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Progress in Landslide Research and Technology Volume 2 Issue 1, 2023



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ISSN 2731-3794 ISSN 2731-3808 (electronic)
Progress in Landslide Research and Technology
ISBN 978-3-031-39011-1 ISBN 978-3-031-39012-8 (eBook)
<https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-39012-8>

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Cover illustration: Buzulgan landslide occurred in August 2020 and blocked the Gerkhozhan-Su River valley in Northern Caucasus of Russia. (Photograph provided by Oleg V. Zerkal)

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Contents

The Second-Year Publication of the Open Access Book Series “Progress in Landslide Research and Technology”	1
Kyoji Sassa	
Part I ICL Landslide Lesson	
Sliding-Surface Liquefaction and Undrained Steady-State Shear-Strength	11
Kyoji Sassa, Loi Doan, Khang Dang, and Pham Tien	
Identification and Mitigation of Reservoir Landslides: Cases Studied in the Three Gorges Reservoir Area of China	97
Huiming Tang	
Part II Original Articles	
Impact of Input Data on the Quality of the Landslide Susceptibility Large-Scale Maps: A Case Study from NW Croatia	135
Martin Krkač, Sanja Bernat Gazibara, Marko Sinčić, Hrvoje Lukačić, Gabrijela Šarić, and Snježana Mihalić Arbanas	
Landslide Warning Systems in High-Income Countries: Past Accomplishments and Expected Endeavours	147
Irasema Alcántara-Ayala and Ricardo J. Garnica-Peña	
Modelling of Landslide-Structure Interaction (LSI) Through Material Point Method (MPM)	159
Angela Di Perna, Sabatino Cuomo, and Mario Martinelli	
Landslide Research and Technology in International Standards	179
Matjaž Mikoš	
Mathematical and Numerical Modeling of Slope Stability for the Mong Sen Landslide Event in the Trung Chai Commune, Sapa, Vietnam	193
Binh Van Duong, Igor K. Fomenko, Lan Chau Nguyen, Kien Trung Nguyen, Tuan-Nghia Do, Denis N. Gorobtsov, Oleg V. Zerkal, and Hien The Dinh	
Landslide Early Warning System Based on the Empirical Approach: Case Study in Ha Long City (Vietnam)	209
Nguyen Duc Ha, Nguyen Huy Duong, Nguyen Quoc Khanh, Tran The Viet, Do Van Vung, Nguyen Thi Hai Van, and Nguyen Hoang Ninh	

The Modern Activity of the Buzulgan Landslide and Its Influence on the Debris Flow Hazard for the Tyrnyauz Town (Northern Caucasus, Russia)	227
Oleg V. Zerkal, Sergey S. Chernomorets, Viktoriia A. Iudina (Kurovskaia), Mikhail D. Dokukin, Inna N. Krylenko, Elena A. Savernyuk, Tatiana A. Vinogradova, and Eduard V. Zaporozhchenko	
A Risk Evaluation Method of Unstable Slopes Using Multipoint Tilting Sensors . . .	237
Makoto Fukuhara, Lin Wang, Shangning Tao, Zhijun Tang, Wenjian Tang, Linyao Dong, and Zhongjie Fan	
Part III IPL Projects, World Centres of Excellence on Landslide Risk Reduction, and Kyoto Landslide Commitment 2020	
Community Level Slope Disaster Risk Reduction Program through Multi-Scale Mapping by Mountain Ethnic Group in Northern Vietnam: Project Study by JICA/Lao Cai DARD/ITST	249
Nguyen Kim Thanh, Toyohiko Miyagi, Ta Cong Huy, Eisaku Hamasaki, Dinh Van Tien, and Yasuhiro Kasuya	
Landslide Risk Assessment in the Tropical Zone of Vietnam as a Contribution to the Mitigation of Natural Disaster Vulnerability	275
Dinh Van Tien, Nguyen Kim Thanh, Lam Huu Quang, Do Ngoc Ha, Kyoji Sassa, Toyohiko Miyagi, and Shinro Abe	
Protection and Conservation of Georgian Rupestrian Cultural Heritage Sites: A Review	307
William Frodella, Giovanni Gigli, Daniele Spizzichino, Claudio Margottini, Mikheil Elashvili, and Nicola Casagli	
Spatial and Temporal Characterization of Landslide Deformation Pattern with Sentinel-1	321
Francesco Poggi, Roberto Montalti, Emanuele Intrieri, Alessandro Ferretti, Filippo Catani, and Federico Raspini	
Lessons from 2019–2020 Landslide Risk Assessment in an Urban Area of Volcanic Soils in Pereira-Colombia	331
Diego Ríos and Guillermo Ávila	
Part IV ICL Landslide Teaching Tools	
Zonation of Landslide Susceptibility in the Gipuzkoa Province (Spain): An Application of LAND-SUITE	349
Txomin Bornaetxea, Mauro Rossi, and Paola Reichenbach	
Landslide and Soil Erosion Inventory Mapping Based on High-Resolution Remote Sensing Data: A Case Study from Istria (Croatia)	363
Sanja Bernat Gazibara, Petra Jagodnik, Hrvoje Lukačić, Marko Sinčić, Martin Krkač, Gabrijela Šarić, Željko Arbanas, and Snježana Mihalić Arbanas	
Part V Technical Notes and Case Studies	
Landslide Monitoring with RADARSAT Constellation Mission InSAR, RPAS-Derived Point-Clouds and RTK-GNSS Time-Series in the Thompson River Valley, British Columbia, Canada	379
David Huntley, Drew Rotheram-Clarke, Roger MacLeod, Robert Cocking, Jamel Joseph, and Philip LeSueur	

Digital Terrain Models Derived from Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and Landslide Susceptibility	389
Gabriel Legorreta Paulín, Jean-François Parrot, Rutilio Castro-Miguel, Lilia Arana-Salinas, and Fernando Aceves Quesada	
Use of GIS to Assess Susceptibility per Landform Unit to Gravitational Processes and their Volume	401
Gabriel Legorreta Paulín, Rocío Marisol Alanís-Anaya, Lilia Arana-Salinas, Jean-François Parrot, and Rutilio Castro-Miguel	
KLC2020 Official Promoters	413
Geological Survey of Canada, Natural Resources Canada	415
Faculty of Civil and Geodetic Engineering, University of Ljubljana	421
China University of Geosciences, Wuhan	425
Department of Civil Engineering, National Taiwan University	431
Institute of Cold Regions Science and Engineering, Northeast Forestry University	435
Marui & Co. Ltd.	439
Nippon Koei Co., Ltd., Geohazard Management Division	443
Ellegi Srl	447
IDS GeoRadar s.r.l.	451
Chuo Kaihatsu Corporation	453
Godai Corporation	457
Kiso-Jiban Consultants Co. Ltd	461
Kokusai Kogyo Co. Ltd	465
OSASI Technos, Inc.	469
List of ICL Members	473
Index	477



Mathematical and Numerical Modeling of Slope Stability for the Mong Sen Landslide Event in the Trung Chai Commune, Sapa, Vietnam

Binh Van Duong, Igor K. Fomenko, Lan Chau Nguyen, Kien Trung Nguyen, Tuan-Nghia Do, Denis N. Gorobtsov, Oleg V. Zerkal, and Hien The Dinh

Abstract

The northern mountainous region of Vietnam is particularly susceptible to sediment-related disasters, such as landslides, during the rainy season. This paper presents slope stability modeling results for a landslide event triggered by heavy rainfall in Trung Chai commune, Sapa, Vietnam. Stability simulations were conducted using input data, including 1-m DEM, the distribution and characteristics of slope materials, and the change of pore pressure ratio. The behavior of slopes under the impact of rainfall was analyzed using the limit equilibrium method and the finite element method, which are integrated into the programs of Rocscience Inc. In addition, since the Trung Chai commune is located in a seismically active

region, single earthquakes or the combination of earthquakes and rainfall may trigger landslides. As a result, the study determined the relationship between seismic loading and pore water pressure for the studied slope. The study results showed that both limit equilibrium and the finite element methods have high efficacy in modeling slope stability in this study. Therefore, this study recommended that these methods may be employed for slope stability studies in other regions of Vietnam or other regions of the world with similar geological conditions.

Keywords

Rainfall-induced landslide · Slope stability · Seismic loading · Limit equilibrium method · Finite element method · Mong Sen · Sapa

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1 Introduction

Loss of life and property may be caused by landslides in mountainous areas, particularly during or after prolonged periods of heavy rainfall. Understanding the factors that trigger and contribute to landslide occurrences and the subsequent debris transport distance is critical for landslide hazard assessment (Dai et al. 2003). Large residential communities are nevertheless frequently affected by the mass instability of soil slopes in regions of steep topography and experience prolonged hot and dry periods followed by extreme weather events (heavy rainfall, rainstorms). Although slope failures may originate because of human-induced factors such as slope-top loading or the removal of the toe of a natural slope for construction activities, numerous natural slopes become unstable simply because of the impact of rainwater penetrating the slope material layers (Collins Brian and Znidarcic 2004).

The interactions between landslide triggering and causative factors and the environment around them lead to the establishment and development of the landslide processes in

the given area. Therefore, new insights into the prevention and mitigation of landslides may be gained through a better knowledge of the differences in landslide processes and the features of landslide movement (Yang et al. 2021). For this purpose, several studies on different landslide science aspects have been conducted, including case studies in numerous areas and their failure scenarios (Alimohammadlou et al. 2013).

