

Landslides Hazard Map in Malay Peninsula by Using Historical Landslide Database and Related Information

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Abstract Recently, slope disaster has occurred in regions around urban area and along highways in Malay Peninsula. The disaster is a major factor that disturbs the sustainable development in the country. It is important to understand high potential regions of landslide and to predict slope disaster based on geotechnical and geological engineering for a sustainable development. Historical data of slope disaster helps us to understand the regional characteristics of landslide and the mechanism. The purpose of this study is to develop a historical landslide database in Malay Peninsula. The database can be available on GIS. The developed historical landslide database has been used with related information to landslide on GIS for investigation of characteristics of landslide in Malay Peninsula. In order to evaluate the hazard of slope failure in the whole Malay Peninsula, the spatial relationships between locations of historical landslides and the related information with slope failure have been investigated. Finally, the locations of historical landslide events are plotted on the proposed hazard map for confirming the applicability.

Keywords Landslide, Database, Historical record, Hazard map, GIS

1. Introduction

Recently, slope disaster has occurred in regions around urban area and along highways in Malay Peninsula [1]. The disaster is a major factor that disturbs the sustainable development in the country. It is important for sustainable development unit to understand high potential regions of landslide and to predict slope disaster based on geotechnical and geological engineering. Historical data of slope disaster helps us to understand the regional characteristics of landslide and the mechanism. Although we can use some reports of regional landslide in Malay Peninsula, there is no available historical database of landslides in whole of the Malay Peninsula.

The purpose of this study is to develop a historical landslide database in Malay Peninsula that can be available to spatial analysis on GIS (Geographic Information System). First of all, historical landslide that should be included in a database has been defined because there are enormous of

landslide in the whole Malay Peninsula and their types are from small scale to large one. Subsequently, historical records of landslides have been collected from national reports, technical papers, newspapers and so on related to slope disaster. And then, the historical landslides have been digitized as database on GIS. After that, the developed historical landslide database has been used with related information to landslide on GIS for investigation of characteristics of landslide in Malay Peninsula. Finally, in order to confirm the applicability of the landslide hazard map proposed in the previous study, the locations of historical landslide events are plotted on the map.

2. Development of Historical Landslide Database in Malay Peninsula

2.1. Definition of Landslide in this Study

There are enormous of landslide in the whole Malay Peninsula and their types are from small scale to large one. Therefore, historical landslide that should be included in a database has been defined as social impact is high. Figure.1 shows a concept of major and minor landslide problems.

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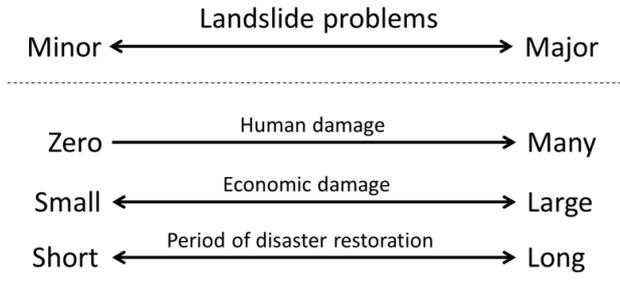


Figure 1. A concept of major and minor landslide problems

2.2. Development of Historical Landslide Database in Malay Peninsula

In order to develop historical landslide database in Malay Peninsula, historical records of landslides have been collected from national reports, technical papers, newspapers and so on related to slope disaster [2-7] in the previous study [10].

88 historical landslides have been collected and historical landslide database has been developed. The contents of historical landslide database are location name, city, date, location (a latitude/longitude information), and situation of

disaster. However, some events of landslides could not be identified the locations. Locations of 37 landslide events have been identified. All the locations of 37 landslides have been checked by using an aerial photograph and they have been modified from the locations of a stricken area to them of collapsed slopes as shown in Fig. 2.

