Interim Risk Criteria for Landslides and Boulder Falls from Natural Terrain

Reese, A., Ho, K.K.S. & Lo, D.O.K.

Abstract

Natural hillsides cover over 60% of the total land area of Hong Kong. Current Government's policy is to avoid hazards from natural hillside wherever possible when planning new developments and to react to known hazards. Given the scarcity of land in Hong Kong, this is becoming increasingly difficult.

Significant natural terrain landslides in recent years drew attention to the hazards of destructive landslides from the natural hillside. The threat is likely to increase if more land on or adjacent to steep hillsides is to be released for housing to meet the projected population demand. Studies were initiated by the Geotechnical Engineering Office to develop state-of-the-art methodologies for quantification of landslide risk and establish appropriate risk criteria.

This paper summarises the pilot work carried out in developing risk guidelines for landslides and boulder falls from natural terrain. The interim risk criteria are explained and their implementation is discussed.