# **Responses to the Comments of the Anonymous Referee #1**

We very much appreciate the constructive comments and suggestions from this reviewer. Our point-by-point responses to the reviewer's comments are as follows (the reviewer's comments are marked in Italic font).

# Comments:

This study investigates the impact of biomass burning aerosols on convective systems in the Sumatra and Borneo regions of Southeast Asia using the WRF-Chem model. Considering the large uncertainty in the interactions between aerosols, particularly those from biomass burning, and convective clouds, this study advances our understanding of the complicated and competing physical processes that governs the net effect of biomass-burning aerosols. The manuscript is generally well written. I think it can be considered for publication after the author addresses the following comments and suggestions.

1. Abstract: The descriptions after Line 45 are much too general. The author mentioned several times that fire aerosols have "significant/substantial impacts" on convection. What exactly are these impacts? I believe the author should summarize their main findings here so that the abstract can be more informative.

We thank the reviewer's suggestion. We have modified the abstract as: "Results from selected cases of convective events have shown significant impacts of fire aerosols specifically on the weak convections by increasing the quantities of hydrometeors and rainfall in both Sumatra and Borneo regions. Statistical analysis over the fire season also suggests that fire aerosols have impacts on the nocturnal convections associated with the local anticyclonic circulation in the western Borneo and then weakened the nocturnal rainfall intensity by about 9%. Such an effect is likely come from the near surface heating by absorbing aerosols emitted from fires that could weaken land breezes and thus the convergence of anticyclonic circulation."

2. Line 173-175: How did you treat emissions from the flaming vs smoldering phases when calculating plume rise? A previous study (Shi et al., 2019, JGR-Atmospheres, DOI 10.1029/2019JD030472) has shown that the fraction of smoldering-phase emissions has a large impact on plume rise and fire-induced aerosol concentrations.

The current plume rise algorithm in WRF-Chem is based on the burning vegetation types not burning phases. In the reality, most peatland fires burn in smoldering-phase and most fire aerosols concentrate near surface. Shi et al. (2019) pointed out that not considering the characteristics of smoldering phase of burning in the model could lead to underestimated fire emissions and thus near surface fire aerosol concentration.

Our study has considered the first issue (the vegetation types) and we have made corresponding modification to WRF-Chem plume model. As mentioned in the manuscript, for peatland fire, we have set its heat flux as  $4.4 \text{ kW m}^{-2}$ , which is the same as that of savanna burning while differs significantly from that of the tropical forest burning in 30 kW m<sup>-2</sup>. Furthermore, we have limited the plume injection height of peat fire by a ceiling of 700 m above

the ground based on remote sensing retrieval from Tosca et al. (2011). The injection height for tropical peat fire in our modeling was thus derived based on this new algorithm. We agree with the reviewer that the phase of burning should be considered more carefully in future efforts in deriving fire emission inventory. We have added a sentence in Lines 187-190 of the manuscript as: "Note that the current fire emission inventories could underestimate near surface fire aerosol concentration by ignoring some of the characteristics of smoldering burning as well (Shi et al., 2019)."

3. Line 185-186: I think it's not accurate to use "fossil fuel emissions" here. "Anthropogenic emissions" may be a better term. Many anthropogenic emissions do not originate from fossil fuels, such as VOC emissions from solvent use, NH3 emissions from agricultural activities, and emissions from household biomass fuels.

We have modified the sentence to "Two numerical simulations, both included anthropogenic emissions (mainly fossil fuel emissions) while either with and without the biomass burning emissions (labeled as FFBB and FF, respectively) ..."

# 4. Line 191-193: This is an important point. You may want to show the data in SI.

We have added Fig. S1, the time series of domain-averaged monthly mean  $PM_{2.5}$  emissions from FINN and precipitation rate from TRMM dataset, in the supplement.

5. Section 3.1.2: Since fire emissions have a large day-to-day variability, I think the monthly mean AOD may not be suitable for evaluating the model performance. I suggest to use daily product (MOD08\_D3) instead. Also, the author argues that the higher simulated AOD than observations is because "a high spatiotemporal resolution in our simulation enables the model to capture episodic fire events better". I think comparing with daily AOD observations could help to confirm whether this argument is true or not.

We appreciate and actually agree on the reviewer's point that fire emissions have a large day-to-day variability. However, due to the frequent appearance of convective systems, MODIS AOD data are often derived based on limited non-cloudy pixels in this region. In this sense, we believe that the comparison of MODIS AOD in a longer period (here we select for monthly) might better serve the purpose. In our pervious study, we have performed more quantitative comparisons of fire pollutants between modeled results and ground-based observations. In Lee et al. (2018), the comparisons of daily  $PM_{10}$ , CO, O<sub>3</sub> and visibility have demonstrated that the model is capable to capture episodic fire events during a long-term simulation.

## 6. Line 303: but smaller number?

The process of cloud droplet collection by rain increases the mass of rain while causes no change to the number of raindrops. We have modified the sentence to "Larger raindrops combining with smaller cloud droplets in FFBB can enhance the efficiency of cloud droplet collection by rain and thus increase rain water mass but cause no change to the number of raindrops, possibly compensating the decrease of rain water mass resulted from a lowered autoconversion."

7. Line 307-308: Why do the mass concentration of snow and graupel increase significantly? Due to the aerosol invigoration effect? You need to explain.

We have added following sentences to explain the change of snow and graupel mass concentration in Lines 335-343 of the revised manuscript: "Our result is consistent with that of Lin et al. (2006), which suggested that biomass burning aerosols could invigorate convection and then increase precipitation based on satellite observations. The aerosol invigoration effect is referred to such a hypothetic process that increasing number of smaller cloud droplets due to higher aerosol concentration would reduce the efficiency of raindrop formation from self-collection among cloud droplets, and thus further slowdown the loss of these small droplets from being collected by larger raindrops and allow

more of them reach high altitudes, where they would eventually collected by ice particles

through riming, causing release of latent heat to enhance updraft."

8. Line 317-321, 351-353: Why do the aerosol impacts on stronger and weaker convective systems quite different? You should explain briefly here since the discussions in Sections 3.3 and 3.4 are far away. I think your finding that fire aerosols tend to invigorate weak convection but suppress deep convection is generally consistent with and could be better supported by previous observation-based studies (e.g., Jiang et al., 2018, Nature Communications, DOI 10.1038/s41467-018-06280-4; Zhao et al., 2018, GRL, DOI 10.1002/2018GL077261), which showed that smoke aerosols generally suppress deep convection and convection-generated ice clouds.

We thank the reviewer's suggestion. We have added the following sentences in Lines 396-409 of the revised manuscript:

"Our results show that fire aerosols tend to invigorate weak convection but suppress deep convection in both Sumatra region (r1) and Borneo region (r2). As mentioned before, increasing the number of smaller cloud droplets due to higher aerosol concentration resulted from fire would reduce the efficiency of raindrop formation through the warm-rain processes, thus allowing more cloud droplets reach high altitudes to be eventually collected by ice particles through riming, causing release of latent heat to invigorate updraft while enhancing precipitation through melting of fallen ice particles (Wang, 2005). These processes appear to be more effective to weak convections than deep convections and were in fact well-simulated in the former cases. The results are also consistent with some previous observation-based studies (Jiang et al., 2018; Zhao et al., 2018). Jiang et al. (2018) and Zhao et al. (2018) both concluded that an increase of fire aerosols generally reduces cloud optical thickness of deep convection while Zhao et al. (2018) further showed that fire aerosols tend to invigorate weak convection for small-to-moderate aerosol loadings."

9. Line 381-408: This part is difficult to follow and should be better organized. The author intends to investigate the dependency of the aerosol impact on convective strength (Line 381-382). This question is discussed for r1, but not clearly for r2. From the current text, I am not sure how the aerosol impacts differ for convective systems with different strength in r2. The same problem exists in the conclusion section. Also, why do you introduce daily maximum and

*minimum rainfall? A few transitional sentences are needed. Line 391-392: Better to mention clearly that this refers to r1.* 

We have made an effort to clarify the commented discussions in Lines 431-448 of the revised manuscript:

"In Sect. 3.2, we have discussed the significant rainfall increase occurred in the weak convective systems after adding fire aerosols due to aerosol invigoration effect. On one hand, regardless the strength of convection, the mean 3-hourly rainfall during the fire periods is 1.06±0.85 mm in FF and 1.09±0.86 mm in FFBB over the Sumatra region (r1), and statistically it does not change significantly in responding to fire aerosols. The rainfall difference in the Borneo region (r2) between FF and FFBB is also insignificant (1.32±1.20 mm 3hrs<sup>-1</sup> in FF versus 1.35±1.14 mm 3hrs<sup>-1</sup> in FFBB). On the other hand, we have found that the impacts of fire aerosols appear in several other rainfall patterns. For instance, the daily maximum and minimum rainfalls display clear differences between the FFBB and FF simulations, specifically in r2 rather than in r1 (Fig. 9). While for r1, the impacts of fire aerosol are reflected in event-wise statistics, e.g., higher event-wise maximum and minimum rainfall intensity in FFBB than in FF, identified in 30 out of 54 convective events in total. These are mostly weak convective events in r1. Interestingly, somewhat opposite to the rainfall statistics in r1, the intensity of event-wise maximum and minimum rainfall in r2 is higher in FF than in FFBB. The daily rainfall peak of 3-hr rainfall in r1 is mostly less than 3 mm; in comparison, one-third of convective events in r2 have daily maximum 3-hr rainfall exceeding 3 mm (Fig. 9c), suggesting that the convective systems in r2 tend to develop stronger than in r1 and the fire aerosols significantly suppress the maximum rainfall intensity of strong convections in r1. ..."