In the present study, the historical landslide database has been added with 35 events that are sites at the steel tower of power transmission line and along the road. As the added data have information of locations, it was easy to import to the historical landslide database. Figure 3 shows the locations of historical landslides in Malay Peninsula. Historical landslide map shows most historical landslide events concentrate in Kuala Lumpur, Ipoh, and Cameron Highland. On the other hand, there is less historical data in the middle-eastern and southern side of Malay Peninsula. The reason may be that collected historical data is not enough to cover over the whole of Malay Peninsula. So it is necessary to keep collecting historical landslide data. However, the present historical landslide database informs us some knowledge for understanding landslides in Malay Peninsula as next chapter.



Figure 2. An example of a modified location of a landslide

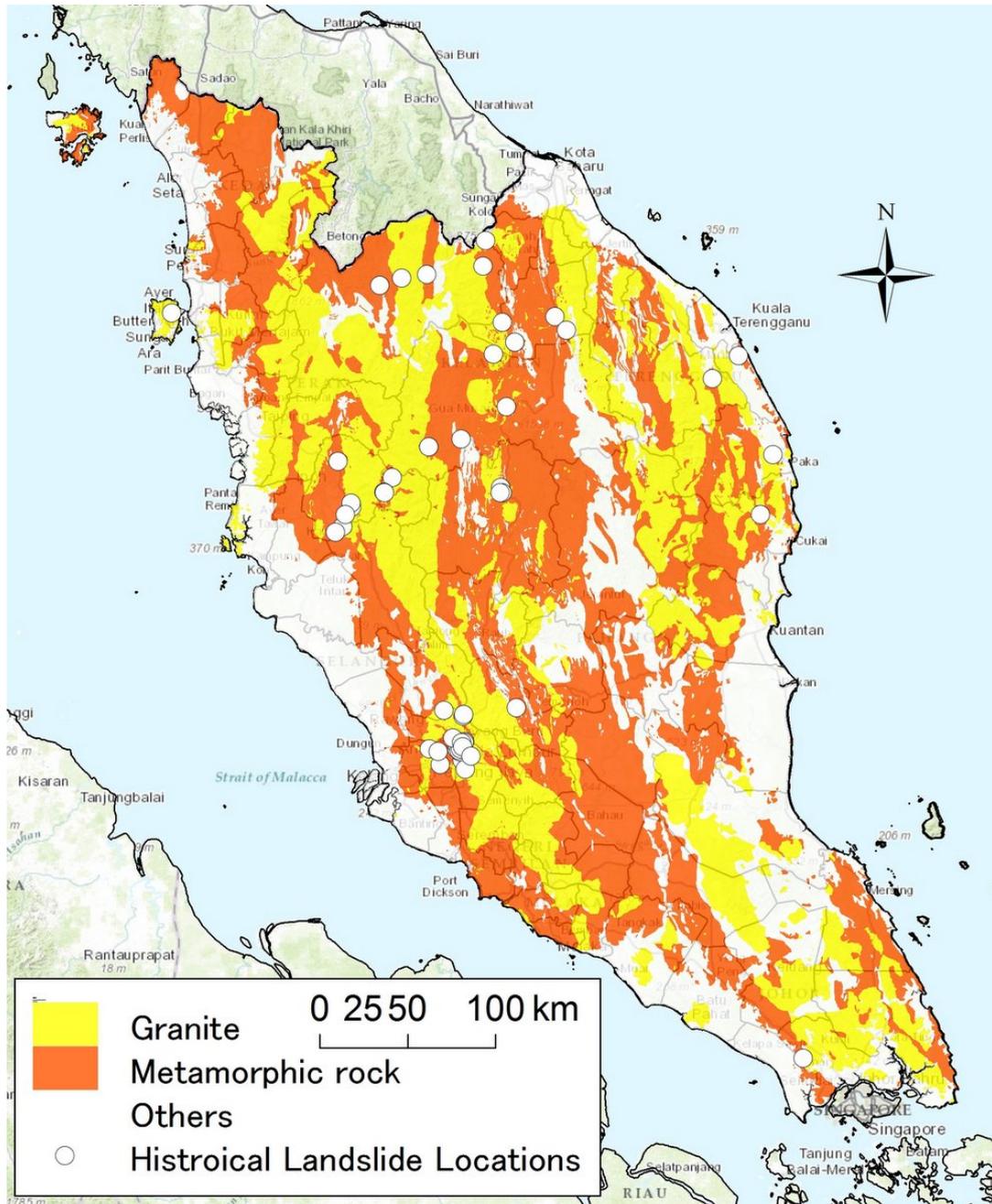


Figure 3. Locations of historical landslide on a geological map

3. A Spatial Analysis by Using Landslide Database

One of factors of landslide is ground properties of slope. Especially, kind of soils and rocks consisting slope is very important to understand slope failure. Figure 3 shows a geological map and the locations of landslides in the developed historical landslide database. The geological map has been reclassified into granite, metamorphic rocks and the others based on geological maps supplied by USM (Universiti Sains Malaysia) and Geological Survey of Japan.

Granites and metamorphic rocks have a wide distribution in Malay Peninsula as Fig.3. The figure shows that all the locations of historical landslides have occurred on the

categories.

