

**COPING WITH RISK:
UNESCAP TYPHOON COMMITTEE HYDROLOGICAL
COMPONENT**

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Abstract

Flood is the most significant natural disaster in Malaysia from the perspective of population affected, frequency, areal extent and disruption to socio-economic activities. After the major flood of 1971, the Government established the Permanent Flood Commission and the National Natural Disaster Relief Committee to manage flood issues. Apart from implementing structural flood mitigation programs, the Government also carries out various non-structural measures and institutionalized the flood relief machinery at the national, state and district levels.

Department of Irrigation and Drainage (DID) is a member of National Disaster Committee Malaysia and is responsible for providing flood forecasting and warning service to the public including on-line rainfall and river levels information. This paper presents an on going study of the development of 'Flood Hazard Maps' and 'Debris and Mudflow' based on historical and on-line rainfall data in both Klang River, Kuala Lumpur and Cameron Highlands in Pahang. The guidelines and methodology provided during the Typhoon Committee Hydrology Component Workshop in 2002 was used to investigate the method applied in Japan and its applicability in Malaysia. The guidelines are developed and implement by Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of Japan. The main objectives of these methods is to provide advance warning to the public and relevant agencies for disaster relief on the possibility of occurrence of an impending flash flood in urban area, landslide or mudflow in high-risk and sensitive areas, like cut shapes of highway and recreation areas. This study will show how the debris flow warning is possible to be developed and be able to alert the appropriate agencies for disaster relief. A successful conducted study hopefully lead DID as one of local Government Agency that can provide Operational Urban Flash Flood and Debris Flow Warning System in Malaysia.

Keywords: Flood Hazard Maps Malaysia; Kuala Lumpur; Flash Flood; Debris and Mudflow Warning System; Landslides; Cameron Highlands; DID; Department of Irrigation and Drainage; Rainfall; Debris; Mudflow; Warning line; Evacuation line; Malaysia; Hillslope

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