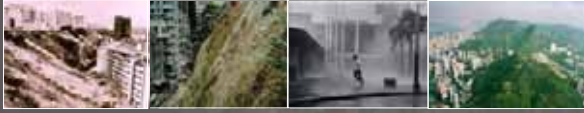


Session 1 Topography, Geology and Rainfall - Hong Kong



[9:00 – 10:30 am, 18 February 2009]

Dr. H.K. Tam



Geotechnical Engineering Office

1

Objective of this session:

- Geographical location and topography of Hong Kong
- Geology, soils and rocks
- Rainfall

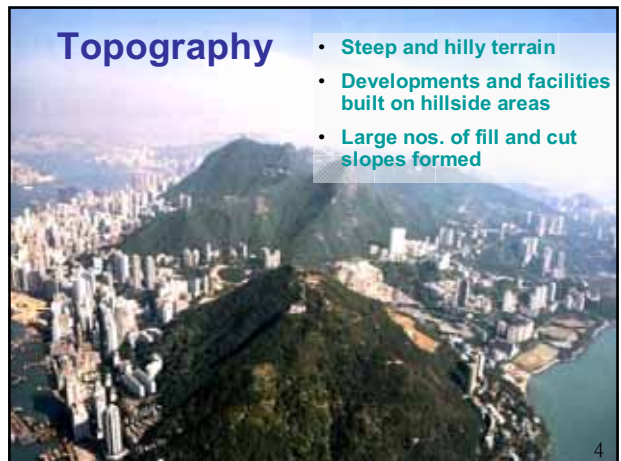
2

Location of Hong Kong



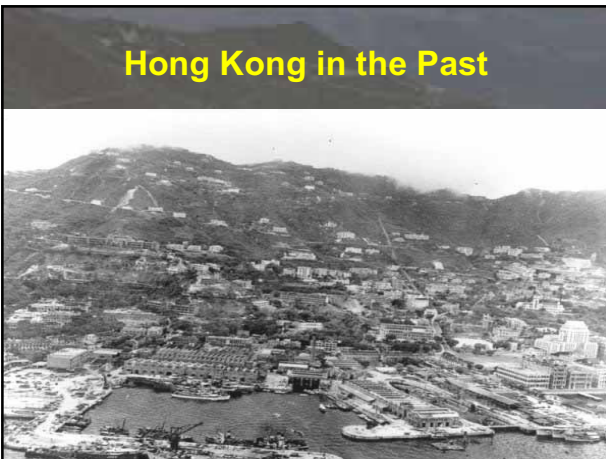
Topography

- Steep and hilly terrain
- Developments and facilities built on hillside areas
- Large nos. of fill and cut slopes formed

