

Project for Capacity Strengthening on Development of Non-Structural Measures for Landslide Risk Reduction (Project SABO)

National Building Research Organization (NBRO) & Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

■ Project Kick-off

February 5, 2019

The three-year JICA technical cooperation project "Project-SABO" has been launched.

In Sri Lanka, 1/3 of the number of dead and missing due to natural disasters are induced by sediment disasters such as landslides and debris flows, and the recent climate change increase the damages year by year. The heavy rainfall in May 2016 resulted in the loss of 130 lives, mainly in Kegalle district in the southwestern Sri Lanka.

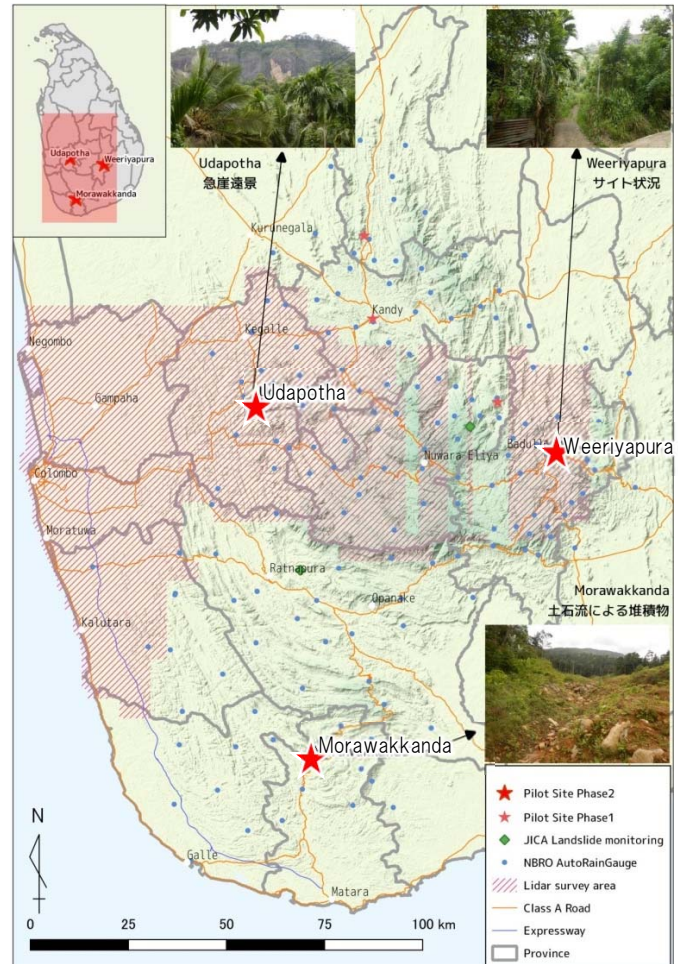
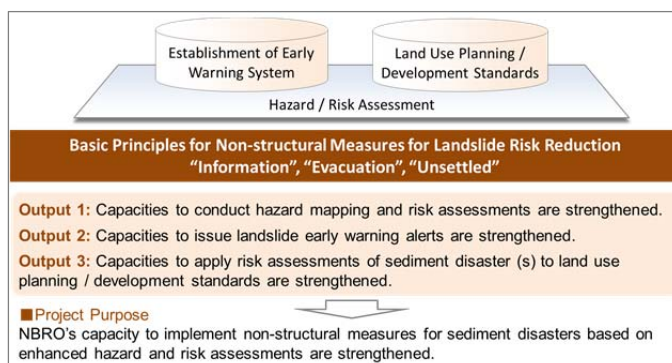
While people in mountainous areas of Sri Lanka are always facing landslide risk, it is not realistic solution to protect them only by structural measures. In order to secure lives, it is necessary to promote non- structural measures.



Large scale landslide in Aranayake, Kegalle District

The basic principle of non-structural measures for landslides is "Information", "evacuation" and "Unsettled". It is represented in two main pillars: establishment of early warning and evacuation system, and land use legation. Those must be based on scientific accurate hazard analysis.