10. Figures 5, 6: Some texts in the figures are too small to be visible.

Texts in the figures have been modified in the revised manuscript.

Reference:

- Jiang, J.H. *et al.*, Contrasting effects on deep convective clouds by different types of aerosols, *Nature Communications* **9**(2018), p. 3874.
- Lee, H.-H. *et al.*, Impacts of air pollutants from fire and non-fire emissions on the regional air quality in Southeast Asia, *Atmos. Chem. Phys.* **18**(2018), pp. 6141-6156.
- Lin, J.C., Matsui, T., Pielke Sr., R.A., Kummerow, C., Effects of biomass-burning-derived aerosols on precipitation and clouds in the Amazon Basin: a satellite-based empirical study, *Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres* **111**(2006).
- Shi, H. et al., Modeling Study of the Air Quality Impact of Record-Breaking Southern California Wildfires in December 2017, Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres 124(2019), pp. 6554-6570.
- Wang, C., A modeling study of the response of tropical deep convection to the increase of cloud condensation nuclei concentration: 1. Dynamics and microphysics, *Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres* 110(2005), p. D21211.
- Zhao, B. *et al.*, Type-Dependent Responses of Ice Cloud Properties to Aerosols From Satellite Retrievals, *Geophysical Research Letters* **45**(2018), pp. 3297-3306.

# **Responses to the Comments of the Anonymous Referee #2**

We very much appreciate the constructive comments and suggestions from this reviewer. Our point-by-point responses to the reviewer's comments are as follows (the reviewer's comments are marked in Italic font).

# Comments:

This paper examines the impacts of biomass burning aerosols on convective systems over the northern Sumatra and the western Borneo in the Maritime Continent based on based on long-term WRF-Chem simulations. While the paper is well written and interesting, there are some concerns that need to be addressed before the paper being publishable.

# (1) The resolution of inner domain at 5 km is still too coarse for simulating convective clouds.

We agree with the reviewer that 5 km is still not an ideally fine resolution for simulating convective clouds, although commonly previous studies have shown that WRF model with a similar resolution can still reflect many critical characteristics of deep convection without using convection parameterization (e.g., Wagner et al., 2018). Specifically, because of the purpose of this study and the availability of computational resource, we have decided to use a 5 km resolution with cumulus scheme off. Based on our model evaluation, especially the comparison of sounding profiles, the model under the current configuration can capture the major characters of the convective systems very well.

In the revised manuscript, we have added following sentences in Section 2.1, Lines 162-170:

"Owing to the main purpose of this study to reveal fire aerosol-convection interaction through modeling a large quantity of convective systems continually over a relatively long period, and the computational resource available to us as well, we have adopted a 5 km horizontal resolution which excluding cumulus parameterization scheme. Previous studies have shown that WRF model with a similar resolution without convection parameterization can still capture many critical characteristics of deep convection (Wagner et al., 2018). Our model evaluation, especially through the comparison of modeled results with sounding profiles, has demonstrated the same."

(2) The section of selected cases analysis looks vague and needs more detailed analysis. The impacts of aerosol on precipitation are very complicated (different mechanisms on different clouds under different conditions). It is too bold to get the conclusion just based on three cases even with cloud types unknown. There are so many convective cases that could be categorized them and analyzed in detail.

We have made our best effort to clarify the related discussions in the revised manuscript (see also our response to the Reviewer #1). First of all, we have made it clear that our simulations and analyses cover all the different cases, though we have chosen to identify different aspects of the impacts of fire aerosols through a different sets of analyses, ranging from deriving case-wise statistics to performing seasonal analysis.

The analyses based on selected three cases from each of the two study regions are just one of these. To avoid the impression that our conclusions were drawn from only three cases, we have made several revisions in the manuscript, One of the revised discussions in Lines 429-448 are: "In Sect. 3.2, we have discussed the significant rainfall increase occurred in the weak convective systems after adding fire aerosols due to aerosol invigoration effect. On one hand, regardless the strength of convection, the mean 3-hourly rainfall during the fire periods is 1.06±0.85 mm in FF and 1.09±0.86 mm in FFBB over the Sumatra region (r1), and statistically it does not change significantly in responding to fire aerosols. The rainfall difference in the Borneo region (r2) between FF and FFBB is also insignificant  $(1.32\pm1.20 \text{ mm 3hrs}^{-1} \text{ in FF})$ versus  $1.35\pm1.14$  mm 3hrs<sup>-1</sup> in FFBB). On the other hand, we have found that the impacts of fire aerosols appear in several other rainfall patterns. For instance, the daily maximum and minimum rainfalls display clear differences between the FFBB and FF simulations, specifically in r2 rather than in r1 (Fig. 9). While for r1, the impacts of fire aerosol are reflected in event-wise statistics, e.g., higher event-wise maximum and minimum rainfall intensity in FFBB than in FF, identified in 30 out of 54 convective events in total. These are mostly weak convective events in r1. Interestingly, somewhat opposite to the rainfall statistics in r1, the intensity of event-wise maximum and minimum rainfall in r2 is higher in FF than in FFBB. The daily rainfall peak of 3hr rainfall in r1 is mostly less than 3 mm; in comparison, one-third of convective events in r2 have daily maximum 3-hr rainfall exceeding 3 mm (Fig. 9c), suggesting that the convective systems in r2 tend to develop stronger than in r1 and the fire aerosols significantly suppress the maximum rainfall intensity of strong convections in r1. ..."

We have specifically enhanced our discussion regarding mechanisms of fire aerosolconvection impacts. On example is the following added discussions in Line 333-341: "Our result is consistent with that of Lin et al. (2006), which suggested that biomass burning aerosols could invigorate convection and then increase precipitation based on satellite observations. The aerosol invigoration effect is referred to such a hypothetic process that increasing number of smaller cloud droplets due to higher aerosol concentration would reduce the efficiency of raindrop formation from self-collection among cloud droplets, and thus further slowdown the loss of these small droplets from being collected by larger raindrops and allow more of them reach high altitudes, where they would eventually collected by ice particles through riming, causing release of latent heat to enhance updraft."

Regarding defining a weak or strong convective system in the case study, 3 mm 3hr<sup>-1</sup> of the averaged rainfall could be used as a threshold. We have clarified this in the revised manuscript.

# (3) The heating effect of fire aerosols seems too weak to have significant influence on circulation.

The temperature increase from aerosol absorption is not necessarily too weak because our analysis did identify clear change of vertical velocity owing to the aerosol heating effect. This seems also consistent with the analysis of Zhang et al. (2019). Indeed, should the heat flux generated by fires be incorporated in the model, the warming effects from biomass burning would be much stronger and also persist in nocturnal timeframe.

We have added sentences in Lines 522-527 of the revised manuscript as: "Based on our analysis, the temperature increase is mainly associated with the thermodynamic perturbation from the absorption of sunlight by fire aerosols. This seems also consistent with the analysis of Zhang et al. (2019). Indeed, should the heat flux generated by fires be incorporated in the model,

the warming effects from biomass burning would be much stronger and also persist in nocturnal timeframe."

Here are also some specific comments: 1. Line 153: What is the time frequency of nudging?

The time frequency of nudging is every 6 hours. We have added this information in the revised manuscript.

2. Line 183: needless parenthesis

Modified.

3. Line 205: How and why were these convective systems selected? Why only three?

The selected cases in Section 3.2 are chosen randomly from different fire periods of the two study regions. We did not set any criteria initially when we chose these cases. All these points have been clarified in the revised manuscript (Lines 221-224):

"The selected cases are chosen randomly from the different fire periods of the two study regions. We did not set any criteria initially when we chose these cases. After we analyzed all cases, 3 mm 3hr<sup>-1</sup> was set as the threshold to distinguish weak and strong convections."

These cases were used to discuss modeled characteristics of individual cases and make comparison between cases from different regions without considering their weights in the overall case-wise statistics. We have actually made effort to avoid leaving any impression about whether they are representative in their corresponding case population. The ensemble characteristics of each case population are defined by their case-wise statistics.

4. *Line 233: Were the model results interpolated to the resolution of TRMM before doing the comparison?* 

The modeled rainfall in FFBB has been interpolated to the resolution of TRMM for the comparison in Figure 3. Figure 2a is also made by following this procedure. However, we have just realized that the original Fig. 2b was not made after modeled data being remapped into TRMM grids; therefore, we have reprocessed data and replotted Fig. 2b in the revised manuscript to be consistent with other figures. We appreciate the reviewer for pointing out this.

5. Line 260: Why only this example sounding is shown? You may compare with many other cases and even show a statistical comparison.

We choose this example sounding in the main text because we have cloud vertical structure from CALIPSO for the same case. We have now added the sounding comparison of other 5 cases in the supplement.

# 6. Line 275: Only one case captured by CALIPSO?

We have compared more than 50 modeled convections during the fire season and within the simulation domains. Specifically, for the six selected cases in case study, only one case was captured by CALIPSO. The others captured by CALIPSO are not among the cases in the case study (some are even out of our analyzed domains). This is the reason why we only discussed this case in our case study discussion. We have mentioned this point in Lines 302-304 of the revised manuscript.