This article presents the results of the slope stability analysis conducted in connection with a landslide event triggered by heavy rainfall in the Trung Chai commune, Sapa district, Vietnam. The stability of the analyzed slope was evaluated using finite element (FEM) and limit equilibrium (LEM) methods. By conducting deterministic and probabilistic analyses, this study determined the relationship between pore water pressure and the stability of the examined slope. In addition, the obtained relationship between the two primary landslide triggers (rainfall and seismic loading) is also a significant result of this study.

2 Study Area

Located in the northwest of Lao Cai Province, the Sapa district, which covers an area of 675.8 km² and has an elevation of 150 m to more than 3000 m, is well-known as a famous tourist destination in Vietnam. In recent years, Sapa has experienced an increase in the frequency and magnitude of landslides due to rapid urbanization, construction, and agriculture. Most landslide incidents in the area were triggered by precipitation (Dang et al. 2018; Tien Bui et al. 2017).

Trung Chai commune is located in the northeastern Sapa district, where the 4D national road connects Laocai city and the Sapa district. Trung Chai (14 landslides), Ta Van (16 landslides), and Ban Ho (27 landslides) are the three communes in Sapa that reported the highest number of landslides (Binh Van Duong et al. 2022). The combination of mountainous terrain and agricultural and construction activity has triggered numerous landslide events in this area. The sliding mass in this study (Fig. 1) was investigated during the construction of the Mong Sen Bridge, which connects the Sapa district and the Hanoi-Laocai expressway. This landslide event was triggered by a heavy rain event, which caused the displacement of slope materials and the formation of cracks on the surface of the sliding body.

3 Evaluation of Slope Stability for the Mong Sen Landslide

3.1 Methods

Both the factor of safety (FS) and the probability of failure (PF) are significant factors to determine when assessing slope stability. The quality of topographic and geotechnical data

plays a critical role in establishing a simulation model of slope behavior to achieve highly accurate analysis results (Azizi et al. 2020). It is widely accepted that the ratio between the available shear strength (s) and the equilibrium shear stress (τ) (shear stress along the sliding surface required to maintain the stability of the slope) is defined as the factor of safety value (Duncan et al. 2014):

$$FS = \frac{s}{\tau} \quad (1)$$

Slope stability is frequently quantified in geotechnical engineering using a factor of safety (FS) as the resulting value. Considered an indicator to define the likelihood of slope failures caused by a landslide, the FS value is used to predict the occurrence of landslide-related slope deformations (Fomenko et al. 2019; Fomenko and Zerkal 2017). By assuming that the values of all model input parameters are accurately known, the deterministic analysis produces a single value of FS. However, materials on slopes are frequently heterogeneous, with variations in spatial distribution and properties depending on the slope's location and surrounding environment. Therefore, probabilistic analyses are especially helpful in slope stability studies because it allows the determination of the impact of uncertainty or variability in input parameters on the slope stability analysis results (Nagendran et al. 2019). Generally, statistical distributions can be assigned to the input parameters when conducting probabilistic analyses. Samples may be taken an unlimited number of times for each calculation, and combinations of these samples are used to determine the factor of safety (FS). The probability of failure (PF) for the slope may be defined as follows (Cami et al. 2021), according to the Eq. (2):

$$PF(\%) = \frac{\text{Number simulations with } FS < 1}{\text{Total number of simulations}} \quad (2)$$

In addition, a probabilistic analysis may also be conducted to determine the reliability index (RI), which is defined as the capacity of a system to perform necessary tasks under given circumstances for a predetermined amount of time (Wang and Constantino 2009). In a slope stability analysis, the safety of the slope is quantified by the reliability index based on the number of standard deviations that separate the best estimate of FS from the defined failure value of 1.0 (Christian John et al. 1994). Along with the factor of safety value, the reliability index determined in probabilistic analysis, which corresponds to the probability of failure, is also the indicator used to measure the stability of the slope. It has been determined that the greater the dependability index, the lower the probability of failure (Cheng and He 2020). Consequently, the definition of an acceptable level of safety, i.e., the highest failure probability value without structural collapse, is one of the most challenging aspects of reliability

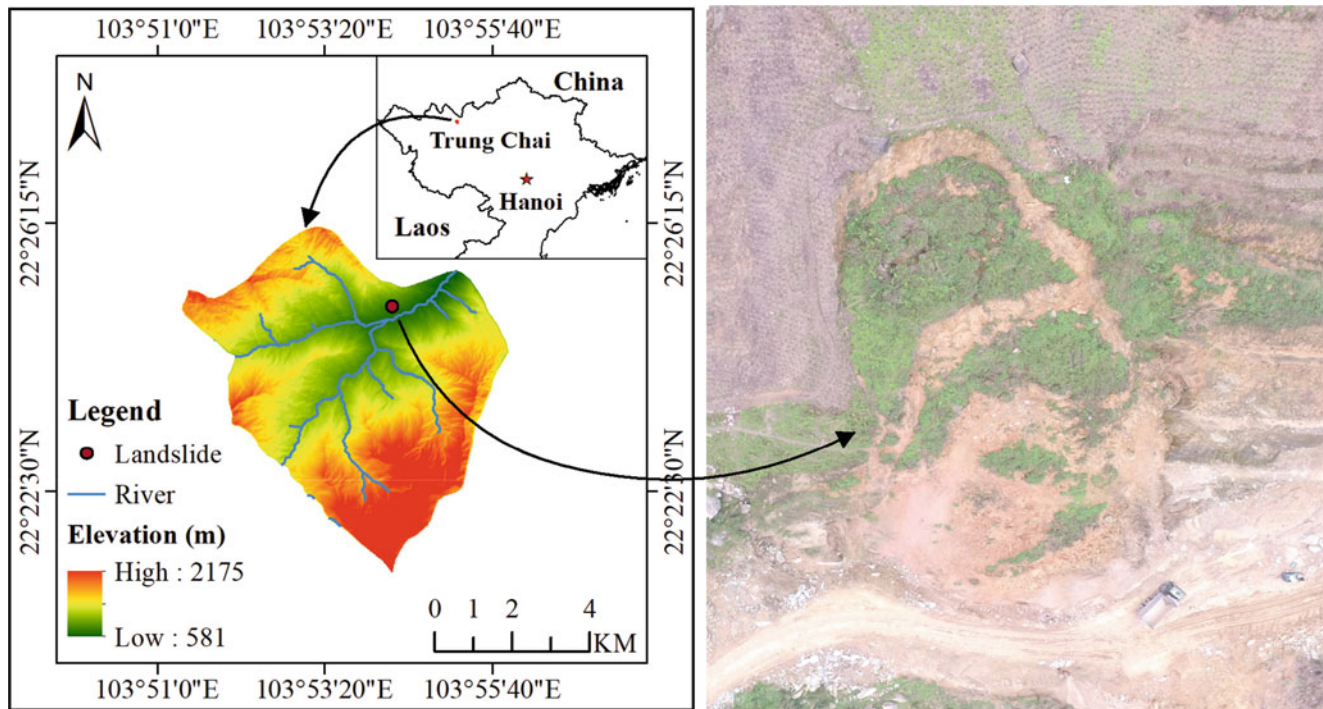


Fig. 1 Location of landslide site

analysis. However, there are currently different proposals on this issue (Douglas J. Kamien 1997; Withiam et al. 1998). In geotechnical design, it is frequently required to have a reliability index value greater than 3.0 (i.e., PF equal to 0.001) to achieve performance that is better than “above average” (Abdulai and Sharifzadeh 2021).

3.2 Strength of Slope Materials

When conducting a slope stability analysis, the slope materials and their strength properties must be well-defined to improve the performance of the slope behavior model. In stability analysis models, the strength of slope materials may be determined using various failure criteria. In limit equilibrium analyses, the Mohr-Coulomb Failure Criterion and the Infinite Strength Failure Criterion were employed to determine the strength parameters of the upper soil and intact rock layers, respectively. Meanwhile, the Mohr-Coulomb Failure Criterion was used in the analyses that utilized the finite element method.

The soil samples were taken in the field survey during the dry and rainy seasons. Afterward, the physico-mechanical properties of the soil layer were determined using laboratory tests to provide input data for modeling. The direct shear test was conducted to determine the strength parameters of the Mohr-Coulomb criterion, including the friction angle and cohesion. The physico-mechanical properties of the soil layer are shown in Table 1.

For modeling the behavior of slopes in stability studies, the pore water pressure ratio (r_u) has been widely used to describe the pore water pressure condition. As a result of the absence of PWP data in this study, the pore water pressure at any position may be best described using the pore water pressure ratio proposed by Bishop and Morgenstern (1960):

$$r_u = \frac{u}{\gamma h} \quad (3)$$

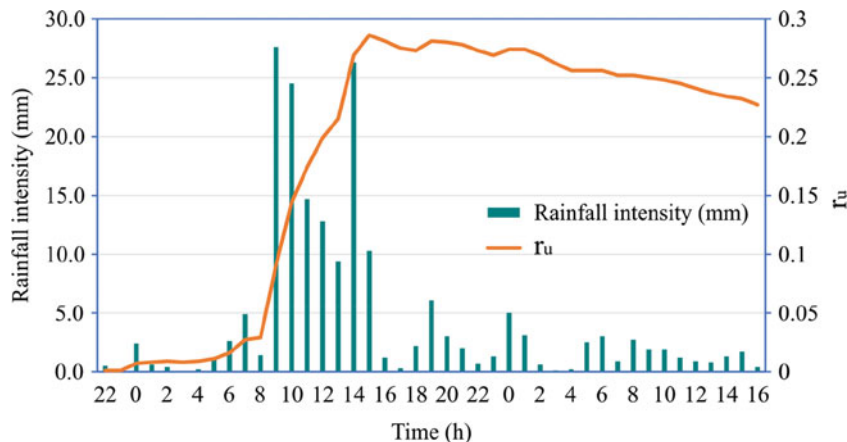
where h denotes the depth of the point in the soil mass below the soil surface, and γ denotes the soil unit weight.