In this project, JICA supports the National Building Research Organization (NBRO) on Output 1: hazard and risk assessment, Output 2: early warning system, and Output 3: land use / development standards to achieve the Project Purpose: "NBRO's capacity to implement non-structural measures for sediment disasters based on enhanced hazard and risk assessments are strengthened".



The project will be implemented through the activities at selected three pilot sites. Those sites differ in scale of community, social development conditions, type of sediment disasters, etc. The project aims to extend the outcomes at the pilot sites to the other regions.

1) Morawakkanda, Matara District

In this community, 23 people were killed by a debris flow caused by heavy rainfall in 2017. Currently, the Sri Lankan government is carrying out the resettlement program.

2) Udapotha, Kegalle District

This community locates in a narrow valley. 22 people were killed by a landslide in the neighboring community in 2016. If large scale landslide occurs, it will block the river and cause secondary damage to the downstream area.

3) Weeriyapura, Badulla District

This community locates in urbanized area where lands were already developed as residential area. It is an issue how to implement land use regulation in such urban area.

At the start of the project, a kick-off meeting was held on February 5 with the key counterparts of NBRO and JICA expert team.

To implement the project effectively and efficiently, it is important that the project contents meets the current NBRO's needs. Until now, NBRO has been making a number of efforts on landslide risk reduction. The project starts to discuss between JICA team and NBRO mutually confirm these efforts and remaining issues. As the result of the consultations and interviews, both parties agreed the specific activities and schedule for the next three years.



Kick-off Meeting at NBRO



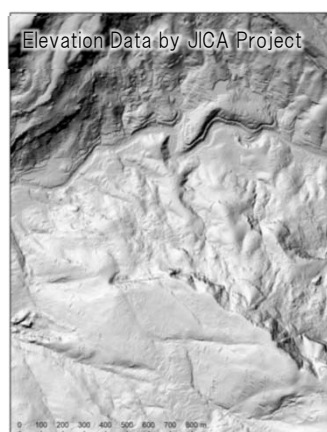
Interview at the pilot site

■ Utilization of High Resolution Terrain Model

February 11, 2019 ~

JICA has provided various supports related to disaster risk reduction such as "Capacity Development Project for Creating Digital Elevation Model Enabling Disaster Resilience". In this project, the high resolution terrain model (LiDAR DEM) in the southwest and central mountain regions (shown as hatched area in the previous map) was developed.

Aiming at the synergy effects of each project, this high resolution digital elevation model will be utilized in the project. Based on the model, a systematic methodology to identify landslide risk area will be developed with NBRO.



■ The 1st JCC Meeting

February 25, 2019

The 1st Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) was held on February 25 chaired by the Secretary of Ministry of Public Administration and Disaster Management (MPADM).

The JCC is the most important decision making body to monitor the project progress and give advisory and decision.



The 1st JCC Meeting

The goal of the project cannot be achieved by NBRO alone. Output 1 "hazard and risk assessment" needs Disaster Management Centre (DMC) which is responsible agency for hazard information in Sri Lanka. For Output 2 "early Warning", involvement of Department of Meteorology (DOM) is essential. Output 3 "land use / development standards" can be realized in cooperation with National Physical Planning Department (NPPD), Urban Development Authority (UDA), Land Use Policy and Planning Department (LUPPD), etc. These agencies participated as a member of the JCC to advise to the project.

In addition, participation of Local Authorities (LAs), who are the implementing agency for development and land use regulation at the pilot sites, is essential. Just to develop land use regulation does not make sense. The regulation should be practically implemented to secure human lives. The mayor and council chairmen from three pilot sites also participated as members of the JCC.

So far, disaster risk reduction in Sri Lanka, has been initiated by the central government agencies and district offices. To involve LAs in the disaster risk reduction is very important but challenging even for NBRO. Involvement of LAs is the key to success of the project.

In the 1st JCC meeting, all participated agencies and LAs understood the project implementation structure and goals, and agreed to cooperate with the project.

The project has just started. JICA will continue its dialogue and cooperation with the Sri Lankan government so that the damages and victims by landslides can be reduced as much as possible through this three-year project.

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