



Fluidized landslides induced by extreme rainfall along basaltic caldera cliff of Mt. Aso in July 2012

Hiroshi Fukuoka (1), Yuki Matsushi (1), Gen Furuya (2), and Hitoshi Saito (3)

(1) Disaster Prevention Research Institute, Kyoto University (fukuoka@SCL.kyoto-u.ac.jp), (2) Toyama Prefectural University, (3) Center for Spatial Information Science, The University of Tokyo

In the end of the rainy season of 2012, a extreme rainfall affected western Japan in July and induced hundreds of fluidized landslides claiming casualties of more than 20. Measured trigger precipitation was recorded by the nearby ground-based station of the AMeDAS network (Automated Meteorological Data Acquisition System) as about 80 mm/h for consecutive 4 hours. Analysis of Radar [U+FF0D] Raingauge Analyzed Precipitation [U+3000] operated by the Japan Meteorological Agency showed landslide affected area almost coincided with the ones of heavier precipitation. Most of the landslides took place along the outer caldera rim and flank of the central cone of Mt. Aso, a basaltic active volcano. Most of the landslides slid on the boundary of strongly weathered soils, which used to be new volcanic accretion materials. Outstanding features of these landslides are: (1) This area had been affected by similar heavy rainfall decades ago, however, again a number of landslides took place in the nearby past scars; (2) Many of the soil slide bodies are shallow less than 5 meters deep and possibly immediately transformed into debris flows or mud flows and traveled long distance to reach the downslope communities; (3) Visual observation of the sources showed the high possibility that some of the slides were apparently induced by liquefaction. Similar cases were reported of past 2 landslide disasters in Japan. This strongly suggests that excessive rainfall can trigger numerous mud flows of unexpected reach. We conducted close field study at a typical soil slide - mud flow site. It originally initiated as debris or soil slide on a thin steep bedding plane of about 34 degrees consisting of coarser accretion materials. Needle penetration test showed comparatively weaker strength in the layer. It is underlain by a layer of finer materials. Such a higher permeability contrast could contribute to higher susceptibility of excess pore pressure generation. We took soil samples from the vicinity of sliding surface and conducted pore-pressure-controlled ring shear test. We increased pore pressure at constant rate until failure after applying normal/shear stresses of certain ratio representing the steepness of the sliding surface for the normally consolidated (of 100 kPa) specimen prepared by disturbed samples. Immediately after failure took place, we observed quick and large drop of shear resistance in a few seconds. This clearly showed the occurrence of sliding surface liquefaction. The resultant shear resistance was so small and it clearly shows the mechanism of those long run-out and low apparent friction angle of those landslides.