The general solutions are based on the assumption of a constant pore water pressure ratio (r_u) throughout the cross-section, also known as a homogeneous pore water pressure distribution. However, the necessity for a single constant value is a significant drawback of the r_u approach. The only circumstance in which the r_u value is constant is when the piezometric line is at the ground surface, a scenario that occurs in nature relatively seldom.

In this study, the SLIDE model (Liao et al. 2010) was used to evaluate the variation in pore water pressure ratio based on rainfall data gathered during a heavy rainfall event from 22:00 h on May 30 to 24:00 h on May 31, 2020. At 15:00 h on May 31, the maximum r_u value was 0.286. The relationship between pore water pressure ratio and rainfall intensity is shown in Fig. 2.

Table 1 Parameters of soil layer

Parameter	Unit	Sampling season	
		Dry season	Rainy season
Unit weight (γ)	kN/m ³	18.9	19.3
Cohesion (c)	kPa	22.0	20.0
Friction angle (ϕ)	($^{\circ}$)	16.3	15.1

Fig. 2 Relationship between rainfall intensity and r_u 

3.3 Model Calibration

The models in this study were calibrated by comparing simulation results with actual slope failure data. Until recently, slope stability and risk assessments based on deformation analysis had been conducted by various geotechnical engineers. With the introduction of 3D methods into computations for slope stability, it has become possible to solve these problems (Bar et al. 2021). However, while performing slope stability assessments, various challenges remain unsolved. They are primarily due to uncertainties in the calculation of slope stability, such as inaccuracies in determining the strength parameters of the slope materials, the selection of methods for solving the problem, algorithms for optimizing the sliding surface (using GLE limit equilibrium methods), and inaccuracies in the establishment of the geometric model (Fig. 3).

Despite minor inconsistencies between the calculation result and the actual data on the position of the landslide body, the authors considered the results produced using the Yanbu simplified method to be the most acceptable for evaluating landslide stability (Figs. 4 and 5).

3.4 Results of the Slope Stability Analysis Using LEM

After configuring the Slide3 model's input parameters, deterministic and probabilistic analyses were performed to determine the slope stability associated with changes in the pore water pressure caused by actual rainfall. These simulations

were performed in the dry season and during periods of heavy rain, which increased the pore water pressure in the soil layer.

The analysis results indicated that the stability of the studied slope is maintained in the dry season. In simulations conducted during the dry season, the factor of safety (FS) value determined by probabilistic and deterministic analyses is 1.258 and 1.178, respectively. The probability of failure (PF) is 3.2%, which indicates that 3.2% of 1000 samples evaluated had a factor of safety value of less than 1 (Fig. 4).

The penetration of rainwater into the soil layer led to an increase in the pore water pressure ratio, which in turn resulted in a reduction in the slope stability or factor-of-safety value. The pore water pressure ratio increased from 0 in the absence of rain to 0.286 at 15:00 h on May 31. In probabilistic analysis, the FS value reduced from 1.258 to 0.901, whereas in deterministic analysis, it decreased from 1.178 to 0.895 (Table 2). When the pore water pressure ratio reached its maximum value, the probability of failure increased from 3.2% to 80.6%. In addition, the analysis results revealed that the studied slope became unstable around 10:00 h on May 31 when the FS value was less than one (Fig. 5).

Figures 6 and 7 show the relationship between the variation of the FS and PF values and the change in the pore water pressure ratio of the soil layer on the slope, as determined by the probabilistic analysis conducted in Slide3. Simultaneously, the analysis results performed by Slide3 also indicated a relationship between the probability of failure (PF) and the reliability index (RI) (Fig. 8).

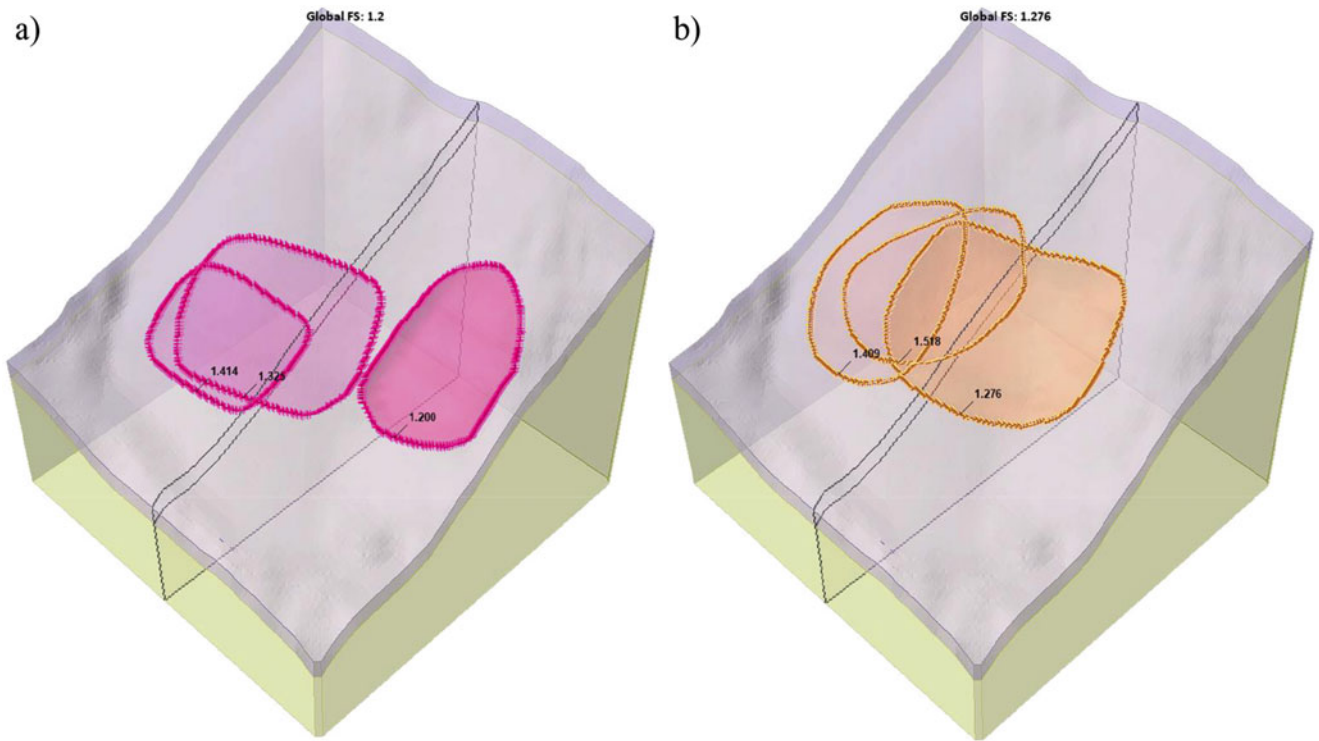


Fig. 3 Multimodal particle swarm optimization, Bishop's method (a) and Spencer's method (b)