# 7. Line 311-314: It is confusing. Aerosol impact on ice-phase microphysical processes is still considered in Morrison through the CCN effect. It is the IN effect of aerosol that is missed.

We thank the reviewer for indicating this. We have added "In our model configuration, fire aerosol can still affect ice process, however, through CCN effect rather than serving directly as ice nuclei." into Lines 344-346 in the revised manuscript.

# 8. Line 315-321: More background information of these cases are necessary. You just simply saying that one case has weaker convective systems than other two. This is too ambiguous.

The reviewer's comment is well taken. We have added the sounding profiles of all six cases in the supplement to present the environmental condition of each of these convections. We have also added a sentence of: "After we analyzed all cases, 3 mm 3hr<sup>-1</sup> was set as the threshold to distinguish weak and strong convections" into Lines 223-224 in the revised manuscript.

# 9. Line 454: The temperature increase seems too small. Is this significant? Maybe the difference is within the model simulating error range.

As we replied in the general comment (3), based on our analysis we believe this temperature increase is mainly associated with the thermodynamic perturbation from the absorption of sunlight by fire aerosols. It is also consistent with the analysis of Zhang et al. (2019). Again, should the heat flux generated by fires be incorporated in the model, the warming effects from biomass burning would be much stronger and also persist in nocturnal timeframe.

# 10. Line 455-457: No figure showing this conclusion. How much land breeze and surface convergence is weakened.

We have added Fig. 11 to demonstrate this conclusion in the revised manuscript.

# Reference:

- Lin, J.C., Matsui, T., Pielke Sr., R.A., Kummerow, C., Effects of biomass-burning-derived aerosols on precipitation and clouds in the Amazon Basin: a satellite-based empirical study, *Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres* **111**(2006).
- Wagner, A., Heinzeller, D., Wagner, S., Rummler, T., Kunstmann, H., Explicit Convection and Scale-Aware Cumulus Parameterizations: High-Resolution Simulations over Areas of Different Topography in Germany, *Monthly Weather Review* 146(2018), pp. 1925-1944.

Zhang, Y., Fan, J., Logan, T., Li, Z., Homeyer, C.R., Wildfire impact on environmental thermodynamics and severe convective storms, *Geophysical Research Letters* **0**(2019).

# **Responses to the Comments of the Anonymous Referee #3**

We very much appreciate the constructive comments and suggestions from this reviewer. Our point-by-point responses to the reviewer's comments are as follows (the reviewer's comments are marked in Italic font).

# Comments:

The authors attempt to investigate the fire aerosol-cloud-precipitation interactions by conducting modeling sensitivity studies. The performance of WRF-CHEM simulations were fully evaluated, and the responses of cloud microphysics and precipitation amount to fire aerosols were carefully quantified. However, I still have some minor issues about this work prior to its publication.

1. In the discussions in sections 3.1 and 3.2, it appears that the responses of cloud microphysics properties and precipitation to fire aerosols are sensitive to convection intensity of the systems selected for case studies, but the authors didn't show what are the criteria to determine the systems are convective weak. At least, some basic description about the selected convective systems should be provided so that the readership could have some sense about the convection strength of each system.

We thank the reviewer for pointing out this. The selected cases are chosen randomly from the difference fire periods of the two study regions. We did not set any criteria initially when we chose these cases. After we analyzed all cases, 3 mm 3hr<sup>-1</sup> was set as the threshold to distinguish weak and strong convections. We have clarified this in Lines 223-224 of the revised manuscript.

2. Related to point 1, is that possible to do statistical analysis of fire periods for weak and strong convective systems separately? Since the weak systems are more sensitive to fire aerosols, I would expect that there might be more significant differences in cloud properties or precipitation between fire aerosol case and non-fire aerosol case when looking at those weak systems.

The reviewer's suggestion is well taken. We have thus analyzed the weak against strong convections. Practically, however, it is difficult to directly use the same statistics in the case study to all the convections in different types, not mentioning the relativeness of the criterion for separating them when put all the cases together. Instead, we have performed statistics based on domain averages. Here again, the threshold of 3 mm 3hr<sup>-1</sup> for several selected cases is hard to apply to the domain wise statistical analysis, this is because that the domain-averaged rainfall in the statistical analysis is generally weaker than the averaged rainfall in the case study.

Therefore, we choose to use 1.25 mm 3hr<sup>-1</sup> of the domain-averaged rainfall to separate weak from strong convective systems. We find that the conclusions regarding differences of hydrometers and rainfall in the weak systems between the FF and FFBB experiments stay the same, and such differences are still not significant. We have added one paragraph in Sect. 3.3 for the statistical analysis for weak and strong convective systems during fire periods. In addition, Table S1 has been added to show average daily-rainfall of FFBB and FF for strong and weak convections during fire periods over the Sumatra region (r1) and Borneo region (r2), and Fig. S8 to indicate the mean hydrometeor differences in percentage between FFBB and FF.

3. Are the fire periods shown in Table 2 the time periods during which the fire aerosols are continuously emitted into atmosphere? I just want to make sure that the cloud systems selected for statistics of fire season are those which were indeed influenced by fire aerosols. That means the selected cloud systems for analysis concurrently occurred with fire events.

In our FFBB simulation, the fire aerosols were continuously emitted into the atmosphere. We present the time series of fire counts in the two study regions in Fig. S2.

# 4. Please add uncertainties of precipitation for each case in Figure 9.

We assume the figure referred by the reviewer was Fig. 10. The uncertainties have been added in Fig. 10 in the revised version of manuscript.

5. In section 3.4, the impacts of fire aerosols on local circulations like land/sea breeze are not evident. Some figures like the mean wind fields for fire aerosol and non-fire aerosol cases to show their difference would be helpful.

We thank the reviewer's comment. We have added a new figure (Fig. 11) in the revised manuscript to illustrate the sea breeze increase in FFBB during the daytime (20 LTC) and the land breeze decrease in FFBB during the night daytime (2 LTC).

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2	The Impacts of Biomass Burning Activities on Convective Systems in
3	the Maritime Continent
4	
5	Hsiang-He Lee <sup>1*@</sup> and Chien Wang <sup>1,2**</sup>
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7 8	<sup>1</sup> Center for Environmental Sensing and Modeling, Singapore-MIT Alliance for Research and Technology, Singapore
9 10	<sup>2</sup> Center for Global Change Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA, U.S.A.
11	*Now at Atmospheric, Earth, and Energy Division, Lawrence Livermore National
12	Laboratory, Livermore, CA, U.S.A.
13	**Now at Laboratoire d'Aerologie/CNRS/University of Toulouse, Toulouse, France
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31 32	<sup>@</sup> Corresponding author address: Dr. Hsiang-He Lee, 7000 East Avenue, Livermore, CA, 94550, U.S.A.
33	E-mail: lee <u>1061@llnl.gov</u>

#### 35 Abstract

36 Convective precipitation associated with Sumatra squall lines and diurnal rainfall over Borneo is an important weather feature of the Maritime Continent in Southeast Asia. 37 38 Over the past few decades, biomass burning activities have been widespread during 39 summertime over this region, producing massive fire aerosols. These additional aerosols 40 brought to the atmosphere, besides influencing local radiation budget through directly scattering and absorbing sunlight, can also act as cloud condensation nuclei or ice nuclei 41 to alter convective clouds and precipitation in the Maritime Continent via the so-called 42 aerosol indirect effects. Based on four-month simulations with or without biomass 43 burning aerosols conducted using the Weather Research and Forecasting model with 44 45 chemistry package (WRF-Chem), we have investigated the aerosol-cloud interactions associated with the biomass burning aerosols in the Maritime Continent. Results from 46 47 selected cases of convective events have shown significant impacts of fire aerosols 48 specifically on the weak convections by increasing the quantities of hydrometeors and 49 rainfall in both Sumatra and Borneo regions. Statistical analysis over the fire season also 50 suggests that fire aerosols have impacts on the nocturnal convections associated with the 51 local anticyclonic circulation in the western Borneo, and then weakened the nocturnal 52 rainfall intensity by about 9%. Such an effect is likely come from the near surface 53 heating by absorbing aerosols emitted from fires that could weaken land breezes and thus 54 the convergence of anticyclonic circulation, 55

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## 68 1 Introduction

69 Biomass burning in Southeast Asia has become a serious environmental and societal 70 issue in the past decade due to its impact on local economy, air quality, and public health 71 (Miettinen et al., 2011; Kunii et al., 2002; Frankenberg et al., 2005; Crippa et al., 2016; 72 Lee et al., 2018). Abundant aerosols emitted from such fires not only cause 73 environmental issues but also affect regional weather and climate through the direct and 74 indirect effects of biomass burning aerosols (Grandey et al., 2016; Hodzic and Duvel, 75 2017; Jeong and Wang, 2010; Ramanathan and Carmichael, 2008; Taylor, 2010; Tosca et 76 al., 2013). Carbonaceous compounds such as black carbon (BC) in biomass burning 77 aerosols can reduce sunlight through both absorption and scattering to warm the atmosphere while cool the Earth's surface (Fujii et al., 2014; Andreae and Gelencsér, 78 2006; Satheesh and Ramanathan, 2000; Ramanathan et al., 2001). Besides these direct 79 80 effects, biomass burning aerosols can act as cloud condensation nuclei or ice nuclei to alter cloud microphysical structures and thus cloud radiation. Such "indirect effects" of 81 82 these aerosols on the climate are even more complicated due to various cloud and 83 meteorological conditions (Sekiguchi et al., 2003; Lin et al., 2013; Wu et al., 2013; Grandey et al., 2016; Ramanathan et al., 2001; Wang, 2004). 84

