Since mid-May, both oceanic & atmospheric conditions in the tropical Pacific met thresholds required for moderate strength El Niño, including a warmed sea-surface temperature, significant weakening of trade winds and establishment of above-average cloudiness and rainfall in east-central tropical Pacific. The coupling of the anomalous oceanic and atmospheric patterns helps ensure continuation and likely further strengthening of El Niño over the coming months.

A new set of model runs indicates probability for El Niño greater than 95% from the July–September season in progress through the northern winter season, and at least 85% into spring 2016 (lower chart on right). These probabilities are slightly greater than those of the official ENSO forecast issued July 9, which used both models and human judgement.

A majority of models suggests at least continuation, if not further strengthening, of El Niño during summer and autumn, likely to become a strong event. Some uncertainty remains for forecasts of the El Niño’s peak strength.

Tony’s Take*.  
IRI Chief Climate Forecaster Anthony Barnston gives a video rundown of the climate briefing in under two minutes. Feel free to embed!

Link: https://vimeo.com/133610715

*Video usually posted by 5 pm on the day of the briefing.