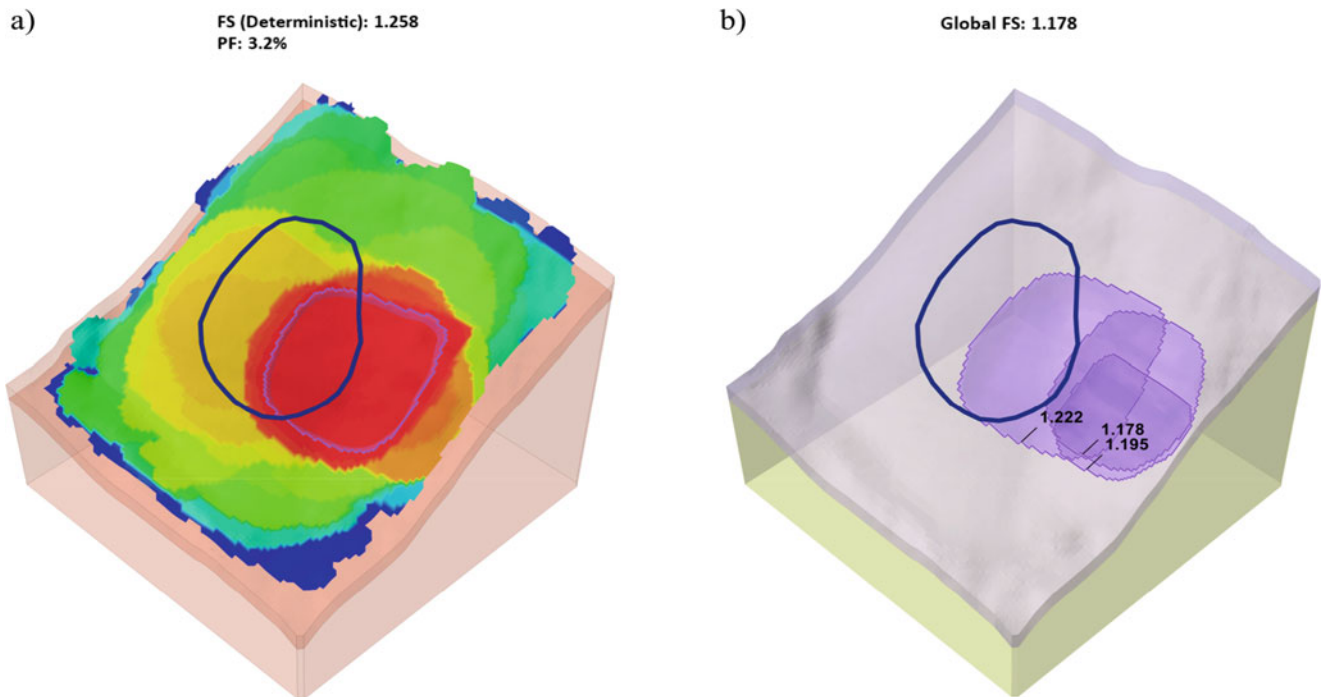


Fig. 4 The result of slope stability analysis using Slide3 in the dry season

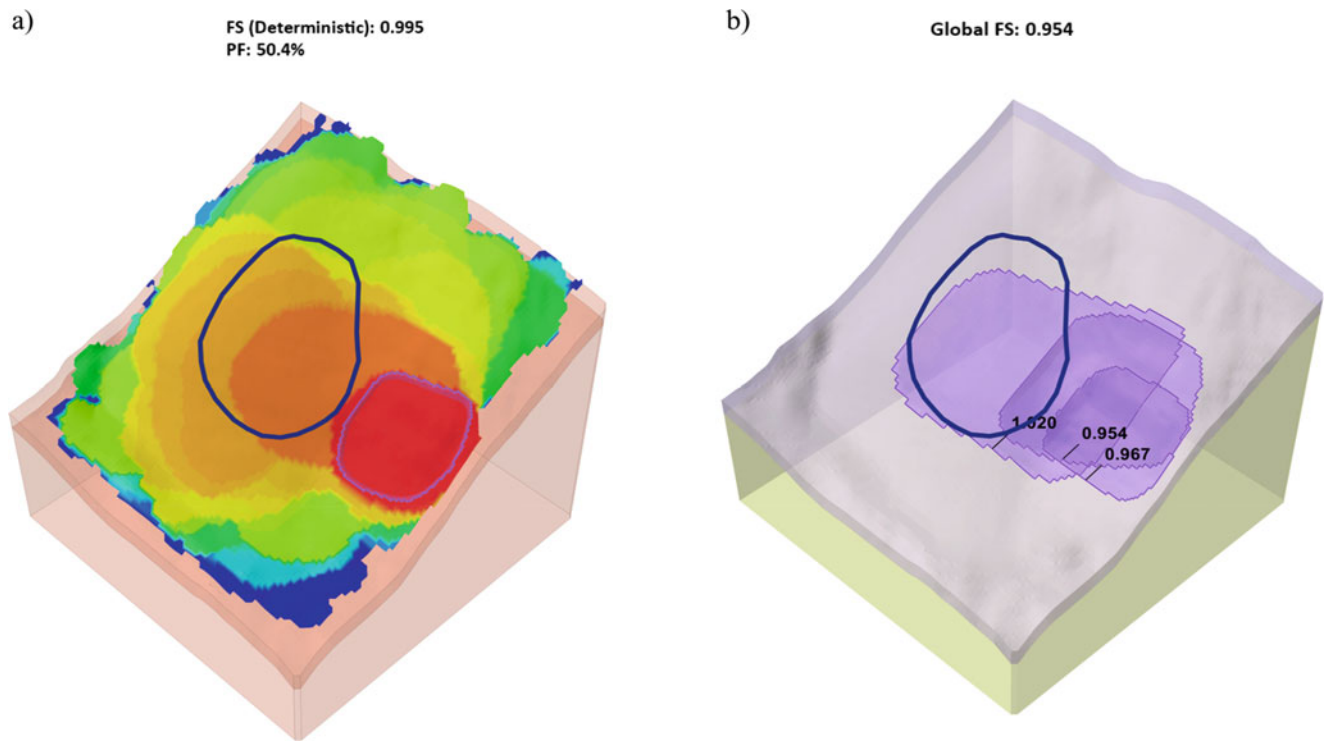


Fig. 5 The result of slope stability analysis using Slide3 at 10:00 h, May 31

Table 2 Results of slope stability analysis using LEM

Step	Time (h)	r_u	Slide3				Slide2
			Probabilistic analysis			Deterministic analysis	
			FS	PF (%)	RI	FS	
1		0	1.258	3.2	1.85	1.178	1.164
2	22	0.001	1.113	20.1	0.848	1.051	1.08
3	23	0.001	1.113	20.1	0.848	1.051	1.08
4	0	0.007	1.115	19.6	0.87	1.112	1.081
5	1	0.008	1.098	23	0.754	1.076	1.073
6	2	0.009	1.1	22.1	0.77	1.081	1.08
7	3	0.008	1.098	23	0.754	1.076	1.073
8	4	0.009	1.1	22.1	0.77	1.081	1.08
9	5	0.011	1.069	28.6	0.555	1.082	1.075
10	6	0.016	1.097	22.9	0.749	1.087	1.073
11	7	0.027	1.103	22	0.784	1.057	1.062
12	8	0.029	1.081	25.6	0.643	1.074	1.06
13	9	0.091	1.054	32.7	0.431	1.038	1.025
14	10	0.144	0.995	50.4	-0.014	0.954	0.986
15	11	0.174	0.97	58.6	-0.225	0.946	0.972
16	12	0.199	0.94	68.9	-0.504	0.941	0.929
17	13	0.215	1.039	37.9	0.309	0.944	0.941
18	14	0.269	0.983	55.6	-0.13	0.949	0.914
19	15	0.286	0.901	80.6	-0.891	0.895	0.902

Fig. 6 Relationship between FS and r_u by probabilistic and deterministic analysis in Slide3

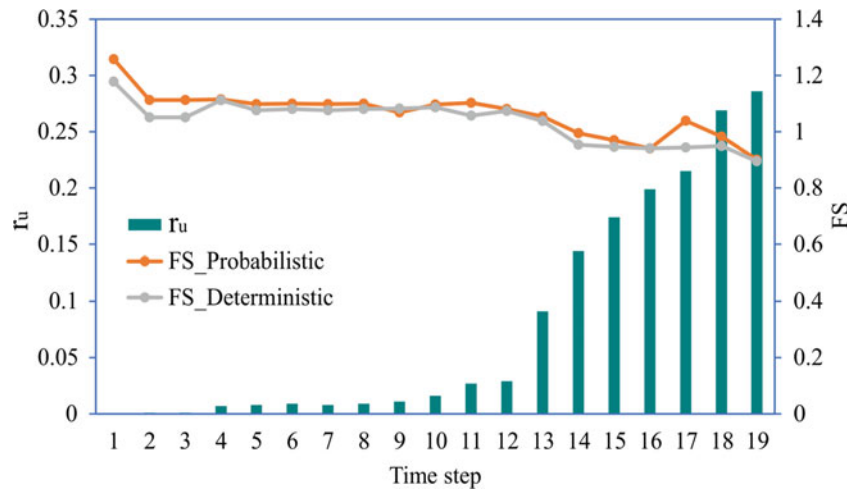
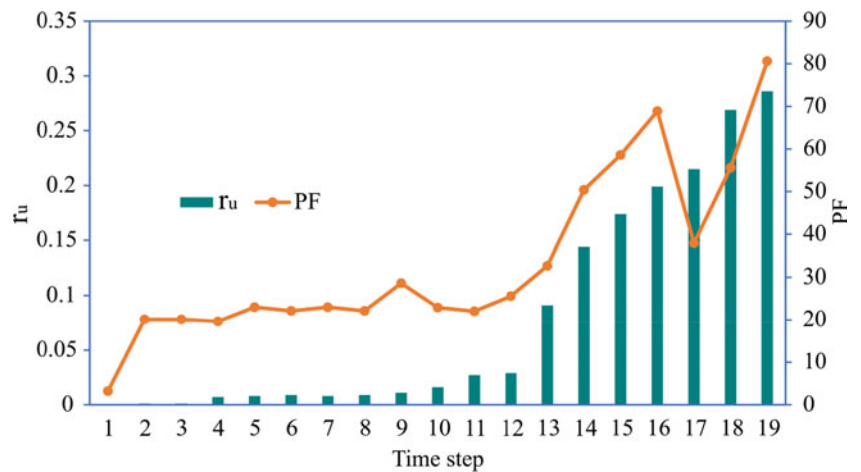


Fig. 7 Relationship between PF and r_u by probabilistic analysis in Slide3



Meanwhile, a correlation between the factor of safety (FS) and the pore water pressure ratio was also determined using the deterministic analysis in Slide3 (Fig. 6). The higher the pore water pressure ratio in the soil layer, the lower the FS value and the higher the PF value.

Using the “section creator” function in Slide3, a cross-section was generated for stability analysis in Slide2 based on the three-dimensional slope analysis model in Slide3. Afterward, slope stability assessments utilizing the same precipitation scenario as in Slide3 were performed in Slide2.

The outcomes of slope stability simulations during the dry season (a) and at the failure time of slope (b) are shown in Fig. 9. The position of the sliding surface is in the middle of the examined slope, which is relatively compatible with the sliding surface position determined by Slide3 and the actual sliding mass position. According to the 2D analysis results, the slope is stable throughout the dry season, as shown by the factor of safety (FS) value of 1.164. The pore water pressure ratio has increased because of rainwater penetration into the soil layer, resulting in a decrease in the factor of safety value.

As the pore water pressure ratio increased from 0 to 0.286, the FS value reduced from 1.164 to 0.902 (Fig. 10). In addition, the analysis performed in Slide2 indicated that the slope became unstable on May 31, around 10:00 h, when the r_u value reached 0.144, which is equivalent to the simulation result in Slide3.

