




Secondary Processes Associated with Landslides in Vietnam

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Abstract. Landslides are one of the most dangerous geohazards in tropical monsoon countries. Various impacts of landslides on lives and property not only result from the destruction of the down movement itself but is also due to secondary effects including the formation of landslide-dammed lakes and the generation of tsunami-like waves. This paper presents a study on secondary processes associated with landslides hazards in Vietnam through site surveys, air photos, and data collection and analysis. First, the paper reports a comprehensive investigation of the study on landslides and their consequential hazards in recent 30 year. Then, three typical cases of landslides in the Van Hoi reservoir, Khanh waterfall, and Song Bung hydropower reservoir are characterized in terms of geological features, causes, and sliding mechanisms. Besides, landslide hazard assessment for disaster risk reduction is briefly discussed. Study results significantly indicate that heavy rainfall is the main trigger for landslides and its cascading effects (i.e., river damming and dam breach, and landslide-generated waves). While the geological structures of high fractured, deformed, and weathered rocks are the main preparatory factor of the landslides. Landslides associated with secondary hazards has been rarely analyzed in Vietnam, this study will, therefore, bring a significant understanding for planning and management of multiple disaster risk in the river-hillslope system.

Keywords: Landslides · Secondary processes · Dam reservoir · Cause · Mechanism · Vietnam

1 Introduction

Landslide phenomena are globally one of the most frequent natural hazards that cause a lot of significant damage to people and properties [1, 2, 3]. The human and economic losses result from the destruction of the mass movement of earth materials itself and the potential effects of its secondary processes that include the dam formation due to river blockage and the generation of tsunami-like waves [4–6, 7, 8]. The cascading effects to upstream and downstream areas due to the secondary hazards are presented in detail by Korup [8]. In river valleys, the large amount of the sliding materials can completely or partially fill the rivers to create natural reservoirs behind the landslide dams [4–8]. If the water table due to the impoundment process increases; the landslide dam may be highly vulnerable to instability or breaching because of various phenomena of upstream inundation, dam erosion phenomena, and the continuous effects overtopping and piping failures [6, 8]. The landslide dam breach associated with debris flows and outburst flood will pose serious hazards to downstream communities. While upstream reservoir bank slopes saturated by impounded water are prone to the failure to generate impulse waves and overtop that may cause cascading effects [4–6]. Several historical records of catastrophic landslides associated with secondary processes, including dam formation, landslide-generated waves and flash floods, are presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Historical records of catastrophic landslides associated with its secondary effects over the world

No	Event	Time	Country	Casualties	Ref
1	The overtopping and flooding due to the landslide dam failure	1786	China	100,000	[9]
2	The failures of three landslide-dammed lakes and its flooding	1933	China	20,000	[10]
3	Landslide lake outburst flooding and landslide dam failures in Uttarakhand	2013	India	5,000	[11]
4	The landslide induced waves in the Vajont reservoir	1963	Italy	2,000	[12]
5	The Shiaolin landslide dam and severe outburst flood event	2009	Taiwan	400	[13]
6	The Jure landslide dam and its dam overtopping and failures	2014	Nepal	156	[14]
7	The large-scale landslide in the Canelles reservoir	2006	Spain	-	[15]
8	The Qianjiangping landslide in the Three Gorge Reservoir (TGR)	2003	China	24	[16]
9	The large-scale deep-seated landslide in the Aratozawa reservoir	2008	Japan	-	[17]
10	The Shuping and Outang landslides in the TGR	Active	China	-	[18]

Specifically, rainfall triggered the Truong Giang landslide and Khanh waterfall landslide are very extreme.

Tsunami-like waves generated in the Truong river and Van Hoi reservoir are specific and uncommon in Vietnam. In this study, three cases of landslides in association with secondary hazards, e.g., of dam formation (at Khanh waterfall and in Song Bung No. 5 reservoir) and landslide-generated waves (in Van Hoi reservoir), are briefly presented through site investigations, aerial photos, and data analysis. The problems of landslides and their hazards in dam reservoirs have been outlined as an increasingly considerable challenge during the building and operation periods. However, this kind of research topic has still been under development, particularly the investigation of its sliding mechanisms has not been conducted. Therefore, it is imperative to study the initiation mechanism and processes as well as to assess the landslide hazards in Vietnam. The understanding of the mechanisms and processes of landslides and its secondary hazards are very crucial for safely planning and managing the dams and their reservoirs.

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