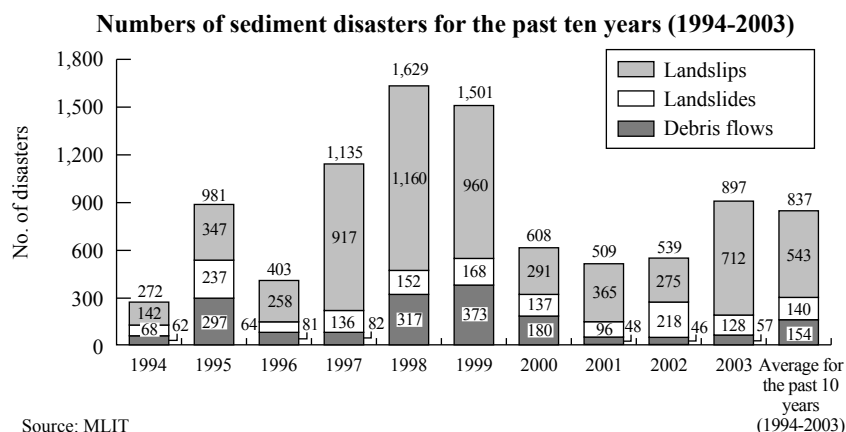


Chapter 7: Public Safety Management

[Disaster prevention]

○Building a more disaster resistant nation

Protecting the lives and property of the people from natural disaster is of utmost importance. On the other hand, the concentration of the population and assets on the cities may increase the potential risk of disaster. With this in mind, MLIT is committed to disaster prevention in all of its forms. Among the ministry's efforts in this regard are: the widening of river channels; development of levees and floodways; comprehensive flood control measures for urban floods; measures against sediment disasters; measures against earthquakes by such means as improving the earthquake-resistance and overall safety of homes and buildings and securing open spaces in urban areas; volcanic sediment and erosion control; snow damage control; measures against high tides, tsunami and coastal erosion; and road disaster prevention.



Overflow of the Honami River, a tributary of the Onga River, in Fukuoka Prefecture, which was caused by torrential rain associated with the seasonal rain front in July 2003



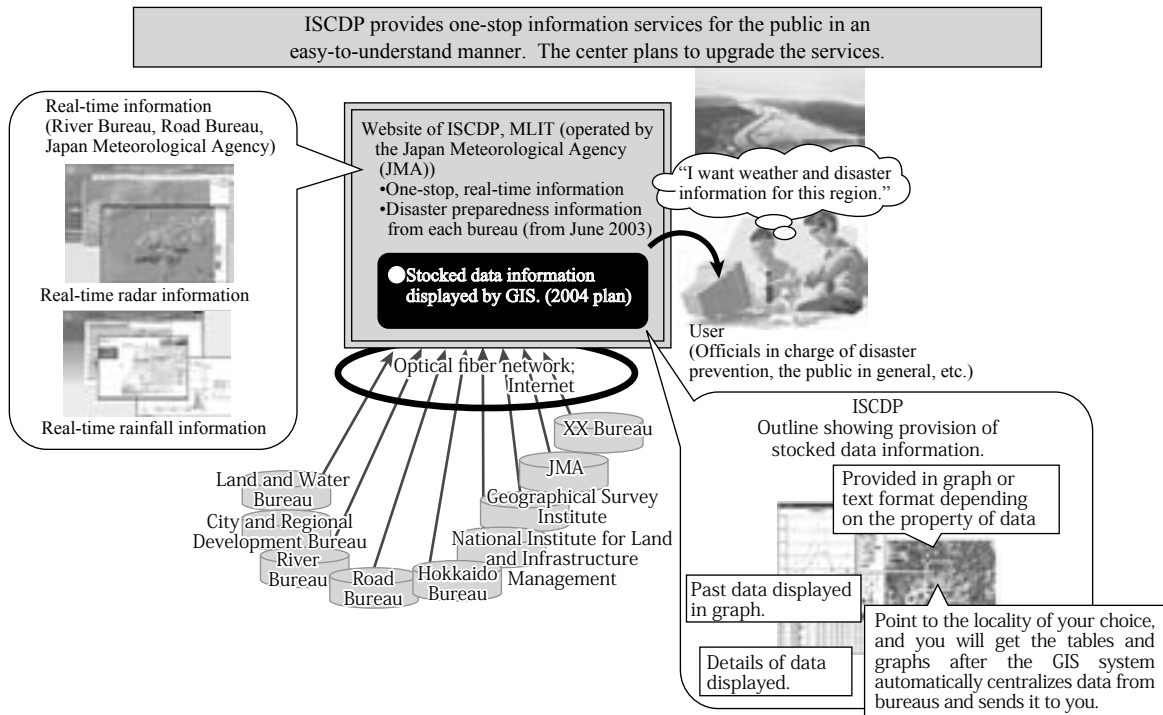
Debris flows caused by torrential rain associated with the seasonal rain front in July 2003 (in Minamata, Kumamoto Prefecture)