Table 2 summarizes the stability analysis results for the examined slope at each analysis step. As a result, we have determined that the factor of safety and probability of failure are the functions of the pore water pressure ratio. As seen in Table 2 and graphs, an increase in pore water pressure reduces the factor of safety value and increases the probability of failure value. However, steps 17 and 18 of our research produced several unexpected results in Table 2. This issue can be explained as follows:

- 1) The pore water pressure ratio is used to characterize pore-water conditions in slope stability analyses. However, the necessity for a single constant value is a significant drawback of the r_u method. It is well-known that the r_u value is

Fig. 8 Relationship between PF and RI by probabilistic analysis in Slide3

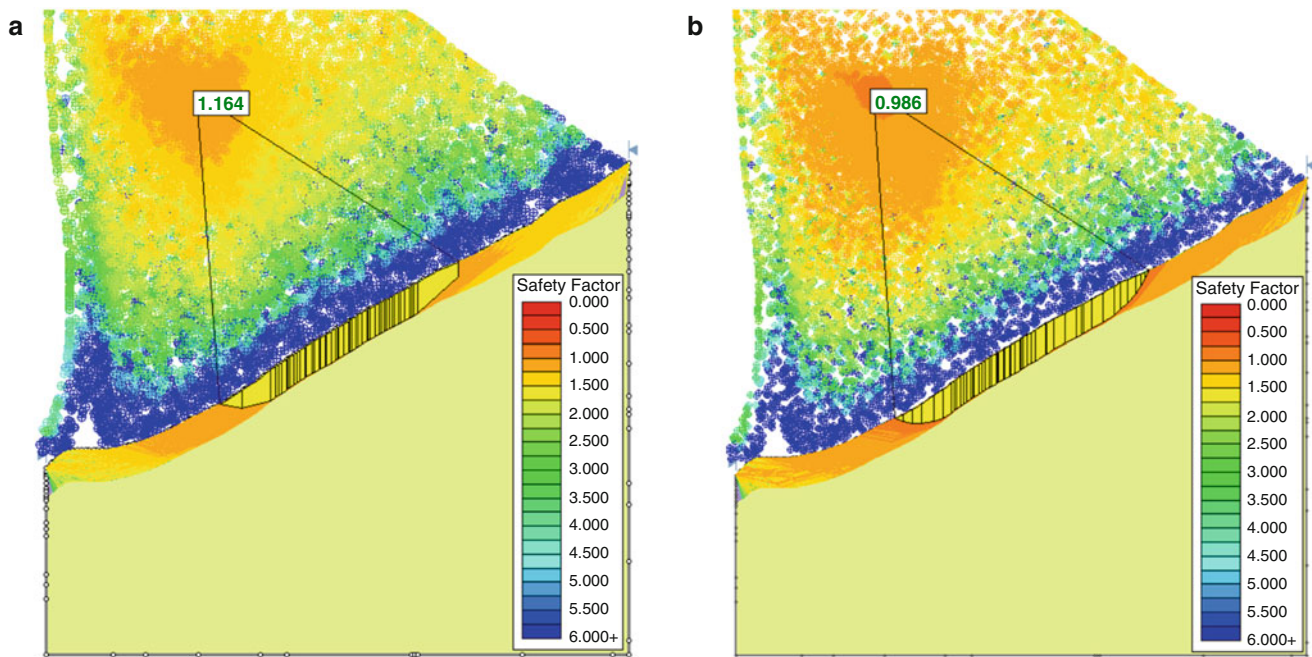
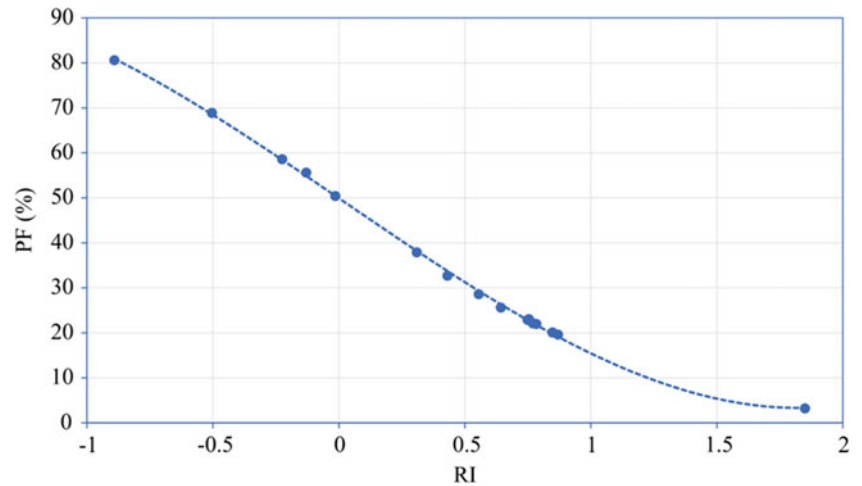


Fig. 9 The result of slope stability analysis using Slide2 in the dry season (a) and at 10:00 h, May 31 (b)

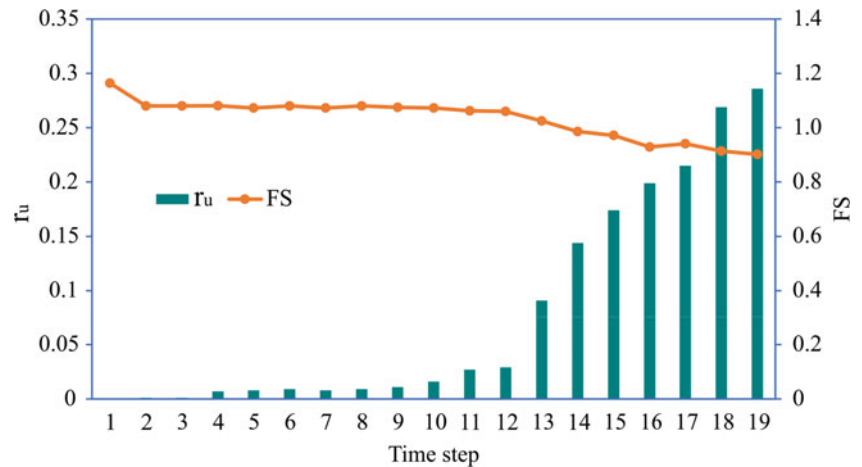
a constant only when the piezometric line is at the ground surface, which rarely occurs in nature. Therefore, it is not an ideal method to simulate actual groundwater conditions in all circumstances because the presence of any negative pore-water pressures is omitted when conducting simulations. Although the factor-of-safety results are acceptable, the analysis is based on the imperfect prediction of pore water pressure conditions.

- 2) These unexpected results may be caused by the sampling technique, the number of samples, the type of analysis, or the parameters used to set the sliding surface search method when performing simulations. However, increasing the number of analyzed samples and modifying the

initial parameters will result in a considerable increase in analysis time and a significant increase in the demands on computational resources. Because the failure time of the slope has been determined, these anomalies have been accepted in this study.

Along with the factor of safety and probability of failure, the reliability index (RI) is a critical outcome for evaluating slope stability. The relationship between the probability of failure and the reliability index is shown in Fig. 8. As indicated by the computed maximum reliability index of $1.85 < 3$, it is necessary to implement protection measures to prevent this slope from becoming unstable. In addition, the analysis

Fig. 10 Relationship between FS and r_u using Slide2



results demonstrated that the analyzed slope becomes unstable rapidly under the impact of rainfall.

3.5 Results of the Slope Stability Analysis Using FEM

Using the same input parameters as limit equilibrium analyses, two- and three-dimensional slope stability evaluations were conducted using the finite element method. As indicated by three-dimensional analysis using RS3, the slope is stable in the dry season with a critical strength reduction factor (SRF) of 1.32 (Fig. 11a). The penetration of rainwater into the soil caused an increase in pore water pressure in the sliding mass on the examined slope, resulting in a decrease in the critical strength reduction factor. The SRF value decreased from 1.32 to 0.96, corresponding to the pore pressure ratio increasing from 0 to 0.286 (Table 3). Additionally, the analysis results indicated that the studied slope became unstable around 14:00 h on May 31, when the SRF reached 0.98 (Fig. 11b).

An assessment result of the relationship between the critical strength reduction factor (SSR) as determined by the shear strength reduction method (SSR) integrated into RS3 and the pore water pressure ratio in the soil layer on the examined slope is shown in Fig. 12.

Generally, FS values determined by finite element analysis are higher than those calculated by limit equilibrium analysis. The FS values determined by RS3 are, on average, 1.06 times greater than those obtained by Slide3. The distribution of the instability zone predicted by finite element analysis corresponds to the results of limit equilibrium analysis.

For 2D slope stability analyses, the cross-section in RS2 was built up in the same way as in Slide2. The computed

cross-sections were then set up using a uniform finite element mesh consisting of three-noded triangular elements. Simultaneously, this study investigated the influence of element mesh selection on the outcomes of stability analyses using meshes with 5000 (Fig. 13), 10,000 (Fig. 14), and 20,000 elements (Fig. 15). The SRF values obtained from the 5000 and 10,000 element meshes are higher than the SRF values obtained from RS3, whereas the SRF values obtained from the 20,000-element mesh are lower than those obtained from RS3. For simulations with grids of 5000 and 10,000 elements, the slope maintains a stable state with minimum strength reduction factors of 1.07 and 1.01, respectively. Meanwhile, the examined slope became unstable at about 14:00 h on May 31 when the strength reduction factor was 0.99, according to the stability analysis utilizing a 20,000-element mesh.

