

Japan Geoscience Union Meeting 2011

(May 22-27 2011 at Makuhari, Chiba, Japan)

©2011. Japan Geoscience Union. All Rights Reserved.



HDS004-01

Room:103

Time:May 27 10:45-11:00

Natural disaster in Bhutan

Jiro Komori^{1*}, Toru Koike², Daisuke Higaki³, Phuntsho Tshering⁴

¹Dept of Geo & Min, Bhutan / Nagoya Univ, ²Earth System Science Co., Ltd, ³Hirosaki University, ⁴Department of Geology and Mines

Natural disasters intensively took place in Bhutan in 2009. For instance, unusual outflow from debris covered glacier, floods and natural damming of a river induced by a cyclone, watery mishap in the river recreation and earthquake struck the country as abrupt and unexpected events. Furthermore, slope failures interrupted the highway traffics, because of steep and geologically fragile slopes. These climatic and geo-hydrologic disasters revealed various risks and issues of the natural hazard in Bhutan.

The authors have been involved in the research project of glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs) in JICA/JST program since 2009. On the basis of the project, over view of the disaster information and further advisement to the focal sections and persons are necessary.

As for the revealed issues, establishment of weather and seismographic observation network and its information spreading throughout the society are particularly required. Documentation and mapping of experienced various disasters in and around Bhutan are essential. It is also important to mention that technical development and awareness creation regarding hazard mitigation should be enhanced at the national and local governments and community level.

Keywords: landslide, cyclone, glacial disaster, earthquake, natural damming, disaster management