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Physiographic effects of landslides on landscape evolution in Northern Japanese Alps

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Mosaics of landscape are present in the alpine and subalpine zones of Northern Japanese Alps, central Japan. The formation of these mosaics is considered to have been affected by complex natural environments of the mountain areas such as topography, surface geology, soils, climates, and vegetation as well as long-term geohistory since the Last Glacial. Although large landslides occur in Northern Japanese Alps, little attention has been given to sudden and short-term (or prolonged and long-term) effects of slope changes by landslides on landscape evolution. In this presentation, we describe four examples from geomorphological and geoecological points of view: 1) Tsugaike-Shizenen moor in east of Mount Korengeyama, 2) Nagaikedaira in north face of Mount Shiroumadake, 3) Tsukumoike moor on Mount Eboshidake, and 4) Takamagahara moor in upper Kurobe River. Consequently, we summarize the present status of these studies and outline the future direction of this research field.

Keywords: landslide, landscape evolution, Quaternary geology and geomorphology