For the Maritime Continent in Southeast Asia, convective precipitation associated with the so-called Sumatra squall lines (SSL) and diurnal rainfall over Borneo is an important weather feature (Lo and Orton, 2016; Ichikawa and Yasunari, 2006; Koh and Teo, 2009; Yi and Lim, 2006; Wu et al., 2009). Convections of SSL are initially formed in the northwestern side of Sumatra by the prevailing sea breezes from Indian Ocean and the Sumatran mountain range, then propagate over the Malacca Strait affecting the Malay

91 Peninsula. Lo and Orton (2016) analyzed 22-year (1988 to 2009) ground-based Doppler 92 radar data and identified a total of 1337 squall lines in Singapore. They found that these 93 events with the diurnal cycle of rainfall most occur during either the summer monsoon 94 season (June-September) or the inter-monsoon periods (April-May and October-95 November). Singapore, for example, experiences typically about 6~7 squall lines per 96 month during these periods. Oki and Musiake (1994) analyzed the seasonal and diurnal 97 cycles of precipitation using rain gauge data and showed that large-scale low-level winds 98 are a critical modulating factor in the diurnal cycle the convective rainfall over Borneo 99 besides the general reason of land-sea contrast behind convective rainfall in the Maritime 100 Continent. Furthermore, Ichikawa and Yasunari (2006) used five years Tropical Rainfall 101 Measuring Mission (TRMM) precipitation radar (PR) data to investigate the role of the 102 low-level prevailing wind in modulating the diurnal cycle of rainfall over Borneo. They 103 found that the diurnal cycle is associated with intraseasonal variability in the large-scale 104 circulation pattern, with regimes associated with either low-level easterlies or westerlies 105 over the island.

106 Interestingly, frequent biomass burning activities coincide with vigorous convective 107 systems in the Maritime Continent, especially during the summer monsoon season (June-108 September), and could thus produce aerosols to affect convections in the region. 109 Rosenfeld (1999) analyzed TRMM data and hypothesized that abundant biomass burning 110 aerosols could practically shut off warm rain processes in tropical convective clouds. 111 Compared to the adjacent tropical clouds in the cleaner air, clouds encountered with 112 smokes could grow to higher altitudes with rain suppressed, hypothetically due to the 113 reduction of coalescence efficiency of smaller cloud drops into raindrops. Recently,

114 using Weather Research and Forecasting model with Chemistry (WRF-Chem), Ge et al. 115 (2014) have studied the direct and semi-direct radiative effects of biomass burning 116 aerosols over the Maritime Continent and found the radiative effect of biomass burning 117 aerosols could alter planetary boundary layer (PBL) height, local winds (including sea 118 breeze), and cloud cover. However, relative coarse resolution (27 km) adopted in their 119 simulation would not be able to reveal more details about how biomass burning aerosols 120 affect convective clouds through modifying cloud microphysics processes. Whereas, 121 Hodzic and Duvel (2017) have conducted a 40-day simulation using WRF-Chem with a 122 convection-permitting scale (4 km) to study the fire aerosol-convection interaction during 123 boreal summer in 2009 near the central Borneo mountainous region. Their result 124 suggests that modifications of the cloud microphysics by biomass burning aerosols could 125 reduce shallow precipitation in the afternoon and lead to a warm PBL anomaly at sunset, 126 all lead to an enforcement of deep convection at night. However, they have also 127 indicated that the radiative processes of moderately absorbing aerosols tend to reduce 128 deep convection over most regions due to local surface cooling and atmosphere warming 129 that increase the static stability, hence suggesting the complexity of the interaction of 130 biomass burning aerosols and convective clouds in the Maritime Continent.

In this study, we aim to examine and quantify the impacts of biomass burning aerosols on convective systems over two targeted regions for analyses: the northern Sumatra and the western Borneo in the Maritime Continent. Our focus is on not only the change of hydrometeors in the convective clouds but also the change of rainfall amount and intensity in these regions. We firstly describe methodologies adopted in the study, followed by the results and findings from our numerical simulations over the Maritime 137 Continent. We have selected three cases in each study region to perform detail analyses.
138 In addition, statistical analyses covering the entire modeled fire season for each of these
139 two regions have also been performed to provide more generalized pictures about the
140 effects of fire aerosol on convection. The last section summarizes and concludes our
141 work.

#### 142 **2 Methodology**

#### 143 **2.1 Model and emission inventories**

144 In order to simulate trace gases and particulates interactively with the meteorological 145 fields, the Weather Research and Forecasting model coupled with a chemistry module 146 (WRF-Chem, see Grell et al. (2005)) version 3.6.1 is used in this study. Within WRF-147 Chem, the Regional Acid Deposition Model, version 2 (RADM2) photochemical 148 mechanism (Stockwell et al., 1997) coupled with the Modal Aerosol Dynamics Model for 149 Europe (MADE) as well as the Secondary Organic Aerosol Model (SORGAM) 150 (Ackermann et al., 1998; Schell et al., 2001) are included to simulate atmospheric 151 chemistry and anthropogenic aerosol evolutions. MADE/SORGAM uses a modal 152 approach to represent the aerosol size distribution and predicts mass and number 153 concentrations of three aerosol modes (Aiken, accumulation, and coarse).

To resolve the convective system in the Maritime Continent in our simulations, two model domains with two-way nesting are designed. Here, Domain 1 ( $431 \times 141$  grid cells) has a resolution of 25 km, while Domain 2 ( $561 \times 591$  grid cells) has a resolution of 5 km (Fig. 1). Specifically, Domain 1 is positioned to include the tropical Indian Ocean on its west half in order to capture the path of Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO), and in the meantime to have a northern boundary constrained within 23°N in latitude to avoid potential numerical instability from the terrain of Tibetan Plateau. Domain 2 with a finer resolution is positioned to cover the mainland Southeast Asia as well as the islands of Sumatra and Borneo.

163 The National Center for Environment Prediction FiNaL (NCEP-FNL) reanalysis data (National Centers for Environmental Prediction, 2000) are used to provide initial and 164 165 boundary meteorological conditions, and to perform four-dimensional data assimilation 166 (FDDA) to nudge model temperature, water vapor, and zonal and meridional wind speeds above the planetary boundary layer (PBL) for Domain 1. The time frequency of nudging 167 168 is every 6 hrs. The Mellor-Yamada-Nakanishi-Niino level 2.5 (MYNN) (Nakanishi and 169 Niino, 2009) is chosen as the scheme for planetary boundary layer in this study. Other 170 physics schemes adopted in the simulations include Morrison two-moment microphysics 171 scheme (Morrison et al., 2009), RRTMG longwave and shortwave radiation schemes 172 (Mlawer et al., 1997; Iacono et al., 2008), Unified Noah land-surface scheme (Tewari et 173 al., 2004), and Grell-Freitas ensemble cumulus scheme (Grell and Freitas, 2014) (for 174 Domain 1 only). Owing to the main purpose of this study to reveal fire aerosol-.75 convection interaction through modeling a large quantity of convective systems 76 continually over a relatively long period, and the computational resource available to us .77 as well, we have adopted a 5 km horizontal resolution which excluding cumulus 178 parameterization scheme. Previous studies have shown that WRF model with a similar 179 resolution without convection parameterization can still capture many critical characteristics of deep convection (Wagner et al., 2018). Our model evaluation, 180

81 especially through the comparison of modeled results with sounding profiles, has

182 <u>demonstrated the same.</u>

183 WRF-Chem needs emissions for gaseous and particulate precursors to drive its 184 simulations. For this purpose, we have used the Regional Emission inventory in ASia 185 (REAS) version 2.1 (Kurokawa et al., 2013). REAS includes emissions of most primary 186 air pollutants and greenhouse gases, covering each month from 2000 to 2008. In 187 addition, the Fire INventory from U.S. National Center for Atmospheric Research 188 (NCAR) version 1.5 (FINNv1.5) (Wiedinmyer et al., 2011) is also used in the study to 189 provide biomass burning emissions. FINNv1.5 classifies burnings of extratropical forest, 190 tropical forest (including peatland), savanna, and grassland. Fire heat fluxes for four 191 different types of fire are prescribed in WRF-Chem to calculate the plume height (rf. 192 Table 1 in Freitas et al. (2007). For peatland fire, we have set its heat flux as 4.4 kW m<sup>-</sup> 193  $^{2}$ , which is the same as that of savanna burning and differs from that of the tropical forest 194 burning in 30 kW m<sup>-2</sup>. The modified the plume rise algorithm in WRF-Chem to 195 specifically improve the representation of tropical peat fire has been described in Lee et 196 al. (2017). It is worth indicating that the heat flux from biomass burning is not 197 incorporated in thermodynamic equation of current WRF-Chem model. Note that the 98 current fire emission inventories could underestimate near surface fire aerosol 99 concentration by ignoring some of the characteristics of smoldering burning as well (Shi 200 et al., 2019). 201 The default chemical profiles of several species in the lateral boundary condition are

higher than their background concentrations in our study region and thus equivalent toprovide additional aerosol sources from boundaries. To prevent this, we have set NO,

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205 NO<sub>2</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, and all primary aerosol levels to zero at the lateral boundaries of Domain 1. 206 We have also adjusted the ozone profile used for lateral boundary condition based on the 207 World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Global Atmosphere Watch (GAW) station 208

#### 209 2.2 Numerical experiment design

in Bukit Kototabang, Indonesia (Lee et al., 2019).

