase years of the IOBM are selected based on the 0.5 standard deviations of the observed time-evolving SSTAs during the based period, as shown in Fig. 6b (blue line). The precipitation is derived from the CRU TS3.26 precipitation data; whilst other variables are from the 20CRv2c datasets.



163 Figure S6. Simulated composite differences of JJA-mean (a) 300- and (b) 850-hPa RWS (shading; 10⁻¹¹ s⁻²), velocity potential (contours; interval: 0.8; 10⁵ m² s⁻¹), and divergent horizontal wind (vectors; m s⁻¹) between cold 164 165 and warm SST years over the broader TIO domain in CESM1_IOPES (15 S-15 N, 40 °-174 °E; purple box in Fig. 166 S4). The warm and cold TIO SST years are selected based on the ±0.5 standard deviations of the simulated 167 time-evolving SSTAs during 1920-2005, as shown in Fig. S3 (red line). All variables are detrended and 11-year 168 low-pass filtered. Areas with significant values of RWS exceeding the 95% confidence level are stippled. Only 169 vectors that are significant at the 95% confidence level are shown. The simulated anomalies of RWS, velocity 170 potential, and divergent horizontal wind are calculated based on the difference between the CESM1_IOPES 171 ensemble mean and the CESM1_LENS ensemble mean (former minus latter), highlighting the internally driven 172 impacts of TIO SSTAs.