Granite has large mineral particles in plutonic rocks and it is generally hard and high density. However, the strength decreases with changing to clay mineral due to the weathering by affected surface water and ground water. In addition, the void between minerals expands and irregular micro-cracks in the rock increase with changing temperature because the component minerals have different coefficient of expansion. Therefore, granite changes to weathered granite by the influence of weather condition. So, strength of granite decreases with progressing the weathering and stability of slope also decreases.

On the other hand, metamorphic rock made from igneous, plutonic and sedimentary rocks by a metamorphism caused

by heat and pressure. Metamorphic rock contains schistosity in the structure of rock. It is known that metamorphic rock also affect by the weathering [8]. So, strength of metamorphic rock decreases with progressing the weathering and stability of slope also decreases.

It seems that tropical rain forest climate in such as Malay Peninsula accelerates the weathering of granites and metamorphic rocks [9]. Therefore, the historical landslide database as shown in Fig.3 indicates that it is important to investigate not only topography and weather but also the weathering of rocks for understanding landslide hazard in Malay Peninsula.

4. Applicability of Landslide Hazard Map in Malay Peninsula

A landslide hazard map has been proposed in the previous study [11]. The mapping method is very simply and uses regional characteristics of kinds of rocks as shown in Fig.3, rainfall and humidity. In order to confirm the applicability of the mapping method, all the locations in historical landslide database have been plotted on the landslide hazard map.

The landslide hazard map and all the locations of historical landslides are shown in Fig. 4. Figure shows that almost all the locations of historical landslides are plotted on the high risk zone. It is necessary to collect more historical landslide events and the related information with high accuracy because the spatial resolution of the map is low. But it seems that the map is available to evaluate landslide hazard.

