

This third issue of **PANEL UPDATE**, the eNewsletter of the Panel on Wind and Seismic Effect's, reports on the recent Hurricane Isabel's strike on the US central Atlantic states and NILIM's new real-time disaster information system. Your comments about the eNewsletter's content and format are welcomed. We strive to bring you, the Panel Members with timely information about your Panel activities.

HURRICANE ISABEL AND AAWE

During the evening of 18 September 2003 and morning of the 19th, Hurricane Isabel traveled through North Carolinas, Virginia, and Maryland on its northward path to Canada. Isabel caused widespread power outages, localized damage to water treatment plants, swollen streams and rivers, flooding in low lying areas along waterfronts, many downed trees, extensive business interruption, and the closing of federal, state, and local government offices and schools. The cleanup and damage assessment phase is underway. Federal funds were released and made available for damage repair. The American Association for Wind Engineering (AAWE) dispatched an advance team to North Carolina before Isabel's landfall. The hurricane resulted in little wind-induced structural damage; most damage was from storm surge and falling trees from saturated soils. AAWE released a preliminary report at the end of September. Many lives were saved during Isabel's track through the US east coast based on NOAA's improved capability to provide five-day forecasts that now are as reliable as were its two-day forecasts during the 1990s. On a related matter, in May 2003, AAWE investigated damage from tornado outbreaks in Missouri and Kansas. The findings were released in May 2003 and are available at www.windhazards.org and from AAWE's website www.aawe.org. During the Panel's Wind Engineering Task Committee Workshop, Seattle, WA, October 2002, AAWE and the Japanese Association for Wind Engineering developed a draft Memorandum of Agreement (currently under review) to perform joint wind damage investigations under the umbrella of the Panel.

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DEVELOPMENT OF REAL-TIME DISASTER INFORMATION SYSTEM

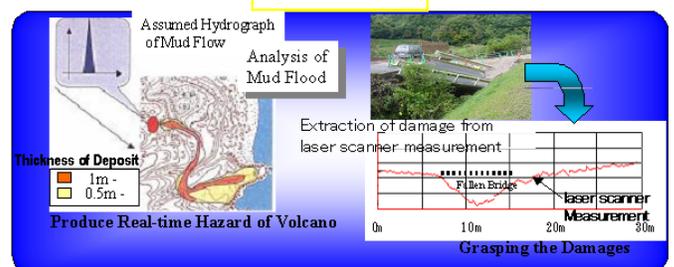
The National Institute for Land and Infrastructure Management (NILIM) initiated a new project, "Development of real time disaster information system". This project's goal is to mitigate disaster damage through use of IT and remote sensing technology to disaster management activities. The project consists of three tasks:

1. Develop a process to share and provide disaster information.
2. Develop effective methods to estimate disasters and damages in real time.
3. Develop methods to perform real-time geographical movement observation and

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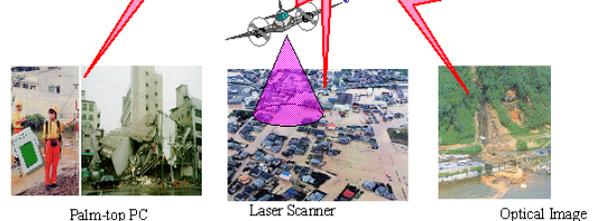


Development of data integration methods



Prediction and Grasping

Development of Real-time data transmission and analysis method



analysis techniques that quickly predicts volcanic eruptions and earthquakes.

The project is a cooperative research with geographical survey institute. NILIM is primarily involved with tasks 1 and 2 above. The expected products of this work are:

1. New procedures to use laser scanner technology to rapidly understand real-time hazard from volcanoes, flood areas, and landslides.
2. Disaster management system and crisis management computer based support system.

The project duration is three years. An experimental system will be developed and evaluated in Tokai area. This project is expected to results in an improved and enhanced system of disaster management that will considerably mitigated disasters such as the Tokai earthquake.

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