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PRESS RELEASE

Immediate release

INAUGURATION OF VIETNAM'S FIRST SABO DAM

Son La, April 16th, 2025 – The Inauguration Ceremony of the Vietnam's first Sabo¹ dam, constructed under the Technical Cooperation Project for Strengthening the Capacity to Cope with and Minimize Damages caused by Flash Flood and Landslides for the Northern Mountainous Regions (the Project), as jointly held by the Viet Nam Disaster and Dyke Management Authority under the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, the Department of Agriculture and Environment of Son La Province, and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Vietnam Office in Pieng village, Nam Pam commune, Muong La district, Son La province on April 16th.

The first Sabo dam, which was constructed under Japanese standards from September 2024 after the rainy season in Son La province, is the concrete slit dam with 61 m length, 3 m width at dam crest, and 9 m height. The construction process includes foundation condition checking and verification, excavation, concrete placements, slope protection, and backfilling and land shaping. The quality of the dam was controlled through continuous on-site slump test and concrete strength test. Several technical seminars have been organized to transfer the construction techniques of Sabo dam to central and local governments, research institutes, and constructors.

Sediment disaster due to extreme rainfalls has frequently occurred and caused great damage in the northern mountainous regions of Vietnam. In early August 2023, the continuous heavy rainfalls led to flash floods and landslides in Muong La district, Son La province, causing damage to 134 houses in the area. Particularly, landslides in the wake of the typhoon Yagi in September 2024 devastated the remote mountainous village of Lang Nu in Lao Cai province and caused 50 deaths in Yen Bai province.

After typhoon Yagi, in response to the practical needs of Yen Bai province and to support future disaster risk reduction activities, JICA provided additional fund of over 6.3 million Japanese Yen to the Project for hazard assessment and mapping in Yen Bai city based on satellite imagery and field survey results.

JICA will actively work with the Government and people of Japan to continue the cooperation and support regarding disaster risk management in Vietnam.

■Related press release: [Groundbreaking Ceremony of Sabo dam](#)

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ⁱ Sabo dam is one of the most effective structural countermeasures for sediment disaster risk reduction. Usually constructed in the upstream area of the river that has steep slope and high runoff velocity, the Sabo dam captures sediment of debris flow, drift woods and prevents damage in the downstream area.