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Case Study on Debris flows in Korea

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Large rainfall in July 2006 produced several large scale debris flows and many small debris flows that resulted in loss of life and considerable property and highway damage in Korea. Following these events, Highway and Transportation Technology Institute of Korea Highway Corporation is undertaking emergency measures to prevent secondary disasters. Field investigations were made by HTTI of KHC and Geobrugg Korea Co., Ltd. to estimate expected volumes of debris and parameters from debris flow events for the design of debris flow mitigation measures. The hazard "debris flow" is still insufficiently researched. Furthermore debris flows are very hard to predict. This paper discusses seriousness of debris flow damages in Korea, presents case studies of such disasters in 2006, and suggests effective political and applicable measures.