210 Two numerical simulations, both included anthropogenic emissions (mainly fossil 211 fuel emissions) while either with and without the biomass burning emissions (labeled as 212 FFBB and FF, respectively), have been conducted to investigate the impacts of biomass 213 burning aerosols on convective systems in the Maritime Continent through both direct 214 and indirect effects. Our study focuses on the fire season from June to September of 2008. Therefore, the simulations start from 1 May of 2008 and last for five months. The 215 216 first month is used as a spin-up period. Among the years with available emission data, 217 both emission amount of biomass burning and total precipitation in 2008 approximate 218 their ensemble mean or represent an average condition (Fig. S1). Nevertheless, 219 interannual variation of biomass burning emissions alongside precipitation in the studies 220 regions do exist (Lee et al., 2017; Lee et al., 2018), and the influence of such variation on 221 the effects of fire aerosol on convection should be addressed in future studies.

#### 222 2.3 Analysis methods

223 The primary target of this study is the convective systems associated with Sumatra 224 squall lines and diurnal rainfall over Borneo. Thus, our analyses mainly focus on the 225 convections over two specific regions: the Sumatra region (r1 in Fig. 1) and the Borneo 226 region (r2 in Fig. 1). The area coverage of the Sumatra region (r1) is from 97° to 103° E Deleted: (Lee et al. (2019)

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230 in longitude and 0° to 6° N in latitude, while the area coverage of the Borneo region (r2)

231 is from 109° to 115° E in longitude and 1° S to 5° N in latitude.

232 To examine the impacts of fire aerosols on cloud formation and rainfall intensity as 233 well as amount, we have selected three convective systems each for the two focused 234 regions to perform an in-depth case study. We first trace the path of individual 235 convections and focus the analyses on the specific area of each of these convective 236 systems to identify the impacts of fire aerosols. Table 1 shows the selected cases in the 237 Sumatra region (r1) and the Borneo region (r2). The selected cases are chosen randomly 238 from different fire periods of the two study regions. We did not set any criteria initially 239 when we chose these cases. After we analyzed all cases, 3 mm 3hr<sup>-1</sup> was set as the 240 threshold to distinguish weak and strong convections.

The consequent analyses are then focused on the fire-season-wise statistics of convections for each study region. Table 2 and Fig. S2 show the fire periods in the two study regions. There are total of 54 convective systems simulated during the fire periods in the Sumatra region (r1) and 35 convective systems in the Borneo region (r2).

The statistical quantities used in this study follows Wang (2005) to estimate the mean value over a specific region (e.g., r1 or r2). The cloud area mean quantities are defined as a function of output time step (t) by the following equation:

248 
$$c^{area}(t) = \frac{1}{N(t)} \sum_{\substack{n > nmin}} c(x, y, z, t).$$
(1)

Here c is a given quantity (e.g., cloud water mass). Eq. (1) only applies to the grid points where both the mass concentration q and number concentration n of a hydrometeor exceed their given minima. The total number of these grid points at a given output time step t is represented by N(t). The cloud area mean quantities are used to present the Deleted: shows

average quantities of a given variable at a given output time step. Note that the cloud area mean quantities only apply to hydrometeors. For rainfall, the analyzed quantities are spatial averages over a specific area of the convective system for case study or over the entire study region for longer-term statistic estimate.

258 3 Results

#### 259 3.1 Model evaluation

#### 260 **3.1.1 Precipitation**

261 The satellite-retrieved precipitation of the Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission 262 (TRMM) 3B42 3hrly (V7) dataset (Huffman et al., 2007) is used in this study to evaluate 263 simulated rainfall. Figure 2a and 2b show the Hovmöller plots of daily TRMM and 264 FFBB precipitation from 1 June 2008 to 30 September 2008, respectively. Compared to 265 the satellite-retrieved data, the model has captured all the major rainfall events in the two 266 analysis regions (Fig. 3). In addition, because of its higher spatial resolution than 267 TRMM, the model produces more light rain events. Nevertheless, as indicated in our 268 previous study (Lee et al., 2017), a wet bias of the model is evident and mainly comes 269 from water vapor nudging in data assimilation (FDDA). As a result, the daily average 270 rainfall in FFBB over the Sumatra region (r1) is 11.05±5.90 mm day-1 from 1 June 2008 271 to 30 September 2008, higher than that of 7.21±5.54 mm day-1 derived from TRMM 272 retrieval. The wet bias also exists in the modeling results in the Borneo region (r2), 273 where daily average rainfall there is 15.40±8.49 mm day-1 in FFBB and only 9.56±7.20 274 mm day<sup>-1</sup> in TRMM. For the simulated rainfall in FFBB, the temporal correlation with 275 TRMM is 0.44 in the Sumatra region (r1) and 0.64 in the Borneo region (r2).

### 276 **3.1.2 Aerosol optical depth (AOD)**

277 Because of limited ground-based observational data of aerosols, we use Aerosol 278 Optical Depth (AOD) from the level-3 Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer 279 (MODIS) gridded atmosphere monthly global joint product (MOD08 M3; 280 http://dx.doi.org/10.5067/MODIS/MOD08 M3.061) to evaluate modeled aerosol spatial 281 distribution and relative concentration. Figure 4a shows MODIS monthly AOD in 282 Southeast Asia in September 2008. High AOD occurs in the southern part of Sumatra 283 and the southwestern part of Borneo. Compared to the MODIS retrieval, the modeled 284 AOD in FFBB has similar spatial distribution but a higher value (Fig. 4b). It is because a 285 high spatiotemporal resolution in our simulation enables the model to capture episodic 286 fire events better. In contrast, FF simulation produces much lower AOD values than 287 those of MODIS and FFBB, thus suggesting biomass burning aerosols make a substantial 288 fraction in atmospheric AOD during burning seasons.

#### 289 3.1.3 Sounding profiles

290 We have used multiple weather sounding profiles measured in Bintulu Airport, 291 Malaysia (113.03° E, 3.20° N), provided by University of Wyoming 292 (http://weather.uwyo.edu/upperair/sounding.html). An example for detailed summary is 293 a case at 12 UTC on 22 September 2008 (Fig. 5a). This sounding provides information 294 of atmospheric state (e.g., vertical distributions of pressure, temperature, wind speed, 295 wind direction, and humidity) coinciding with one of our selected case study (r2c3) of 296 diurnal convective rainfall in Borneo. Compared to the observed sounding data, the 297 FFBB simulation has produced similar temperature and wind profiles and well captured

298	the low-level and high-level wind speeds and wind directions (Fig. 5a versus 5b). It also
299	well predicts several key indexes of convection: temperature and pressure of the Lifted
300	Condensation Level (LCL) simulated in FFBB are 296.2 K and 955 hPa, respectively,
301	which are close to the values of 296.2 K in temperature and 960.7 hPa in pressure derived
302	from the observed sounding data. The model predicts 3049 J of Convective Available
303	Potential Energy (CAPE), while 2031 J of CAPE is estimated in the observed sounding
304	data. Besides this 22 September 2008 case, the model has also captured major features of
305	observed profiles for all the other cases selected in our analyses, shown in Fig. S3~S7.

### 306 3.1.4 Cloud vertical structure

307 The Cloud-Aerosol Lidar and Infrared Pathfinder Satellite Observation (CALIPSO) 308 provides information of the vertical structure of clouds on its path around the globe 309 (https://www-calipso.larc.nasa.gov/products/lidar/browse\_images/production/), including \$10 that of one of our cases (r2c3) of diurnal convective rainfall in Borneo on 22 September, 311 2008 (Fig. 6a). For this case, CALIPSO shows the vertical structure of a convective 312 system over Borneo along with high PM2.5 concentration near the surface (yellowish 313 color near the surface), implying a potential impact of biomass burning aerosols on 314 convective clouds. It can be seen that the FFBB simulations well captures the vertical 315 structure of convective clouds as well as the near-surface aerosol layers, including their 316 vertical extension (Fig. 6c versus 6a). With the comparison of FF simulation, we are able \$17 to identify the biomass burning origin of these aerosols near the surface. It is worth to 318 indicate that we have compared more than 50 modeled convections during the fire season and within the simulation domains. However, the others captured by CALIPSO are 319

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822 either not among the selected cases or are mostly out of our analyzed domains, so we did

- 323 <u>not have further discussion here.</u>
- 324 3.2 Analyses of selected cases in two study regions

#### 325 3.2.1 The Sumatra region (r1)

326 The three selected cases in r1 or the Sumatra region (r1c1, r1c2 and r1c3) all 327 occurred in the afternoon (2 PM or 5 PM local time) and lasted less than 24 hours (Table 328 1). The sounding profile of three cases show quite similar to the environmental profiles \$29 (Fig. S3~S5). Most fire aerosols in this study region were initially emitted from the 330 central and south Sumatra then transported along with southwesterly winds to encounter convections in the northern Sumatra. Compared to the result of FF, PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration 331 332 in FFBB can be  $6 \sim 12$  times higher in the Sumatra region (r1) in these selected cases (Fig. 333 7).

