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Investigation of the May 2016 Landslide in Sai Kung East Country Park – Some Lessons Learnt for Engineering Geologists

Presented by Steven Williamson

Date: 30 October 2019 (Wednesday)
Time: 19:00 – 20:00
Venue: Leighton Room, Craigengower Cricket Club, Happy Valley
Fee: Free of Charge

Synopsis:

An intense rainstorm on 21 May 2016 resulted in a cluster of 34 natural terrain landslides in the Sai Kung East Country Park Area, one of which was almost an order of magnitude larger than all the others with a source volume of over 2000 m³. The landslide occurred above Sai Kung Sai Wan Road, a country park road and popular hiking trail, and the debris severely damaged the road resulting in closure for more than three months. The nature of the landslide was unusual in that it was a structurally controlled rock slide, with a basal failure surface formed from a persistent, planar sheeting joint within columnar jointed tuff. The landslide had a maximum depth of about 12 m, while the other landslides that occurred in the country park during the same rainstorm involved only shallow failures within soil regolith.

An investigation of the landslide was undertaken to determine the probable mechanism and causes of the failure, and to assess the potential risk of further large-scale failure of the remaining hillside. This presentation outlines the methodology, findings, challenges and lessons learnt from the investigation.

About the Speaker:

Mr. Steven Williamson is a Technical Director of AECOM Asia Co. Ltd. with over 25 years' experience in the fields of engineering geology and geotechnical engineering works including geohazard and risk assessment both in Hong Kong and overseas. He has extensive experience in landslide investigation going back to 1999 and has been a main contributor to several notable cases in Hong Kong.



For enquiry, please contact Miss Trudy Kwong at tkwong@bmintelligence.com