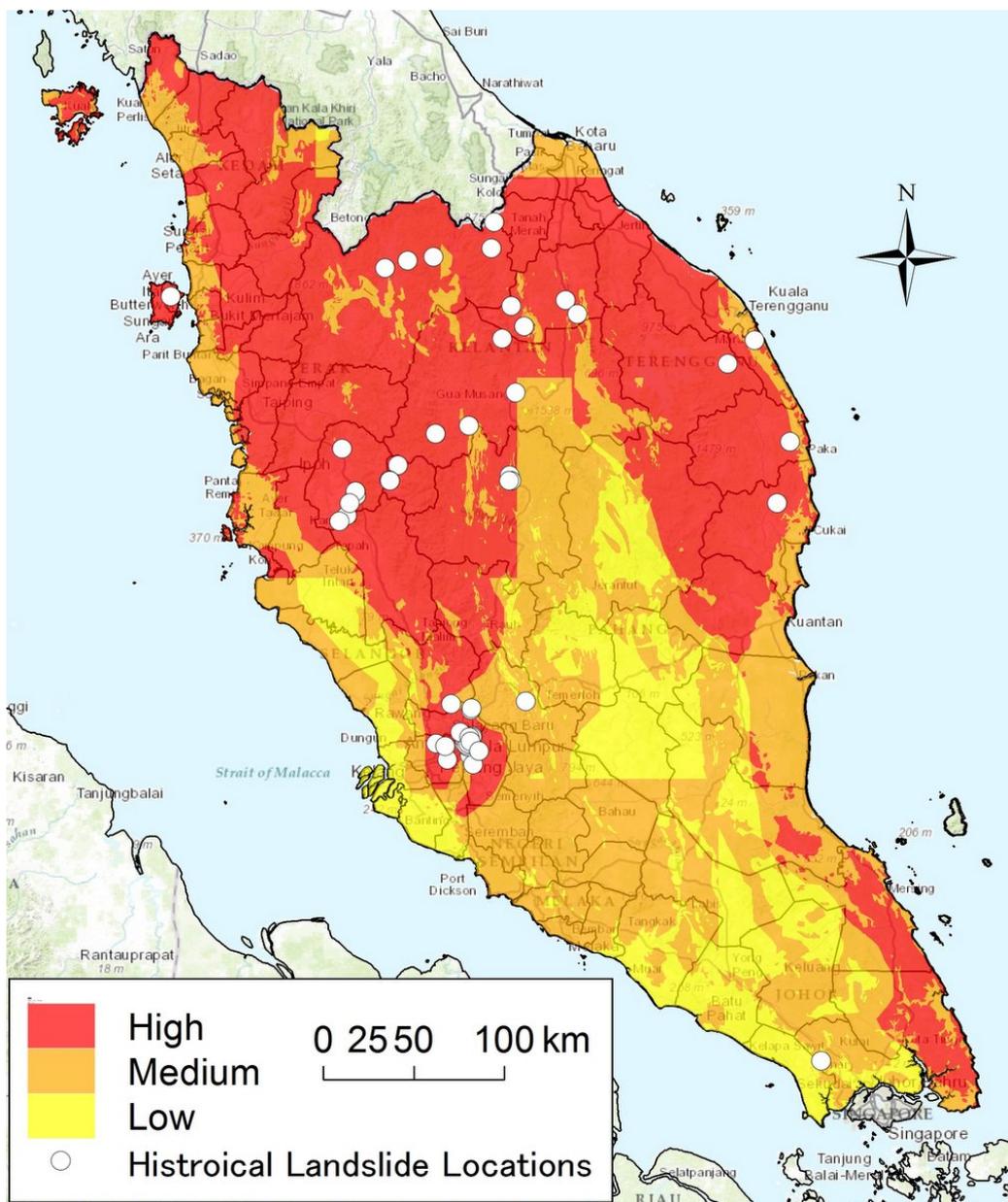


Figure 4. A landslide hazard map proposed in the previous study and the locations of historical landslide events

5. Conclusions

The purpose of this study is to develop a historical landslide database in Malay Peninsula. The database can be available on GIS. The developed historical landslide database has been used with related information to landslide on GIS for investigation of characteristics of landslide in Malay Peninsula.

The main conclusions are as follows;

- (1) A historical landslide database has been developed by collecting from national reports, technical papers, newspapers and so on related to slope disaster. And the database has been upgraded by adding 35 events that are sites at the steel tower of power transmission line and along the road. The historical landslide database can be available to use on GIS (Geographic Information System).
- (2) It seems that tropical rain forest climate in Malay Peninsula accelerates the weathering of granites and metamorphic rocks. Therefore, the historical landslide database indicates that it is important to investigate not only topography and weather but also the weathering of rocks for understanding landslide hazard in Malay Peninsula.
- (3) The landslide hazard map proposed in the previous study shows that almost all the locations of historical landslides are plotted on the high risk zone. The proposed map is available to evaluate landslide hazard.

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