334 Aerosols from biomass burning in FFBB add 2~3 times more cloud droplet number 335 concentration and 8~20% higher cloud water mass compared to the results in FF (Table 336 2). The mean radius of cloud droplets in FFBB is about  $6 \sim 7 \,\mu\text{m}$ , clearly smaller than that 337 Smaller cloud droplet in FFBB reduces the efficiency of in FF (10~11 μm). 338 autoconversion, and further decreases rain water mass and raindrop number 339 concentration. Hence, raindrop number concentration in FFBB is 40~50% lower than 340 that in FF among our selected cases in r1 (Table 3). However, besides autoconversion, 341 rain water mass is also affected by other microphysics processes. Larger raindrops 342 combining with smaller cloud droplets in FFBB can enhance the efficiency of cloud 343 droplet collection by rain and thus increase rain water mass but cause no change to the

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346 number of raindrops, possibly compensating the decrease of rain water mass resulted 347 from a lowered autoconversion. Overall, rain water mass decreases 15% in the case of 348 r1c2 and 10% in the case of r1c3, respectively. Compared to the cases of r1c2 and r1c3, 349 the case of r1c1 is a relatively weak convective system based on a threshold of  $\sim 3 \text{ mm}$ 350 <u>3hr<sup>-1</sup> of the averaged rainfall in FF (Table 4)</u>. After introducing fire aerosols, the mass 351 concentration of snow and graupel in this case increases 62% and 48%, respectively. 352 Melting snow and graupel in the lower atmosphere results in a significant increase of rain 353 water mass concentration by 49%. Thus, total hydrometeor mass is increased by 36% in 354 FFBB from that in FF. Our result is consistent with that of Lin et al. (2006), which 855 suggested that biomass burning aerosols could invigorate convection and then increase 356 precipitation based on satellite observations. The aerosol invigoration effect is referred to 357 such a hypothetic process that increasing number of smaller cloud droplets due to higher 358 aerosol concentration would reduce the efficiency of raindrop formation from self-859 collection among cloud droplets, and thus further slowdown the loss of these small 860 droplets from being collected by larger raindrops and allow more of them reach high 861 altitudes, where they would eventually collected by ice particles through riming, causing 362 release of latent heat to enhance updraft. Note that the "aerosol-aware" microphysics 363 scheme in WRF-Chem only applies to the warm cloud process (Morrison et al., 2005; 364 Morrison et al., 2009); therefore, ice nucleation is parameterized of ambiance temperature 365 only regardless of the aerosol concentration. In our model configuration, fire aerosol can 366 still affect ice process, however, through CCN effect rather than serving directly as ice 367 nuclei.

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In the FF simulations, the convective system in the case of r1c2 and r1c3 is stronger than the system in the case of r1c1, and the average rainfall of r1c2 and r1c3 is also higher than the rainfall of r1c1 (Table 4). Adding fire aerosols in FFBB does not substantially change the average rainfall in r1c2 and r1c3 (+3% and -8%, respectively; Table 4). However, in the relatively weak convective system of r1c1, adding fire aerosols significantly increases the mean rainfall amount by 106% (1.33±0.47 mm 3hr<sup>-1</sup> in FF versus 2.74±1.21 mm 3hr<sup>-1</sup> in FFBB).

#### **376 3.2.2 The Borneo region (r2)**

The three selected cases in r2 (r2c1, r2c2, and r2c3) also occurred during the summer monsoon season when active biomass burning events existed in the west Borneo. \_In these cases, fire aerosols were transported to the north and northeast by the southeasterly and southwesterly winds. Because of the proximity of fire emissions, the PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration in FFBB can be 24 times higher than that in FF in the Borneo region (r2) in these selected cases (Fig. 7).

383 The modeled results demonstrate the substantial impacts of fire aerosols on both 384 ambient aerosol concentration and cloud droplet number concentration. PM<sub>2.5</sub> 385 concentration in FFBB is drastically higher than that in FF with the highest increase 386 appears in the case of r2c1 at 4940%, more than doubled the values of r2c2 (2402%) and 387 r2c3 (2422%). The increase in cloud droplet number concentration in the case of r2c1 388 (703%) is also substantially higher than those in r2c2 (337%) and r2c3 (409%) (Table 2). 389 The mean radius of cloud droplets in FFBB is about 6~7 µm, which is significantly 390 smaller than that in FF (10~11 µm). The mean cloud droplet radii in FF and FFBB in r2

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392	are similar to the results in r1. On the other hand, the increase of cloud water mass due to
393	fire aerosols is not so dramatic in all these cases, only about $8\%$ ~27% higher than that in
394	the FF simulations (Table 3). As discussed above, rain number concentration in FFBB
395	over the Borneo region (r2) is lower than that in FF, similar to the cases in r1, likely due
396	to the low efficiency of autoconversion induced by the presence of a large quantity of
397	smaller cloud droplets. Rain water mass of FFBB in the r2c1 case is decreased by about
398	6% due to fire aerosols, which is similar to the results in the r1c2 and r1c3 cases over the
399	Sumatra region (Table 3). However, interestingly, rain water and snow mass are both
400	increased in FFBB by 64% and 69% in r2c2 and by 19% and 60% in r2c3, respectively
401	(Table 3). The cases of r2c2 and r2c3 are relatively weak convective systems, similar to
402	the case of r1c1. Again, it is based on based on a threshold of $\sim 3 \text{ mm } 3\text{hr}^{-1}$ of the
403	averaged rainfall in FF (Table 4). Our results show that fire aerosols have substantial
404	impacts on cold cloud processes in the weak convective systems. Overall, total
405	hydrometeor mass concentration in FFBB have increased 47% in r2c2 and 13% in r2c3.
406	The changes of rainfall amount due to fire aerosols in r2 are similar to the cases in r1.
407	For the strong convection case of r2c1, adding fire aerosols in the FFBB simulation
408	decreases the total rainfall amount by 18%. However, in the weak convection cases of
409	r2c2 and r2c3, adding fire aerosols would double the rainfall amount (Table 4).
410	Compared to the results in FF, rainfall intensity is persistently higher in FFBB during the
411	convection life cycle in those weak convection cases. Nighttime rainfall intensity in
412	FFBB, especially, is much higher than the rainfall intensity in FF. Therefore, as shown

413 by our results, fire aerosols appear to have more substantial impacts on the quantities of

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415 hydrometeors and rainfall of the weak convection cases in both Sumatra region (r1) and

416 Borneo region (r2).

Our results show that fire aerosols tend to invigorate weak convection but suppress 417 418 deep convection in both Sumatra region (r1) and Borneo region (r2). As mentioned 419 before, increasing the number of smaller cloud droplets due to higher aerosol 420 concentration resulted from fire would reduce the efficiency of raindrop formation 421 through the warm-rain processes, thus allowing more cloud droplets reach high altitudes 422 to be eventually collected by ice particles through riming, causing release of latent heat to 423 invigorate updraft while enhancing precipitation through melting of fallen ice particles 424 (Wang, 2005). These processes appear to be more effective to weak convections than 425 deep convections and were in fact well-simulated in the former cases. The results are 426 also consistent with some previous observation-based studies (Jiang et al., 2018; Zhao et 427 al., 2018). Jiang et al. (2018) and Zhao et al. (2018) both concluded that an increase of 428 fire aerosols generally reduces cloud optical thickness of deep convection while Zhao et 429 al. (2018) further showed that fire aerosols tend to invigorate weak convection for small-430 to-moderate aerosol loadings.

#### 431 **3.3** Fire-season statistics of convections in two study regions

432 Statistics covering the entire simulated fire season (~4 months) for each study region 433 have been derived to provide trend/tendency information regarding several aspects of the 434 impact of fire aerosols on convections. In our simulations,  $PM_{2.5}$  concentration in FF 435 during the fire periods, which can be regarded as the background value for FFBB 436 simulation before adding fire aerosols, is  $1.36\pm0.19 \ \mu g \ m^{-3}$  in r1 and  $0.56\pm0.09 \ \mu g \ m^{-3}$  in

37 r2. In comparison, PM <sub>2.5</sub> concentration in FFBB is $11.3/\pm10.41$ µg m <sup>-3</sup> in r1 and	437
38 10.07 $\pm$ 7.73 µg m <sup>-3</sup> in r2. Note that unlike in some other studies where the control	438
39 simulations use constant aerosol concentrations, fire aerosol concentrations in our	439
40 simulations can vary in responses to changes in fire emissions, or aerosol removal by rain	440
41 scavenging due to precipitation change caused by fire aerosols themselves. Hence, the	441
42 processes included in our simulations are closer to reality, and the results could better	442
43 reflect the nature of fire aerosol-convection interaction in the Maritime Continent.	443
44 Averaged through the entire modeled fire periods, cloud water mass (Qc), cloud	444
droplet number concentration (Qnc), and rain drop number concentration (Qnr) in FFBB	445
differ substantially from those in FF, demonstrating the influence of fire aerosols. Figure	446
8 shows that adding fire aerosols in FFBB would increase Qc by 14% and Qnc by 226%	447
in r1, and Qc by 18% and Qnc by 349% in r2. Another pronounced change in response to	448
49 adding fire aerosols is a decrease in Qnr by 44% in r1 and 47% in r2. Although an	449
50 increase in snow mass (Qs) and graupel mass (Qg) and a decrease in rain water mass (Qr)	450

452 In Sect. 3.2, we have discussed the significant rainfall increase occurred in the weak 453 convective systems after adding fire aerosols due to aerosol invigoration effect. On one 454 hand, regardless the strength of convection, the mean 3-hourly rainfall during the fire 455 periods is 1.06±0.85 mm in FF and 1.09±0.86 mm in FFBB over the Sumatra region (r1), 456 and statistically it does not change significantly in responding to fire aerosols. The rainfall difference in the Borneo region (r2) between FF and FFBB is also insignificant 457 458 (1.32±1.20 mm 3hrs<sup>-1</sup> in FF versus 1.35±1.14 mm 3hrs<sup>-1</sup> in FFBB). On the other hand, 459 we have found that the impacts of fire aerosols appear in several other rainfall patterns.

after adding fire aerosols, the uncertainty of these hydrometeor changes is large.