Similar to RS3, the results of slope stability analysis by RS2 revealed the relationship between the strength reduction factor (SRF) and the pore water pressure ratio. Figure 16 shows the relationship between the strength reduction factor and the pore water pressure ratio using different element meshes. In addition, the relationship between the number of mesh elements and the strength reduction factor is shown in Fig. 17. As shown in the figures, the higher the number of mesh elements, the lower the calculated strength reduction factor.

When the slope is affected by precipitation, the shear strength decreases, and the weight of the soil mass increases, causing a reduction in SRF. In addition, a quasi-linear relationship between these two variables was also determined. The study indicated that the appropriate selection of a finite element mesh is a crucial factor that directly influences the simulation results and slope stability assessment. The slope stability analysis results for each step are detailed in Table 3.

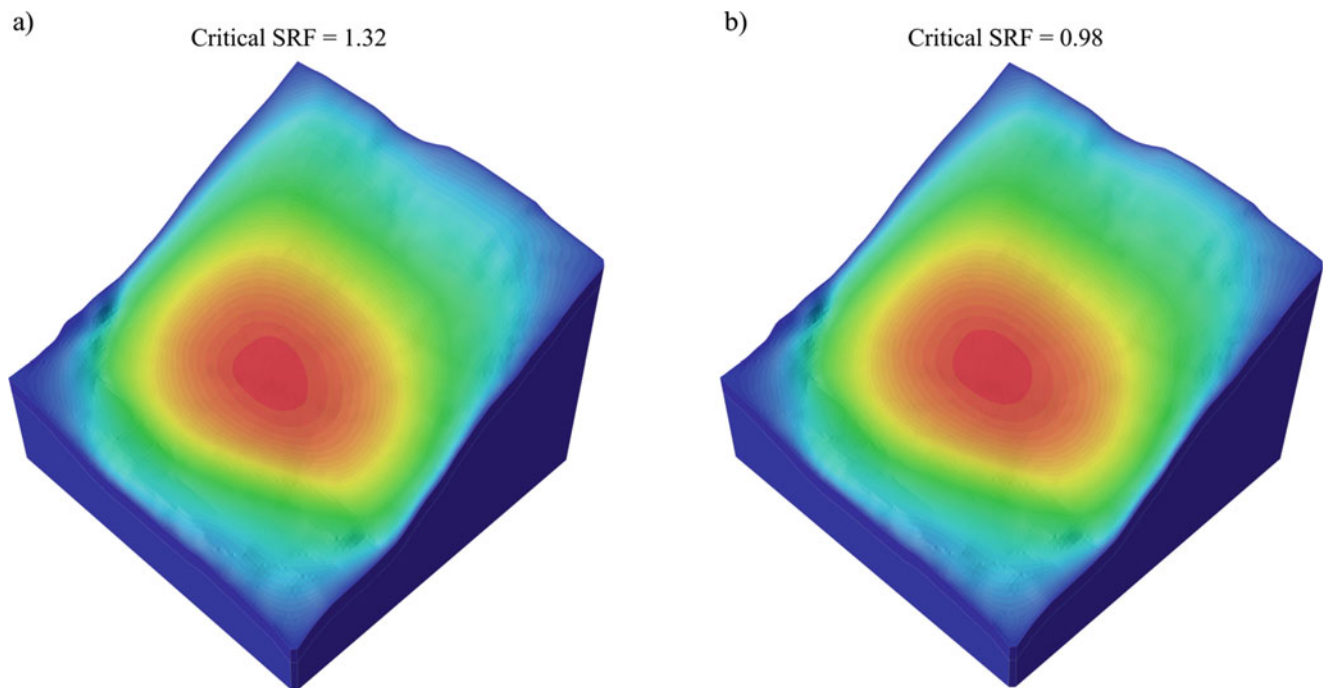


Fig. 11 The result of the slope stability analysis using RS3 in the dry season (a) and at 14:00 h, May 31 (b)

Table 3 Results of slope stability analysis using FEM

Step	Time (h)	r_u	RS2			RS3
			5000-element mesh	10,000-element mesh	20,000-element mesh	
			SRF	SRF	SRF	SRF
1		0	1.43	1.35	1.3	1.32
2	22	0.001	1.29	1.21	1.17	1.19
3	23	0.001	1.29	1.21	1.17	1.19
4	0	0.007	1.28	1.21	1.17	1.18
5	1	0.008	1.28	1.21	1.17	1.18
6	2	0.009	1.28	1.21	1.17	1.18
7	3	0.008	1.28	1.21	1.17	1.18
8	4	0.009	1.28	1.21	1.17	1.18
9	5	0.011	1.28	1.21	1.17	1.18
10	6	0.016	1.27	1.2	1.16	1.18
11	7	0.027	1.27	1.2	1.15	1.17
12	8	0.029	1.27	1.19	1.15	1.17
13	9	0.091	1.22	1.15	1.11	1.12
14	10	0.144	1.18	1.11	1.07	1.08
15	11	0.174	1.16	1.09	1.05	1.05
16	12	0.199	1.14	1.08	1.04	1.03
17	13	0.215	1.13	1.06	1.02	1.02
18	14	0.269	1.08	1.03	0.99	0.98
19	15	0.286	1.07	1.01	0.98	0.96

3.6 Comparison of the Slope Stability Analysis Results Using LEM and FEM

All the results of calculating the change in FS values of the examined slope are shown in Fig. 18 to compare the

difference in FS values between LEM and FEM stability analyses (Table 4).

The study results revealed that the decreasing trend of the factor-of-safety graphs established by the two methods corresponds to the increase in the pore water pressure ratio.

Fig. 12 Relationship between SRF and r_u using RS3

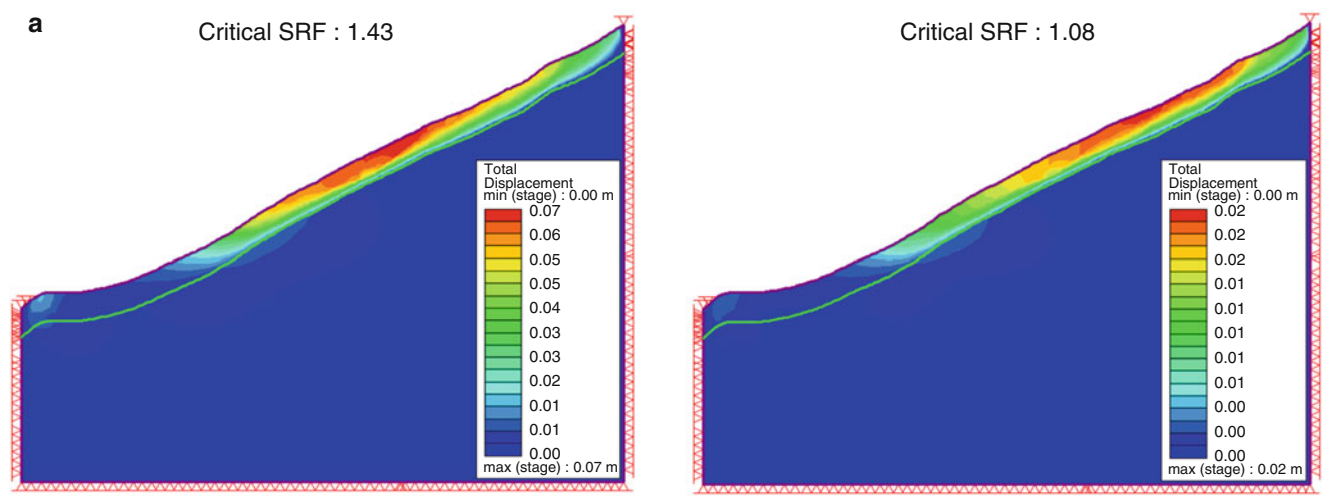
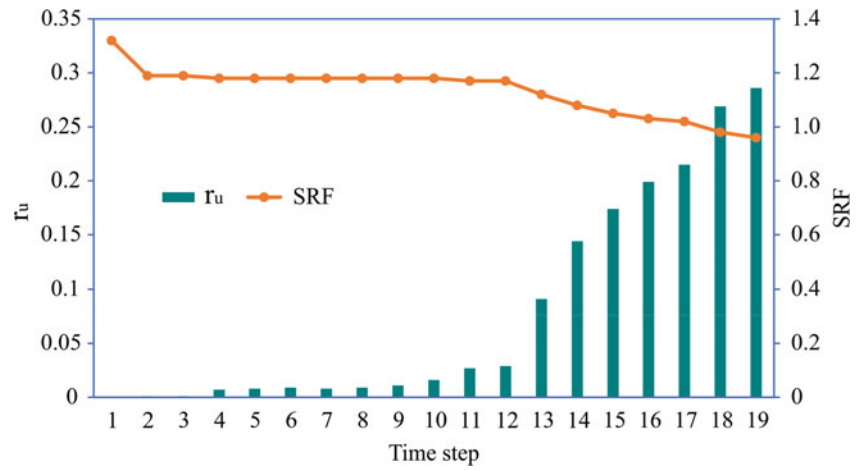


Fig. 13 The result of the stability analysis using RS2 in the dry season (a) and at 14:00 h, May 31 (b) (5000-element mesh)

