

In Issue of International Sabo News Letter

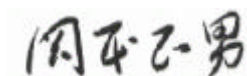
I had an opportunity to make a keynote speech on March 18 2003 at the session on “Sediment-related Issues” at the 3rd World Water Forum held in (Kyoto) Japan. Chairing the panel discussion shortly thereafter, I re-emphasized the following points:

- To reduce damage from sediment-related disasters:
In addition to studying the experience of other countries regarding the sediment transfer mechanisms / promotion of sediment-related measures, residents of areas experiencing such disasters must be educated to promote awareness of sediment-related issues to mitigate such disasters.
- Much experience has been accumulated in various areas of the world regarding the sediment-related disasters. Such experience must be studied closer, absorbed and put to practice on the basis of local conditions (data available) to improve efficiency of measures against sediment-related disasters. Such experience / data regarding sediment-related disasters must be shared and the problem of disasters – must be treated as a common problem to reduce damage, promoting closer international co-operation.
- Japan offers means to promote such co-operation: now sediment-related data can be shared internationally via the Internet website – “International Sabo Network ”.

Not only do we provide the aforementioned website for access by visitors – but we also ask every country in the world to kindly contribute to its development by sending us data updates or other content for inclusion on the website.

Finally, mitigation of sediment-related disasters requires continuous dedication, support of information exchange, technological development, as well as administrative measures.

Mr. Masao Okamoto



Director-General, Sabo Department,
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, Japan

The Sediment-related Issues Committee held the session “Sediment-related Issues” in the 3rd World Water Forum on March 18, 2003, for the purpose of exchanging and sharing information on the sediment-related issues. As a result of the discussions, representatives from each region agreed to recommend the matters referred in the documents as follows.

Session of the Sediment-related Issues, the 3rd World Water Forum

Kyoto, March 18, 2003

Recommendations

Natural processes, such as hurricanes, typhoons, floods, torrential rains, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions can cause various sediment-related disasters. Such disasters can have major social, economic and environmental effects. Therefore, it is very important to deal with this issue.

Preparedness, including prevention (structural and non-structural measures) and preparation (education and awareness); quick response, including rescue/relief and rehabilitation; and recovery against sediment-related disasters are effective means of protecting lives, property, infrastructure and the environment. For this reason, such means are essential to maintain sustainable development – a balance among social, economic and environmental elements.

Experience and knowledge help to reduce the effects of sediment-related disasters. Some countries have accumulated more experience and knowledge than others. Therefore, close international co-operation, co-ordination and sharing of information, at both the administrative and technical level, is necessary to prevent and/or reduce these effects.

It is recommended that an International Sabo Network should be developed. For example, refer to the web page at <http://www.sabo-int.org>.

Representatives

Mr. Masao Okamoto,
Chairman of Sediment-related Issues Committee (Representative from Japan)

Prof. Deepak Bhattarai,
Principal, Nepal Engineering College, Nepal (Representative from Southwest Asia)

Dr. Eduardo Camacho,
Coordination Center for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America, Panama
(Representative from Latin America)

Ir.Moh. Hasan,
Director of Technical Guidance, DGWR, Ministry of Settlement and Regional
Infrastructure, Indonesia (Representative from Southeast Asia)

Mr.Douglas VanDine,
VanDine Geological Engineering Limited, Canada (Representative from Canada)

Mr. Roberto Loat,
Senior Officer of Risk management, Swiss Federal Office for Water and Geology,
Switzerland (Representative from Europe)

[1] Background of establishment of Sediment-related Disaster Prevention Law

Every year sediment-related disaster occur in many places all over Japan and cause great damaged to everyday life. Furthermore, new land development increase the threat of sediment-related disaster. An enormous amount of money and time will be required to make all these hazard areas safe through improvement works.

In order to protect human lives and properties from these disasters, non-structural measures are essential in addition to structural measures like sediment-related disaster prevention works. These non-structural measures should include measures for the publicity of hazard information of areas vulnerable to sediment-related disasters, developing warning and evacuation systems, and restricting new land development for housing in hazard area.

[2] Preparation for new law on sediment-related disasters prevention

Ministry of Construction (present Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport) prepared "the legislative bill for promoting prevention measures against sediment disasters" - "the law on sediment-related disasters prevention". It is drafted based on the result of findings about the occurrence of violent sediment disasters in Hiroshima, examined by the project team for the comprehensive measures of sediment disasters, and the result of the meeting of "what the law on comprehensive measures of sediment disasters should be" reported by the River Council in February 2000. This legislative bill was decided upon by the Cabinet on March 14th, 2000, and it was passed and given the Diet's final approval in 147th ordinary session of the Diet. Then it became "the law on sediment-related disasters prevention".

The Law for Promoting Prevention Measures against Sediment Disasters

The Japanese Government enacted a new law on prevention of sediment disasters;

- disclosure of the danger in potential sediment disaster areas
- arrangement for the warning and evacuation system
- restraint of construction of new houses
- promotion of moving the existing residences

Outline of the Law

1.Preparation for guidelines on sediment disasters prevention measures

Minister of National Land and Transportation draws up guides for the following articles, as the guidelines on sediment disasters prevention measures

- Basic matters related to measures for sediment disasters prevention
- Guidelines on implementation of basic survey for sediment disasters prevention
- Guidelines on designation of potential and high potential sediment disasters areas

- Guidelines on moving buildings from high potential sediment disasters areas

2. Basic survey for sediment disasters prevention

Each prefectural governor implements basic survey for designation of potential sediment disasters areas, etc.

3. Designation of potential sediment disasters areas / Arrangement for the warning and evacuation system

Each prefectural governor designates the areas in danger of sediment disasters as the potential sediment disasters areas by inquiring the opinions of the mayors.

