Improving Landslide Awareness through Video

Recently, the “Integrated Disaster Mitigation Management Project for Banjir Bandang” (Technical Cooperation Project between Ministry of Public Works / MOPW (Directorate General of Water Resources) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)) has produced a video material entitled “Landslide and Its Observation” as a means for disaster awareness against banjir bandang (rapid rise of water level accompanied by flood and debris flow due to natural dam’s collapse).

Banjir bandang usually occurs in the form of floods and debris flow, and it can cause major damages to the livelihood of people along the river. The mechanism is that first a mud slide clogs a narrow stream of the river, forming a natural dam, and then the dam suddenly collapses due to the rise in water level and high pressure. Massive flood and debris flow often cause serious disasters in the lower river area [see diagram on page 2].

These past years, large scale banjir bandang has occurred several times in Indonesia, such as in North Sumatra’s Langkat Regency (Nov. 2003), South Sulawesi’s Sinjai Regency (Jun. 2006), and East Java’s Jember Regency (Jan. 2006); resulting in a big loss of lives and properties. Notably, the banjir bandang that occurred in October 2010 in the town of Wasior, the Teluk Wondama Regency - West Papua Province, caused 287 people killed or missing. About 80% of the town’s social infrastructures were severely damaged.

The project started in November 2008 for the purpose of strengthening the capacity of the Ministry of Public Works and the related institutions in the major risk areas to cope with banjir bandang. Activities to establish a risk-area survey methodology and to develop early warning and emergency measures have been conducted in the model areas (East Java’s Jember Regency and its surroundings).

The video material with 20-minute duration produced this time introduces the premonitory phenomena of landslide and explains the observation method of landslide by using rain gauge (an instrument to measure the amount of liquid in rainfall) and extensometer (a device that is used to measure small/big changes in the length of an object). The video material will be distributed primarily in the Ministry of Public Works and disaster-related institutions across Indonesia and utilized to increase the disaster awareness of the communities as part of developing the early warning and emergency measures.

The video material can be viewed from the URL below:
http://youtu.be/XzreoEYlRQs
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Image of Typical Banjir Bandang