



## Abstract Details

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**Title:** High-Order Equatorial Kelvin Waves in Air-Ocean Coupled System (For Land-Ocean-Atmosphere Interaction)

**Abstract:**

On the base of nonlinear equatorial wave dynamics, a two-stage air-ocean interaction mechanism is proposed to explain the central equatorial Pacific warming and its effect on the onset of El Nino and Southern Oscillation (ENSO) event. The first-stage westerly wind bursts occur in boreal winter over the western equatorial Pacific and generate the 'first-stage' Kelvin waves, propagating in stratified ocean with vertically sheared mean current U (e.g., zonal jet such as the equatorial undercurrent). Wave-current interaction significantly modifies the structures and dispersion characteristics of the baroclinic Kelvin waves, depending on the speed and the spatial structure of the jet relative to those of waves. The first baroclinic mode has the phase speed (c) much larger than U (ranging between 0-1.5 m/s), and it is least modified structurally by the Doppler shift, and causes eastward propagation of weak warm SST anomaly. Conversely, the high (especially second) baroclinic modes have the phase speed comparable to the mean speed, and they are modified structurally or even ceased propagation by the Doppler shift. When the second baroclinic mode ceases its propagation in the central Pacific, positive SST anomaly appears that shifts the atmospheric convection zone from the western to central equatorial Pacific and in turn causes the second-stage westerly wind bursts over a broad area covering the western and central Pacific. The second-stage westerly wind bursts generate the 'second-stage' Kelvin waves with the first baroclinic mode carrying sufficient warm SST anomaly and causing the ENSO onset. This theory is verified using TOGA-TAO data and numerical model simulation.

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