

LANDSLIDES IN JAPAN

(The Seventh Revision)

Japan Landslide Society

2012

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PREFACE FOR LANDSLIDES IN JAPAN, THE 7TH REVISION

It is our great honor and pleasure to publish a special issue, "Landslides in Japan, the 7th revision", that follows the previous six publications under the same title. This issue is published by the Japan Landslide Society (JLS) and focuses on the recent advancement on landslide research and technical development of mitigation measures in Japan.

The JLS was founded and has a current membership of about 1,650, comprising of seven branches throughout the country. Its headquarters is located in Tokyo. This society aims to develop landslide science and technology and to assist researchers, engineers, policy-makers and people to recognize the nature of landslides and help them with their mitigation.

The JLS has continued activities as to

- 1) exchange knowledge and experiences
- 2) promote comprehensive scientific research activities
- 3) publish results of such activities done both domestically and internationally
- 4) cooperate with related societies and organizations abroad

Landslides are a great threat to human lives, properties and natural environment especially in mountainous and hilly terrain in the world due to torrential rainfall, snow and ice melting, earthquakes and volcanic activities. Landslides occur on the fragile mountain slopes as a result of many geo-physical factors including recent global climate change and human intervention.

Due to the climate and physiographical settings such as extreme precipitation, steep terrain with active tectonic movements compounded with a fragile geology, Japan has been adversely affected by frequent landslides. Settlements and agricultural lands are often located on gentle slopes prone to landslides. Various infrastructures suffer from landslide risks. Therefore there is an urgent requirement of landslide hazard mapping and mitigation plans for protecting human lives and watershed management. Also there are urgent needs to plan and implement landslide control works in mountainous areas.

In addition to the above mentioned landslide phenomena, landslide control works and mitigation efforts topics on earthquake-induced landslides and related geo-hazards are highlighted more than in the previous revisions and a laser beam profiler technology is introduced as one of the recent innovations.

We sincerely hope that this revision will be useful and helpful for development and advancement of landslide technology in the world.

Finally, this leaflet would not have been revised without the continuous effort of the editors and the cooperation of many organizations. Among them, I would like to express special thanks to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the Forest Agency, Public Works Research Institute, National Agriculture and Food Research Organization and Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute for their collecting and compiling recent interesting landslides.

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