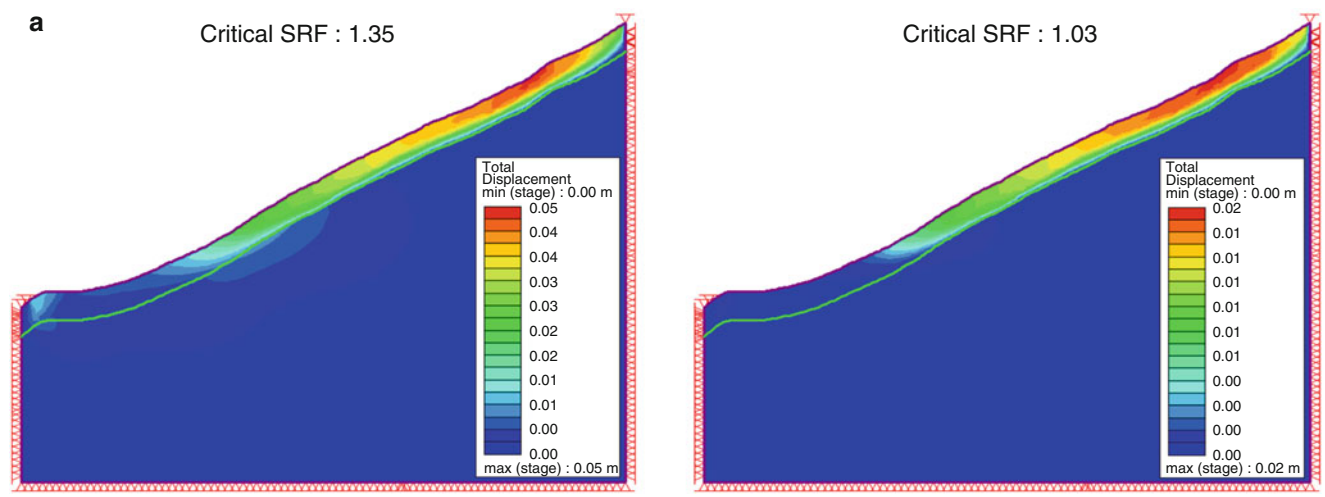


Fig. 14 The result of the stability analysis using RS2 in the dry season (a) and at 14:00 h, May 31 (b) (10,000-element mesh)

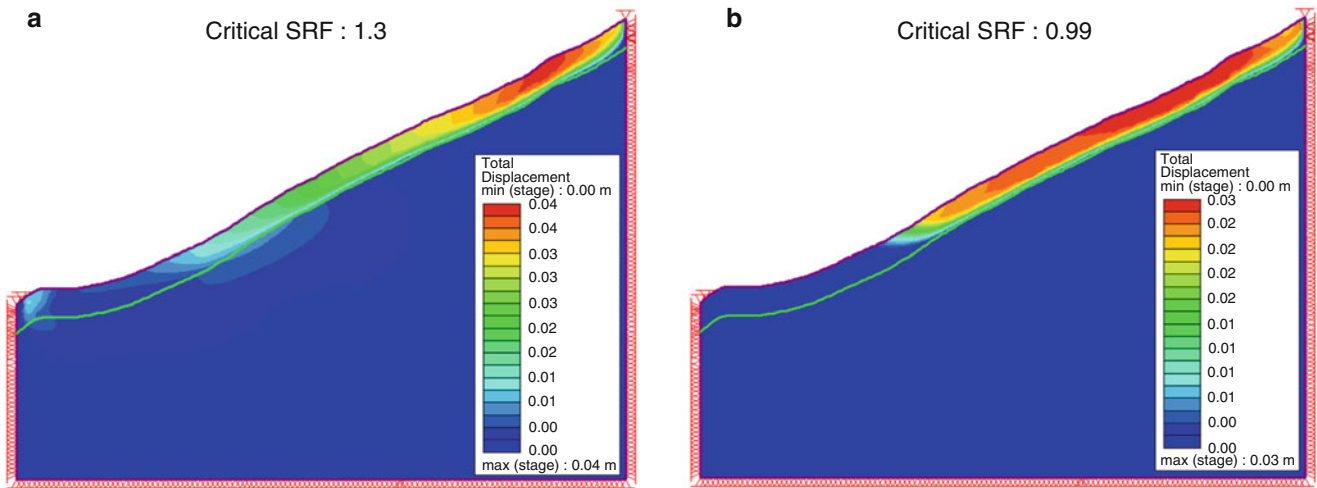


Fig. 15 The result of the stability analysis using RS2 in the dry season (a) and at 14:00 h, May 31 (b) (20,000-element mesh)

Fig. 16 Relationship between SRF and r_u using RS2

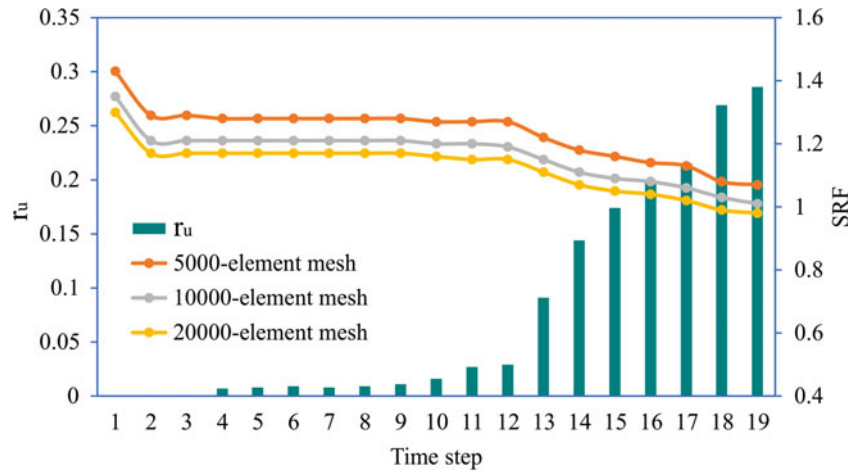
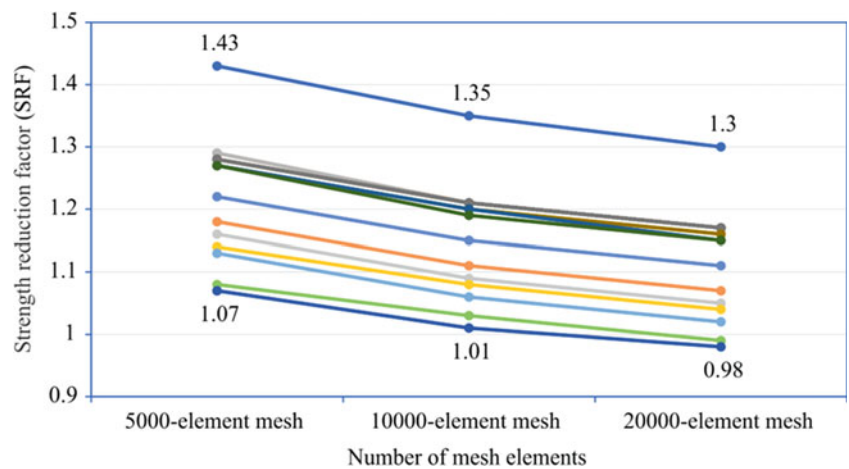


Fig. 17 Relationship between SRF and element mesh



Nonetheless, analyses indicated that the finite element method yields greater FS values than those from the limit equilibrium method. In 3D simulations, the mean difference

between the finite element method and the limit equilibrium method for calculating the FS values is only 6.03% (probabilistic) and 8.59% (deterministic). Meanwhile, in 2D analyses,

Fig. 18 Results of stability analysis using FEM and LEM

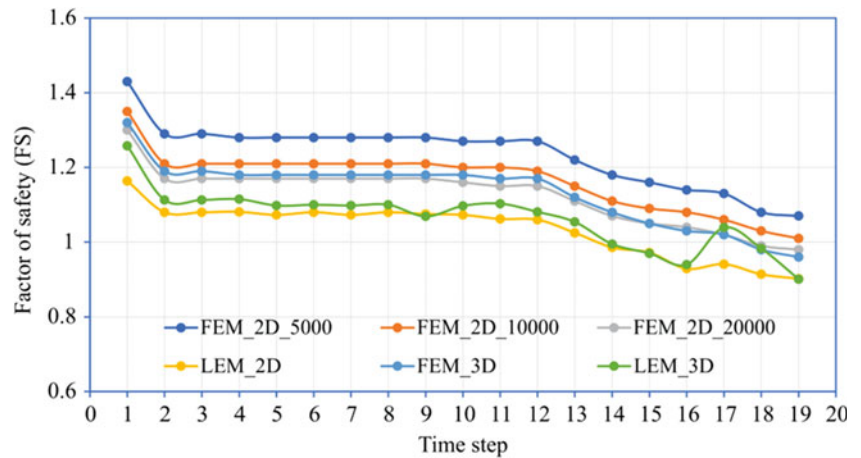


Table 4 Difference between FS values

Analysis method	Mean difference between FS values (%)	Min-max difference between FS values (%)
FEM 3D and LEM 3D	6.03	-1.86 to 9.41
	8.59	3.16 to 11.68
FEM 2D (5000-element mesh) and LEM 2D	16.3	15.37 to 18.6
FEM 2D (10,000-element mesh) and LEM 2D	11.28	10.58 to 13.78
FEM 2D (20,000-element mesh) and LEM 2D	8.08	7.43 to 10.67
FEM 2D (5000-element mesh) and FEM 3D	8.31	7.09 to 10.28
FEM 2D (10,000-element mesh) and FEM 3D	2.81	1.65 to 4.95
FEM 2D (20,000-element mesh) and FEM 3D	-0.69	-1.74 to 2.04
LEM 3D and LEM 2D	2.78	-0.56 to 9.43
	0.09	-3.35 to 3.69

the mean difference between the finite element method and the limit equilibrium method for the value of FS is 16.3 (5000-element mesh), 11.28 (10,000-element mesh), and 8.08% (20,000-element mesh), respectively. According to the simulation results, 3D analyses show a lower difference in FS values than 2D analyses. When comparing the outcomes of 2D and 3D finite element analyses, the mean difference in the FS values is 8.31 (5000-element mesh), 2.81 (10,000-element mesh), and -0.69% (20,000-element mesh), respectively. The simulation results revealed that 2D analysis with the 20,000-element grid provides the most comparable results to 3D analysis. The mean difference in the FS values between the 2D and 3D simulations using the limit equilibrium method is 2.78% (probabilistic) and 0.09% (deterministic). The FS values obtained from the 3D limit equilibrium analyses compared to the 2D analyses are consistent with the slope stability studies of numerous other authors.