-1	<b>Deleted:</b> . Here we use the fire-season statistics
~(	Deleted: further this discussion. Regardless
(	Deleted: convective precipitation
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466	For instance, the daily maximum and minimum rainfalls display clear differences
467	between the FFBB and FF simulations, specifically in r2 rather than in r1 (Fig. 9). While
468	for r1, the impacts of fire aerosol are reflected in event-wise statistics, e.g., higher event-
469	wise maximum and minimum rainfall intensity in FFBB than in FF, identified in 30 out
470	of 54 convective events in total. These are mostly weak convective events in r1.
471	Interestingly, somewhat opposite to the rainfall statistics in r1, the intensity of event-wise
472	maximum and minimum rainfall in r2 is higher in FF than in FFBB. The daily rainfall
473	peak of 3-hr rainfall in r1 is mostly less than 3 mm; in comparison, one-third of
474	convective events in r2 have daily maximum 3-hr rainfall exceeding 3 mm (Fig. 9c),
475	suggesting that the convective systems in r2 tend to develop stronger than in r1 and the
476	fire aerosols significantly suppress the maximum rainfall intensity of strong convections
477	in r1. We roughly used 1.25 mm 3hr-1 of the domain-averaged rainfall to classify weak
478	and strong convective systems. We find that the conclusions regarding differences of
479	hydrometers and rainfall in the weak systems between the FF and FFBB experiments stay
480	the same, and such differences are still not that significant in both regions (Table S1 and
481	<u>Fig. S8).</u>
1	

We have categorized the maximum rainfall based on its values in the afternoon and midnight. We find that those heavy maximum rainfalls in r2 tend to occur in the midnight (Fig. 9c) associated with the anticyclonic circulation formed in the western Borneo induced by southeasterly winds from the Southern latitude turn northeastward along the west coast of Borneo, owing to the terrain of Borneo Island and the sea breezes from the South China Sea. The vortex produced by such a circulation leads to strong updraft and then strong convection. Note that this anticyclonic circulation is different

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from the Borneo vortex, the latter appears as a persistent feature of the boreal winter
climatology and is related to the northeasterly from the South China Sea and cold surge
events (Chang et al., 1983; Chang et al., 2005).

509 The low-level wind pattern of Borneo convections is similar to the westerly regime, 510 especially the weak westerly (WW) regime identified by Ichikawa and Yasunari (2006). 511 According to their analysis, the WW regime tends to occur in boreal summer. Its 512 composites include an anticyclonic feature with the weak wind field over the Borneo 513 Island. The deep convective storms developed in the WW regime tend to stay close to 514 the west coast associated with the lower-level convergence enhanced by the prevailing 515 wind and local circulations around there, resulting in localized rainfall over the offshore 516 region of the west coast. Based on our simulations, the onset of convection occurs in the 517 afternoon over the western mountain range of Borneo. These storms would consequently 518 evolve into widespread shallow storms in the evening over the western part of the island. 519 The maximum rainfall appears on the west coast because of a local westward propagating 520 rainfall system that develops around midnight or early morning.

The comparison of the maximum rainfall between FF and FFBB in Fig. 9 shows that fire aerosols tend to reduce the maximum rainfall, especially for high-intensity rainfall events. In other words, fire aerosols have substantial impacts on the nocturnal convections, which are associated with the local anticyclonic circulation in the western Borneo. This effect on nocturnal convections in the western Borneo by fire aerosols will be discussed further in the next section.

#### 527 3.4 The impact of biomass burning activities on nocturnal

## 528

## convections in the Borneo region

529 To further analyze the effects of fire aerosols on nocturnal convections, we have 530 categorized convective events into nocturnal convections (NC) and non-nocturnal 531 convections (non-NC), based on whether the maximum rainfall occurs from midnight to 532 early morning or in the time frame from late afternoon to evening. Figure 10 shows the 533 diurnal time series of precipitation averaged over the Borneo region (r2) in FF and FFBB. 534 Again, 3-hour-mean rainfalls of nocturnal convections are higher than those of non-535 nocturnal convections in both simulations, and fire aerosols weaken the maximum 536 nocturnal rainfall intensity about 9%.

537 Nocturnal convections tend to stay close to the west coast associated with a lower-538 level convergence enhanced by the prevailing wind and local circulations mainly related 539 to the land breezes from inland of the western Borneo. The strong convergence near the 540 surface over the offshore region of the west coast causes the weak westerly monsoon 541 windflaws and local land breezes to merge during the nighttime. However, during the 542 fire periods, the daytime absorption of fire aerosols (e.g., black carbon) can cause an 543 atmospheric warming (even without fire generated heating flux being incorporated in the 544 model). This could increase near surface air temperature, weaken land breezes and thus 545 surface convergence, (Fig. 11b). As a result, the nocturnal convections in FFBB cannot 546 develop as strong as those in FF. On the other hand, both nocturnal and non-nocturnal 547 convections are initiated over the western mountain range under a prevailing wind of the 548 sea breezes from the South China Sea. The increases of near surface temperature owing Deleted:

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to the fire aerosols can enhance this prevailing wind from the ocean (Fig. 11a) and thus lead to a higher convective rainfall in FFBB during the onset stage of the nocturnal convections as well as non-nocturnal convections.

554	Diurnal evolution of vertical profiles clearly indicates that mass mixing ratio of total		
555	hydrometeors, temperature, and vertical velocity differ in both daytime and nighttime		
556	between FF and FFBB for those nocturnal convections (Fig. <u>12</u> ). The differences of near		Deleted: 11
 557	surface temperature between FF and FFBB are more pronounced during the period after		
558	sunset (Fig. <u>12d</u> ). The differences of near surface temperature mainly happen over land,		Deleted: 11d
l 559	and the higher near surface temperature in FFBB weakens the land breezes and near		
560	surface convergence along the coast. Starting from late afternoon, (about 5 PM local		
561	time), vertical velocity increases with time until sunrise next day in both simulations (Fig.		
562	(12e) due to the convergence of the monsoon windflaws and local land breezes during the		Deleted: 11e
563	nighttime, and this matches very well with that of mass mixing ratio of total		
564	hydrometeors (Fig. <u>12a</u> and <u>12e</u> ). Noticeably, the main differences in vertical velocity		Deleted: 11a
 565	and hydrometeor mass mixing ratio between FFBB and FF also start to become evident		Deleted: 11e
566	after entering the evening. Because of the weaker convergence near the surface in FFBB,		
567	the differences in vertical velocity at the higher altitude between FFBB and FF peaks in		
568	the nighttime. The temperature increase from aerosol absorption seems small (please		<b>Deleted:</b> ¶
569	note that the direct heating from fire is not included in the WRF fire plume model) but we		was incorporated in the model, the warming effects from biomass burning would be even stronger and could persist in nocturnal timeframe as demonstrated in
570	do see the change of vertical velocity owing to the aerosol heating effect. Based on our		
571	analysis, the temperature increase is mainly associated with the thermodynamic	Å	Deleted: However, this would likely be more effective for
572	perturbation from the absorption of sunlight by fire aerosols. This seems also consistent		open fire regime. For most of peat fires, burning is largely proceeded underground. Based on our significantly reduced heat flux for the peat fires as discussed in Sect. 2.1. if the
573	with the analysis of Zhang et al. (2019). Indeed, should the heat flux generated by fires	/	heat flux was incorporated in the model, such fres would not increase surface temperature by $4.5$ °C as suggested for the tropical (open) fire cases in Zhang et al. (2019)

591 <u>be incorporated in the model, the warming effects from biomass burning would be much</u>

592 stronger and also persist in nocturnal timeframe.

593	As a summary, the schematics shown in Fig. $\frac{13}{13}$ illustrate the impact of biomass	Deleted: 12
 594	burning activities on nocturnal convections in the Borneo region. In the daytime, under	
595	the prevailing wind of sea breezes from the South China Sea, convections develop over	
596	the western mountain range. Because near surface heating from the absorption of	
597	sunlight by fire aerosols could enhance the prevailing wind from the ocean, convective	
598	rainfall becomes higher at the onset stage of the nocturnal convections (still in daytime)	
599	due to biomass burning activities (Fig. <u>13b</u> ). In the nighttime, convection moves to the	Deleted: 12b
600	offshore region of the western Borneo. The strong convergences near the surface merge	
601	the weak westerly monsoon windflaws with local nighttime land breezes to form an	
602	anticyclonic circulation (Fig. <u>13c</u> ). During the fire periods, the daytime near surface	Deleted: 12c
603	warming by fire aerosols could also further weaken land breezes and surface	
604	convergence. Hence, the nocturnal convections during fire events would not develop as	
605	strong as in days without fires (Fig. <u>13d versus 13c</u> ).	Deleted: 12d
1		Deleted: 12c
606	4 Summary	

By comparing WRF-Chem modeling results include or exclude biomass burning emissions (FFBB versus FF), we have identified certain detailed impacts of fire aerosols on convective events within two study regions in the Maritime Continent during a fourmonth period (June 2008 ~ September 2008). In total, 54 convective systems in the Sumatra region and 35 convective systems in the Borneo region have been simulated. Three convective events of each study region have been selected for in-depth 618 investigation. In addition, statistical analyses have been performed throughout the entire 619 simulation period for each region. We have focused our analyses on two rainfall 620 features: 1) convective precipitation associated with Sumatra squall lines, and 2) diurnal 621 rainfall over the western Borneo.

