IAEG News from Japan National Group.

1) JSEG Investigation Team for Disaster Prevention

The JSEG Investigation team has been organized for Northern Kyushu flood and debris flow disaster induced by extreme heavy rain in July, 2017. JSEG organized the commission of Engineering Geology for Disaster Prevention, and investigation teams for Hiroshima debris and landslides disaster in 2014, and for Kumamoto earthquake in 2016. We, JSEG had the meeting with peoples in the disaster regions, and reported results of investigation and discussed the topographical and geological features in those areas, disaster prevention point of view. After the Hiroshima debris and landslides disaster, JSEG had field excursion with local young students who want to learn regional topographical and geological features, and disaster risk. Moreover, JSEG had the forum with main city peoples for understanding the geological features, history of the disasters, disaster risks, and relation between culture and natural features mainly in their living area.

Northern Kyushu debris and slope disaster

Recently, increasing number of extreme heavy hourly rain have occurred. It was about 130mm in 1 hour and 280mm in 3 hours in Northern Kyushu, July 5, 2017. This extreme heavy rain was caused by linear rainfall belt along the energetic seasonable front. This will be due to extreme weather caused by climate change. Many landslides about 300 places occurred in narrow area and in a short period, and debris flow with many destructive driftwoods attacked houses and peoples.

Numerous landslides occurred in Northern Kyusyu Disaster in 2017
(Aerial Photos taken by Kokusai Kogyo and Pasco.)

Awful flood and debris flow with driftwoods attacked the peoples
(Aerial Photos taken by Kokusai Kogyo and Pasco.)

Investigation of the landslide by JSEG members in Northern Kyushu Disaster

2) Slope Tectonics Conference

Slope tectonics conference will be held on 14-18 October 2017, Kyoto. Slope Tectonics is a young geosciences discipline that deals with slope movement processes controlled by various factors, such as geological structures, topography, hydrology, rock weathering , and geotechnical properties of slope materials. The main aim of the conference is to bring together researchers dealing with slope movements from different approaches in order to improve the general understanding of slope processes. The location of the post conference field trip provides us the perfect setting to view sites related to one of the main topics: rock slope deformation and catastrophic failure in accretionary complexes and garanitic rocks.

This conference follows the successful three Slope Tectonics Conferences in Lausanne (2008), Vienna (2011), and Trondheim (2014). The result of the previous conferences have been published as Geological Society of London, Special Publication v. 351, and as

a special issue of Tectonophysics v. 605, and another one is in preparation for a special issue of Geomorphology,. This conference also aims to produce a special issue in a relevant journal.

Deep seated landslide occurred in 2011

Conference Chair: Prof. Masahiro Chigira
(Chairman of IAEG Japan National Group)