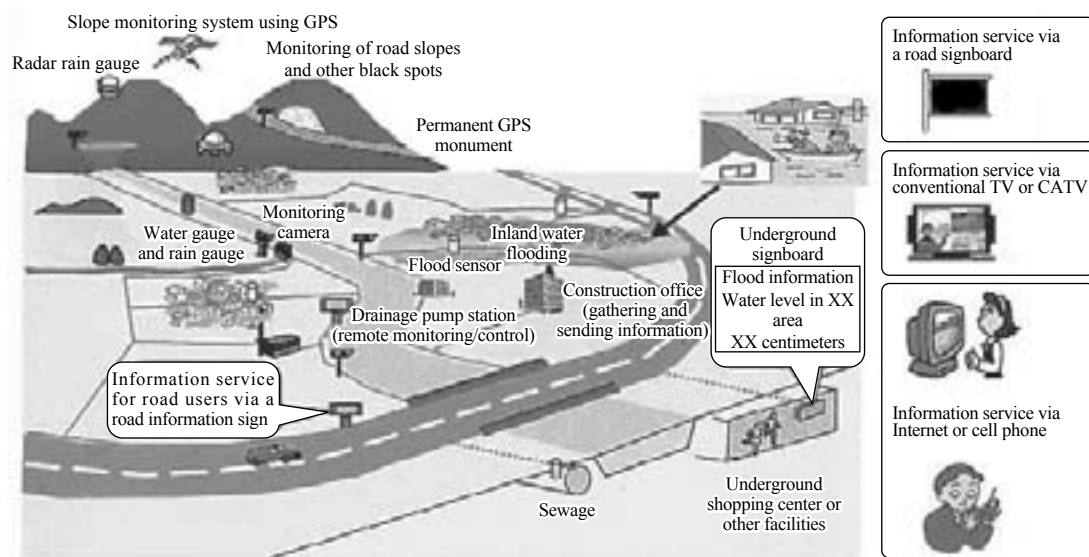
○Disaster prevention arrangements

MLIT gives priority to information service to minimize the loss of lives and other kinds of damage caused by natural disasters. In addition, the ministry is working to improve arrangements for earthquakes and volcanic activities and upgrade the management of the existing disaster prevention resources using IT.

Information Service Center for Disaster Prevention (ISCDP)



A conceptual rendering of public facility management and crisis management using IT technology



○Ensuring that the transport systems are resistant to disasters

MLIT is committed to ensuring that ports and airports are constructed in such a way to boost their resistance to disasters. The ministry is also trying to secure multiple transport systems and routes by land, by sea and by air, so that alternative systems or routes can be used in the case of disaster. In addition, MLIT encourages public transport operators to boost their disaster preparedness.