622 We find that fire aerosols lead to the increase of cloud water mass and cloud droplet 623 number concentration among all analyzed cases while a substantial reduction of rain drop 624 number concentration. Influences of fire aerosols on other hydrometeors vary from case 625 to case. Specifically, our results show that fire aerosols can significantly change the 626 quantities of hydrometeors, particularly those involved in cold cloud processes and 627 rainfall of weak convections in either the Sumatra region or the Borneo region. Rainfall 628 intensity is higher in FFBB during the entire convection life cycle in those weak 629 convection cases, and the nighttime rainfall intensity in FFBB is significantly higher than 630 that in FF.

531 Statistics performed throughout the entire modeled fire season shows that the fire 532 aerosols only cause a nearly negligible change (2-3%) to the total rainfall of convective 533 systems in both study regions. On the other hand, we notice that fire aerosols can still 534 alter daily maximum and minimum rainfall in some cases, for example, fire aerosols lead 535 to the increase of maximum and minimum rainfall intensity in 30 weak convective events 536 in the Sumatra region.

637 In the Borneo region, biomass burning activities mainly affect the rainfall intensity 638 of nocturnal convection. Because near surface heating from the absorption of fire 639 aerosols can enhance the prevailing wind from the ocean (sea breeze) during the daytime, 640 the convective rainfall over the western mountain range is higher during the onset stage 643 and surface convergence. Hence, the rainfall intensity of nocturnal convections under the 644 influence of fire aerosols would become weaker, by about 9%. 645 This study has demonstrated how biomass burning activities could affect convective 646 systems in the Maritime Continent by altering cloud microphysics and dynamics. We 647 find the biomass burning activities significantly change the diurnal rainfall intensity, 648 especially those low-level wind patterns associated with the weak westerly (WW) regime 649 as suggested by Ichikawa and Yasunari (2006). Our results show that neither a single 650 case study nor a simple statistical summary applied to overall model simulation period 651 without in-depth analyses could reveal the impact of biomass burning aerosols on 652 convections under different windflaw regimes.

of the nocturnal convections. In the nighttime, the consequence of the above

thermodynamic perturbation by absorbing fire aerosols can further weaken land breeze

#### 653 Data availability

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654 FINNv1.5 emission data publicly available from are 655 http://bai.acom.uar.edu/Data/fire/. REAS emission data can be downloaded from 656 https://www.nies.go.jp/REAS/. TRMM data can be obtained from 657 https://pmm.nasa.gov/data-access/downloads/trmm. AOD from MODIS can be 658 obtained from http://dx.doi.org/10.5067/MODIS/MOD08 M3.061. Sounding profiles 659 are publicly available on http://weather.uwyo.edu/upperair/sounding.html. WRF-Chem 660 simulated data are available upon request from Hsiang-He Lee (lee1061@llnl.gov).

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#### 662 Author contribution

H.-H. L. and C. W. designed the experiments and H.-H. L. carried them out. H.-H.
L. configured the simulations and analyzed the results. H.-H. L. and C. W. wrote the
manuscript.

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legion (12)	
Case name	Case period
r1c1	2008/08/10 0900 UTC ~ 2008/08/11 0300 UTC
r1c2	2008/08/19 0600 UTC ~ 2008/08/20 0000 UTC
r1c3	2008/09/23 0900 UTC ~ 2008/09/24 0000 UTC
r2c1	2008/08/05 0900 UTC ~ 2008/08/06 0300 UTC
r2c2	2008/09/17 0600 UTC ~ 2008/09/17 2100 UTC
r2c3	2008/09/22 0300 UTC ~ 2008/09/23 0000 UTC

 1017
 Table 1. The case period of the selected cases in the Sumatra region (r1) and the Borneo

 1018
 region (r2)

Table 2. The fire periods in the two study regions

The Sumatra region (r1)	The Borneo region (r2)
$6/10/2008 \sim 6/20/2008$	6/21/2008 ~ 6/27/2008
$6/25/2008 \sim 6/28/2008$	8/1/2008 ~ 8/8/2008
$7/4/2008 \sim 7/7/2008$	9/10/2008 ~ 9/30/2008
$7/27/2008 \sim 8/20/2008$	
9/17/2008 ~ 9/27/2008	

1025	Table 3. The mean differences in percentage of FFBB to FF (i.e. (FFBB-FF)/FF $\times$ 100%)
1026	for each selected case over the main convection area in the Sumatra region (r1) and the
1027	Borneo region (r2). Qc, Qi, Qr, Qs and Qg represents cloud, ice, rain, snow, and graupel
1028	mass concentration respectively. Qnc, Qni, Qnr, Qns and Qng means number
1029	concentration for each hydrometeor.

Case	Qc	Qi	Qr	Qs	Qg	Qnc	Qni	Qnr	Qns	Qng
r1c1	8%	27%	49%	62%	48%	248%	55%	-41%	33%	39%
r1c2	20%	-6%	-15%	-25%	1%	349%	-1%	-45%	-11%	-6%
r1c3	18%	10%	-10%	3%	5%	311%	4%	-50%	11%	-6%
r2c1	27%	1%	-6%	-5%	-4%	703%	3%	-59%	4%	-5%
r2c2	22%	10%	64%	69%	58%	337%	24%	-32%	17%	57%
r3c3	8%	10%	19%	60%	-2%	409%	-5%	-66%	8%	-12%

1031	Table 4.	The averaged	precipitation	(mm 3hrs <sup>-1</sup>	) of FFBB	and FF	for each	selected	case
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over the main convection area in the Sumatra region (r1) and the Borneo region (r2). Parentheses in the third column show the difference in percentage of FFBB to FF (i.e. (FFBB-FF)/FF  $\times$  100%). 

Case	FF	FFBB
r1c1	1.33±0.47	2.74±1.21 (+106%)
r1c2	2.97±1.42	3.05±1.49 (+3%)
r1c3	4.32±1.84	3.98±2.18 (-8%)
r2c1	3.73±2.64	3.07±1.21 (-18%)
r2c2	$1.88{\pm}0.53$	3.97±1.47 (+111%)
r3c3	$0.54{\pm}0.53$	1.10±1.02 (+103%)



1039 Figure 1. Domain configuration for WRF-Chem simulations. Domain 1 (d01) has a resolution of 25 km, while Domain 2 (d02) has a resolution of 5 km. Two red boxes 1040 1041 1042

- indicate the two study regions: the Sumatra region (r1) and the Borneo region (r2).











1053 1054 1055 1056 1057 Figure 3. Time series of area-averaged daily rainfall (mm day-1) from Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission (TRMM) and FFBB over (a) the Sumatra region (r1) and (b) the Borneo region (r2).



Figure 4. Monthly aerosol optical depth (AOD) in September 2008 from (a) Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS), (b) FFBB, and (c) FF.

- 1059 1060 1061





location and time as (a).





1075 Figure 6 (a) The vertical structure of cloud retrieved from the Cloud-Aerosol Lidar and Infrared Pathfinder Satellite Observation 1076 (CALIPSO) on September 22, 2008. (b)-(c) The sum of simulated hydrometeor mixing ratio (shaded; kg kg<sup>-1</sup>) and PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration 1077 (contour;  $\mu$ g m<sup>-3</sup>) in FFBB and FF, respectively. The profile domain of (b) and (c) is corresponding to the red rectangle in (a).



Figure 7. The mean  $PM_{2.5}$  concentration (µg m<sup>-3</sup>) in FF and FFBB for selected cases in the Sumatra region (r1) and the Borneo region (r2).





1086Figure 8. The mean differences in percentage of FFBB to FF (i.e. (FFBB-FF)/FF  $\times$  100%)1087over all convective cases during the fire periods in the Sumatra region (r1) and the Borneo1088region (r2). Qc, Qi, Qr, Qs and Qg represents cloud, ice, rain, snow, and graupel mass1089concentration, respectively. Qnc, Qni, Qnr, Qns and Qng means number concentration for1090each hydrometeor. The error bars represent one standard deviation.







1102 1103 1104 1105 1106 Figure 10. The diurnal time series of *rainfall* averaged over the Borneo region (r2) for

nocturnal convections (NC) and non- nocturnal convections (non-NC) during fire periods in FF and FFBB. The error bars denote the standard deviation of the rainfall.

Deleted: precipitation





Figure 11. The mean wind field differences of FFBB and FF (FFBB-FF) at (a) 20 LTC for non-nocturnal cases and (b) 02 LTC for nocturnal cases in the Borneo region (r2). The green 1112 1113 circle indicates the location of convections occurred. The green arrows mean the mean flow 1114 1115 1116 of sea breeze in (a) and land breeze in (b). The magnitude of wind barbs is 10 times higher

than the real value.







1126 between FF and FFBB (FFBB-FF) for each parameter.



- 1130 1131 1132 Figure <u>13</u>. Schematics of diurnal rainfall/convection activity over the western Borneo. (a) Deleted: 12
- and (b) illustrate the formation of convection during the daytime without and with fire event,
- 1133 respectively. (c) and (d) are the same as (a) and (b) but in the nighttime.