

LANDSLIDES IN JAPAN

(The Sixth Revision)

Japan Landslide Society
National Conference of Landslide Control

2002

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Published by

Japan Landslide Society

National Conference of Landslide Control

April, 2002

PREFACE

Landslide investigation and mitigation measures in Japan have advanced since the Maseguchi landslide that occurred in Niigata Prefecture in 1947. Serious research in landslide and related phenomena began about 50 years ago. The "Landslide Prevention Law" designed to prevent and mitigate landslides, the first of its kind in the world, was enacted in 1958. This law is the foundation for the advancement in landslide control technology in Japan. Since that time, landslide investigation methods and various mitigation measures have been developed and continuously improved. It appears that the techniques for landslide mitigation, including investigation, analysis and design of mitigation measures, as well as the maintenance and administration of the completed works, have been nearly completed. Based on such advancements, it is now possible to stabilize slopes that had been actively moving and to prevent further movement of landslides caused by highway and dam construction and housing developments.

The Japan Landslide Society and the active involvement of its members have contributed to the advancement of landslide research and technical development of landslide mitigation measures. The society was established in 1963, and has grown continuously to its current membership of 2500. The Society offers the opportunity for publication, presentation and exchange of ideas to researchers and engineers studying landslides and related fields.

It is my great pleasure to present "Landslides in Japan, 6th Revision". This book reflects a milestone of the advancement and the development of landslide research and technical development in Japan. In this issue, the previously published five issues are included in a CD-ROM so the reader can appreciate our advancement in landslide research and development of mitigation technology in the past 30 years. Descriptions of numerous landslides which occurred during that period are also included.

In Japan, we are at a turning point in landslide research and development. In addition to the conventional landslide mitigation measures which focus on the stabilization of an active landslide, prediction of landslide hazard zones, the development of "soft" or non-structural measures involving landslide hazard avoidance, rock falls and large-scale failures which will have a much larger social implication have been an important topic.

One of the objectives of the "Landslides in Japan, 6th Revision" is to introduce landslide phenomena in Japan to landslide researchers and engineers overseas, but we also hope this will facilitate and promote free exchange of research results and technology for advancement in the field.

We sincerely hope that advancement in research efforts will aid in the reduction and avoidance of landslide related disasters worldwide.

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