Raising awareness of children for landslide hazard using analogical sand box simulation

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Natural hazards are significant threats for people around the world. Landslides are one of them. Teaching children in their early age to detect landslide threat can avoid future dramatic loss.

One of the best approaches for having a major impact on children is presenting the problem in a didactic and participating way. Analogical sand box simulation coupled with a first overview of landslide with pictures, video and figures has already shows a great success.

Theoretical bases of landslide failure mechanism can be very annoying. However using funny experiment like a sand box is an easier way to understand landslide. This method seeks to use children feeling to understand and detect landslide hazard. Asking children about how the phenomenon will evolve show good result and a great interest of the children.

The occasion of testing the approach occurred already twice. The first time, it was during university open day with young children and their parents using only the sand box. The second time with 20 children (from 7 to 14 years old) interested in landslide, it was decided to combine the simulation with a laser scanner to show them one method of monitoring technique use for landslide survey. The combination of the simulation and the 3D motion capture of the landslide have shown a never-ending interest of the children during 2 hours. The two times the sand box received a great success.

According to this success, we will repeat the experience with other children in a near future.