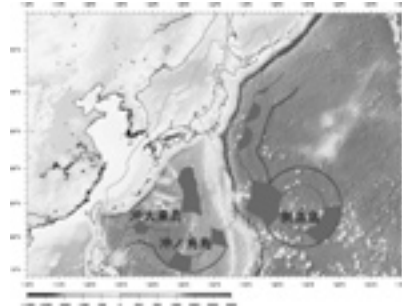
[Crisis management and security]

MLIT is committed to contributing to national security and protecting the lives and property of the people. The ministry's measures to that end include: making arrangements to boost emergency responsiveness through consolidated management of disaster information; improving preparedness for man-made disasters, including measures against stranded and abandoned vessels of foreign nations; and conducting studies to determine the boundaries of the continental shelves belonging to Japan.

Freighter Chil Song stranded and abandoned at a breakwater in the Hitachi port. Ibaraki Prefecture had no choice but to remove the vessel.



The sea areas that may be recognized to have continental shelves that belong to Japan.



[Stepping up traffic safety measures]

○Road traffic

MLIT is taking intensive measures to reduce traffic accidents at black spots, including improving intersections, developing sidewalks, and installing road lightings. Among the other car safety measures are tighter safety measures for commercial vehicles, crackdown on illegally modified cars, vehicle safety measures, and tougher application of the recall system.

○Railway/tramway traffic

MLIT conducts safety audit for railway/tramway operators in relation to the maintenance of facilities and rolling stock, as well as driving and other operations. The ministry also manages the driver qualification system and provides support in improving facilities. In addition to measures to prevent accidents at grade crossings, MLIT is taking steps to prevent fires in subways in the aftermath of the subway fire in February 2003 in Daegu, South Korea.

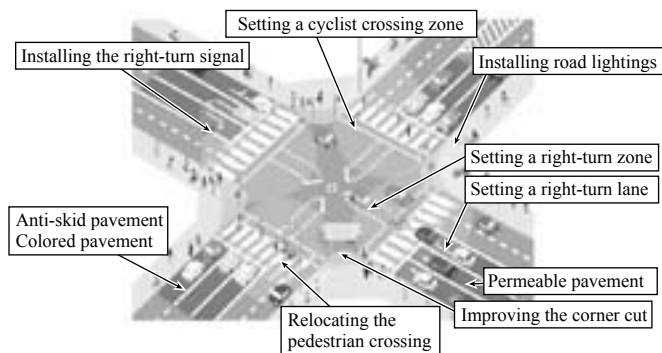
○Maritime transport

MLIT aims to improve the safety of vessels themselves and navigation safety. To this end, the ministry taking a number of steps, including: strict implementation of Port State Control (PSC); development of the next-generation navigation support system that take advantage of the Automatic Identification System (AIS); and installing and improving Aids to Navigation. In addition, MLIT strives to improve rescue preparedness. It has recently introduced a Mobile Rescue Technician. The ministry is committed to studying the causes of maritime distress that have occurred to prevent similar distress.

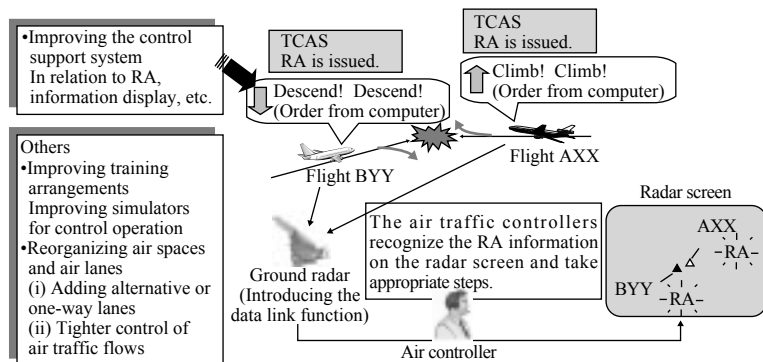
○Air traffic

MLIT has been working on the development of the efficient next-generation aviation system that accommodates the practices of Japan's air traffic. The new system takes advantage of satellites and new technologies such as data link. Efforts have also been made to prevent the recurrence of the near miss incident that occurred recently. The ministry has been stepping up fail-safe measures since the Flight Data Processing system (FDP) failed in March 2003.

Typical measures against black spots



Stepping up safety measures for air traffic in Japan



Note: TCAS: Traffic Alert and Collision Avoidance System
RA: Resolution Advisory