**Reading guidelines for Lecture 01: The origin of monsoons**

1. Why it is important to understanding the monsoon climate and its variability?
2. What is the definition of monsoon and monsoon regions?
3. What are the implications regarding the close relationship between the astronomical annual cycle and seasonal rainfall activity in the monsoonal regions?
4. Ramage’s (1971) classical definition of monsoon climate
5. According to Ramage (1971), where are the monsoon regions around the world?
6. Why summer/winter monsoon is like a massive sea/land breeze?
7. What is the important role of Tibetan plateau in sustaining the Asian summer monsoon?
8. **What are the driving forces of monsoon winds?**
9. **Is the existence of land-sea contrast essential for the monsoon climate?**
10. Are the geographical orientation and topography important for the strength of monsoon?
11. How the low-level inflows maintain the cumulus convection in the monsoon low?
12. Why the Monsoon can be viewed as off-equatorial ITCZ (in Chao and Chen 2001)?
13. Is the existence of land-sea contrast essential for the ITCZ?
14. **Monsoons can be classified into two groups depending on whether land-sea contrast plays a major role.**
15. SST contrast is equivalent to the land-sea contrast.