Each mayor must arrange the warning and evacuation system on sediment disasters in each potential dangerous area.

4. Designation of high potential sediment disasters areas / Restraint of construction houses

Each prefectural governor designates the areas in great danger of sediment disasters as the high potential sediment disasters areas, by inquiring the opinions of the mayors.

Constructing certain buildings is restricted by the regulation of development works.

- The following works require the permission

Development works for constructing houses and social welfare facilities

Building regulations ensures safety of the structures against sediment disasters

- The following buildings are regulated

Buildings which have rooms for living, business, working and so on

People who follow the advice to move shall receive public financial support

The Law for Promoting Prevention Measures against Sediment Disasters

Subjects of Sediment Disasters : Slope Failures, Debris Flow, Landslide

Preparation for Guidelines on Sediment Disasters Prevention Measures [Minister of Land, Infrastructure and Transport]

- Basic matters related to measures for sediment disasters prevention
- Guidelines on basic survey
- Guidelines on designation of potential sediment disasters areas
- Guidelines on moving structures from high potential sediment disasters areas

Implementation of Basic Survey [Each Prefecture]

Investigation for designation of potential and high potential sediment disasters areas

Designation of Potential Sediment Disasters Areas [Each Prefecture]
<The Areas in Danger of Sediment Disasters>

Preparing for the warning, information and evacuation system
Informing in habitants of matters on the warning and evacuation

Designation of High Potential Sediment Disasters Areas[Each prefecture]
<In the areas, buildings and inhabitants might suffer heavily from the disasters>

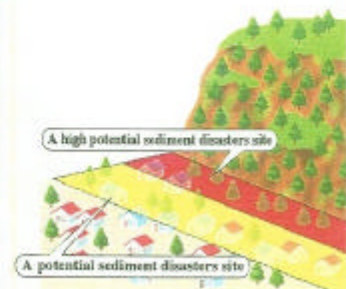
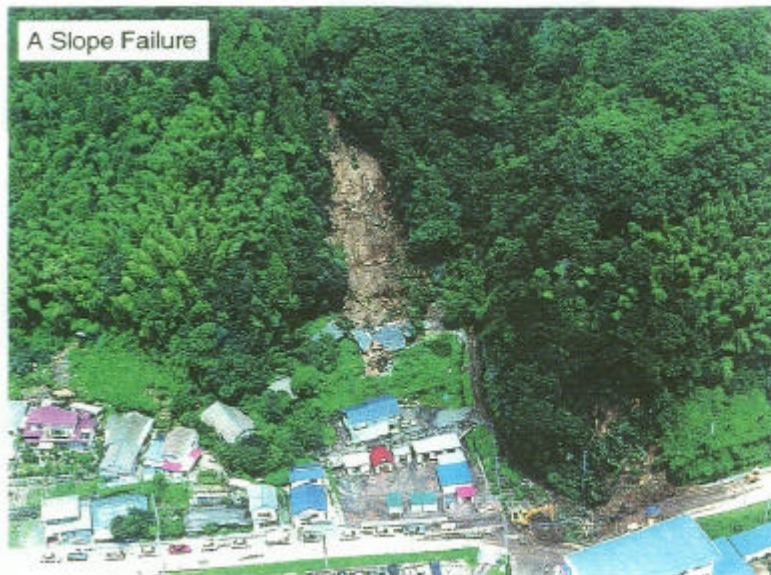
The permission for certain development works
examples : development works aimed at sale of building lots for residence
or constructing social welfare facilities

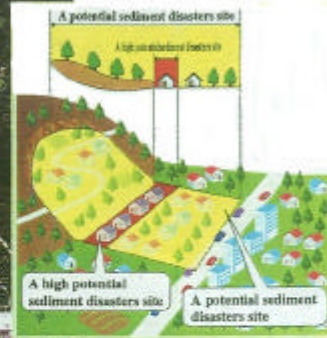
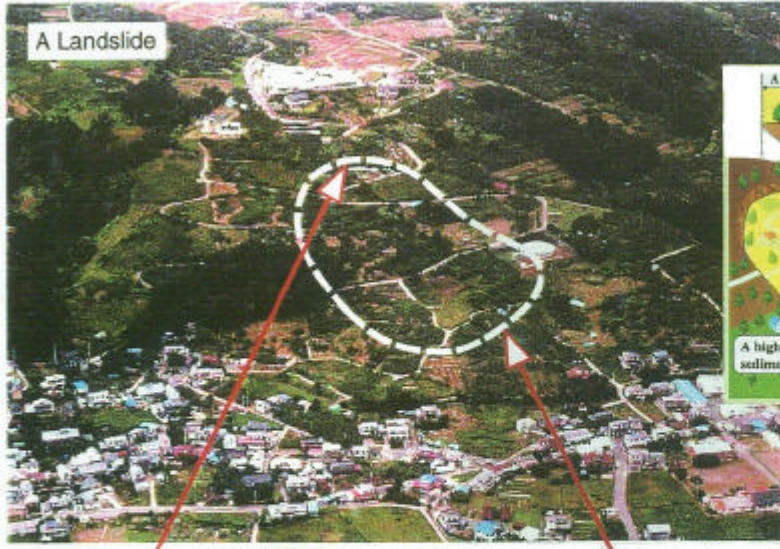
Setting up of building regulations
Advice of moving the building which might be destroyed in case of
sediment disasters
Organizing financial support system for the people who move according to
the advice

<Warning and Evacuation System>
Disaster prevention plan in each town
(Basic Law for the Disaster Management)

<Building Regulations>
settling the standard on building construction
(The Building Standards Law)

<Support for Moving>
Financial support by the Housing Loan Corporation





Countries which have more than 20 death in 2002

Reference: "Bosai - March, 2003", published by the Overseas Disaster Reduction Association