3.7 Relationship Between Pore Water Pressure Ratio and Seismic Coefficient

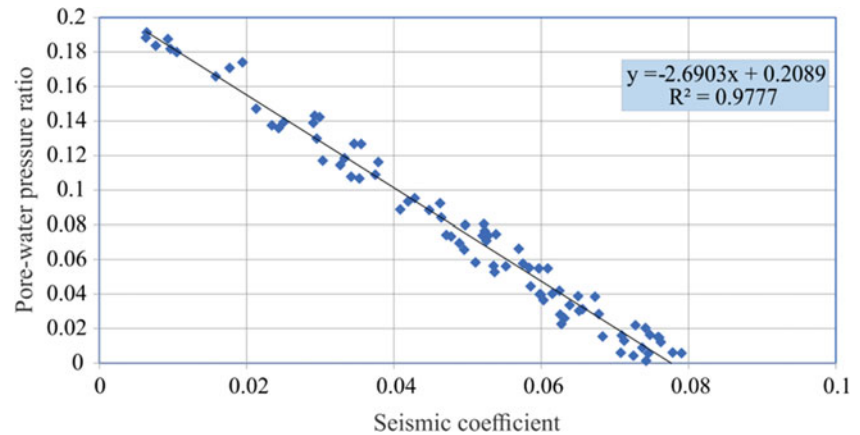
Landslides may be triggered by a single earthquake in the Sapa area since the district is located in a seismically active

zone of Vietnam. In addition, earthquakes that occur during rainy periods may increase the probability and scale of landslides, therefore increasing the potential damage. As a result, a relationship between pore water pressure and earthquake loading has been established in this study for examined sliding mass (Fig. 19). The area above the trendline indicates instability, whereas the area under this trendline indicates slope stability. When the r_u value is high, as shown in Fig. 19, even a minor earthquake might cause slope failures. Destabilization of the studied slope might occur because of individual earthquakes with a seismic coefficient of approximately 0.08 or rainfall with a r_u value of more than 0.19. When considering the combined effects of the two triggers, the equation shown in Fig. 19 may be employed. This relationship may be established for any natural or artificial slope in the study area to provide the most comprehensive evaluation of slope instability hazards.

4 Conclusions

The slope stability assessment has a critical role, especially given the increasing development of urban areas in Vietnam’s mountainous provinces. The assessment quality has a significant impact on the selection of the worksite and the most

Fig. 19 Relationship between pore water pressure ratio and seismic coefficient



suitable solutions for preventing slope failures. Based on the above idea, a slope stability analysis has been conducted for a landslide in Trung Chai commune, Sapa district, Lao Cai province.

The change in pore water pressure caused by rainfall was simulated using the pore water pressure ratio. Slope stability models may be established in two- and three-dimensions using input data obtained by field survey, including the digital elevation model of the sliding mass, the boundary between soil and rock layers, and their related physico-mechanical parameters. The Slide2, Slide3, and RS2, RS3 models were used to assess two-dimensional and three-dimensional slope stability utilizing the limit equilibrium and finite element methods, two of the most frequently employed methods in slope stability analysis. The variation in slope stability was investigated using probabilistic and deterministic analyses simultaneously. The study outcomes were utilized to establish correlations between slope stability (i.e., the factor of safety and probability of failure) and the change in PWP condition and to identify the slope failure moment. Comparing the 2D and 3D analysis results, the 2D FEM analyses provide a higher FS value than the 3D FEM analyses, whereas the 2D LEM analyses yield a lower FS value than the 3D LEM analyses. A comparison of the results between the FEM simulations and the LEM simulations reveals that the 2D and 3D FEM simulations provide higher FS values.

Despite some unexpected outcomes, the study investigated the behavior of slopes under the effect of precipitation and determined the moment of slope collapse. These results are consistent with the actual landslide occurrence, demonstrating the reliability of the simulation models. In Vietnam, the safety factor is currently the most significant parameter for evaluating slope stability. As a result, there is some subjective evaluation when studying slope stability, implying future risks. According to the research team, slope stability analysis reports should include additional values for the probability of failure and the reliability index.

Additionally, it is necessary to establish a specific standard for the reliability index, which will be used to assess the probability of failure for various types of projects.

Acknowledgments We would like to express our gratitude to the Institute of Geological Sciences, Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology, and the national science and technology project under grant number ĐTDL.CN-81/21 for supplying simulation data, as well as the Rocscience company for granting an academic software license (the Department of Engineering Geology of MGRI is a participant in the Rocscience Academic Bundle program).

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Colombia	Universidad Nacional de Colombia
Croatia	Croatian Landslide Group from Faculty of Civil Engineering University of Rijeka and Faculty of Mining, Geology and Petroleum University of Zagreb
Czech Republic	Charles University, Faculty of Science Institute of Rock Structure and Mechanics, Department of Engineering Geology
Egypt	The American University in Cairo
Germany	Technische Universitat Darmstadt, Institute and Laboratory of Geotechnics
Georgia	Department of Geology of National Environmental Agency of Georgia
Honduras	Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Honduras (UNAH)
India	Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Amrita University National Institute of Disaster Management, New Delhi
Indonesia	Gadjah Mada University, Center for Disaster Mitigation and Technological Innovation (GAMA-InaTEK) Parahyangan Catholic University Agency for Meteorology, Climatology, and Geophysics of the Republic of Indonesia (BMKG Indonesia)
Iran	Building & Housing Research Center
Italy	UNESCO Chair for the prevention and the sustainable management of geo-hydrological hazards—University of Florence

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	ISPRA-Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research University of Calabria, DIMES, CAMILAB Istituto di Ricerca per la Protezione Idrogeologica (IRPI), of the Italian National Research Council (CNR) Università di Torino, Department of Earth science Centro di Ricerca CERI—Sapienza Università di Roma National Institute of Oceanography and Applied Geophysics—OGS, Italy
Japan	Kyoto University, Disaster Prevention Research Institute Japan Landslide Society International Consortium on Geo-disaster Reduction
Korea	Korean Society of Forest Engineering National Institute of Forest Science Korea Authority of Land & Infrastructure Safety Korea Institute of Civil Engineering and Building Technology
Mexico	Institute of Geography, National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM)
Nepal	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)
Russia	Moscow State University, Department of Engineering and Ecological Geology JSC "Hydroproject Institute"
Serbia	University of Belgrade, Faculty of Mining and Geology
Slovakia	Comenius University, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Department of Engineering Geology
Slovenia	University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Civil and Geodetic Engineering (ULFGG) Geological Survey of Slovenia
Sri Lanka	Central Engineering Consultancy Bureau (CECB) National Building Research Organization
Chinese Taipei	Landslide group in National Central University from Graduate Institute of Applied Geology, Department of Civil Engineering, Center for Environmental Studies National Taiwan University, Department of Civil Engineering
Thailand	Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Land Development Department Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC)
Ukraine	Institute of Telecommunication and Global Information Space
United Kingdom	British Geological Survey
USA & Nepal	California State University, Fullerton & Tribhuvan University, Institute of Engineering
Viet Nam	Institute of Transport Science and Technology Vietnam Institute of Geosciences and Mineral Resources (VIGMR)
Country/Region	ICL Associate member
Belgium	Liege University, Georisk and Environment (G&E) group
China	State Key Laboratory of Geohazard Prevention and Geoenvironment Protection (Chengdu University of Technology) State Key Laboratory of Plateau Ecology and Agriculture (Qinghai University)
Czech Republic	Czech Geological Survey Brown Coal Research Institute
Italy	Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, University Aldo Moro, Bari University of Sannio, Department of Sciences and Technologies Geotechnical Engineering Group (GEG), University of Salerno Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences—University of Pavia University of Chieti-Pescara, Department of Engineering and Geology Federico II University of Naples, Department of Earth, Environmental and Resource Sciences DIA—Università degli Studi di Parma University of Urbino "Carlo Bo", Department of Pure and Applied Sciences
Japan	Ehime University, Center for Disaster Management Informatics Research Kochi University National Institute of Maritime, Port and Aviation Technology
Kyrgyzstan	Tian-Shan Geological Society
North Macedonia	Macedonian Association for Geotechnics
Russia	Russian State Geological Prospecting University n.a. Sergo Ordzhonikidze (MGRI-RSGPU)
Slovenia	University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Natural Sciences and Engineering (UL NTF)

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Switzerland	Institute of Earth Sciences, Faculty of Geoscience and Environment/University of Lausanne	
USA	Iowa State University	
Country/Region	ICL Supporter	
Italy	IDS GeoRadar s.r.l.	
Japan	Marui & Co., Ltd., Osaka	Okuyama Boring Co., Ltd., Yokote
	Ohta Geo-Research Co., Ltd., Nishinomiya	Japan Conservation Engineers Co., Ltd., Tokyo
	Sabo Technical Center, Tokyo	GODAI Development Corp., Kanazawa
	OYO Corporation, Tokyo	Kokusai Kogyo Co., Ltd., Tokyo
	OSASI Technos Inc., Kochi	NIPPON KOEI CO., LTD.
Chinese Taipei	Sinotech Engineering Consultants, Inc	
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