

## The 2006 Leyte Landslide Disaster

# Eddie Listanco[1]

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A devastating landslide occurred in Guinsaugon area in Leyte, Philippines on 17 February 2006. The landslide was estimated to be at least 30 million cubic meters in volume wiping out the community of Guinsaugon, a small village of St. Bernard located amidst the steep slopes bounding the town in its western side.

The village of Guinsaugon in the town of Leyte and the rest of the regions on southeastern Philippines had been experiencing large amount of rain about 6 days prior to the landslide. Floods along major rivers, flashfloods along various villages, rockslides and landslides had been experienced in numerous areas the week prior to the massive landslide. Casualties were also reported and evacuations had been undertaken in the affected areas.

Initial assessments show that the landslide had been triggered by the incessant rains in the area cause highly-weathered material in the steep mountain slopes facing Guinsaugon. There was a reported small magnitude earthquake in the area prior to the landslide. At the moment, it is still not certain if the earthquake is big enough to have hastened the landslides. However, we consider that the major factors that had contributed to the destructive landslides are the steep slopes, the condition of the materials along mountainous area and the heavy rain that affected the region for several days.

With the considerable number of casualties and missing persons, local and international organizations participated to help recover survivors and the remains of those who were covered by the landslide debris. NIGS has likewise sent several field teams both to help out in rescue operations and to study the landslide. In this presentation, we would attempt to present more details about this disaster based on these field surveys.