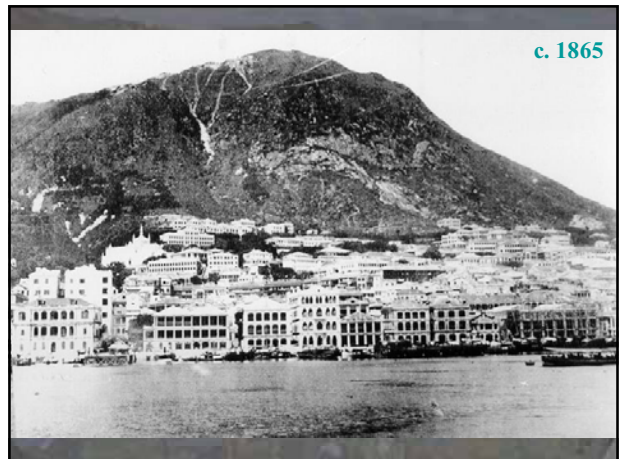


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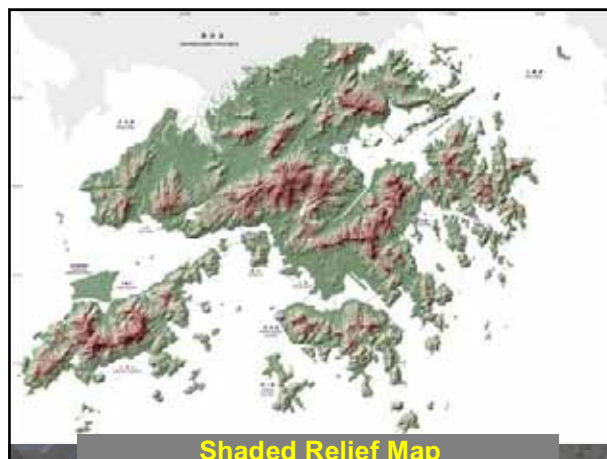
Hong Kong in the Past



c. 1865



Natural Terrain Covers ~60% of the Land Area



Geology of Hong Kong

- Rock identification, structure, weathering, erosion, superficial deposits
- GIS Geological Maps
- e-Memoirs and Sheet Reports

9

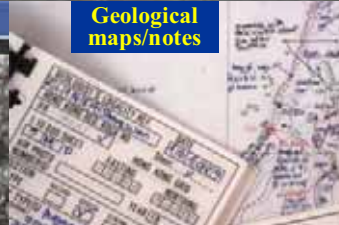
Applied Geology

- Collect/record/archive data/specimens
- Archive/database specimens/data
- Interpret geology (maps/reports)
- Develop geological models (slopes/tunnels)

Aerial
Photographs



Geological
maps/notes



Awareness of what is known and what is available - Issues to Consider

- Identifying main rocks and superficial deposits
- Identifying adverse geological materials and conditions (marble, soft materials, deep weathering, permeable materials etc.)
- Understanding varied rock types and materials and complex relationships/structures

11


HKGS/CEDD Existing geological information sources

- Geological Maps: scales 1:100K, 1:20K, 1:5K
- Geological Memoirs 1-6 & SAR-wide memoirs
- Geological Sheet Reports 1-6
- Specialist Geological Study reports
- Geoguide 2 - Guide to Site Investigation
- Geoguide 3 - Guide to Rock & Soil Descriptions


Note: HKGS = Hong Kong Geological Survey

12

1936



Geological maps reflect information available at time they are produced









1984-96

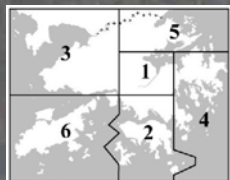
1971

2004-09 revision
for digital publication in GIS format

1:20,000 Maps 2-16 and Memoirs 1-6









1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16



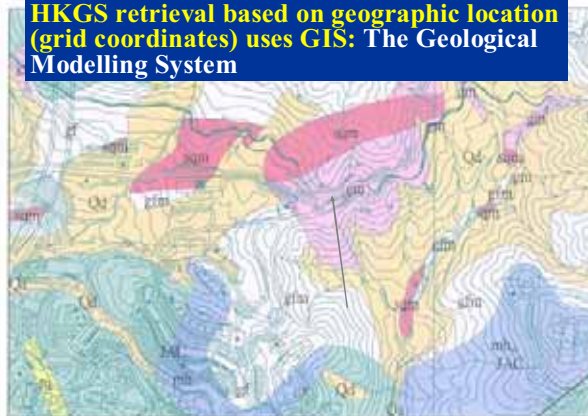
14

1:20,000-scale geological maps




Information on solid geology and superficial deposits but not site-specific

HKGS retrieval based on geographic location (grid coordinates) uses GIS: The Geological Modelling System




Key HKGS 1:5,000 Maps & 6 Sheet Reports


1992



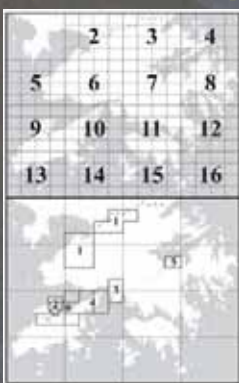
1996



2002



	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16



- cover Scheduled and Designated Areas containing marble and marble-bearing rocks etc.
- more site-specific
- but maps reflect state of knowledge at time of publication

(Download at www.cedd.gov.hk)

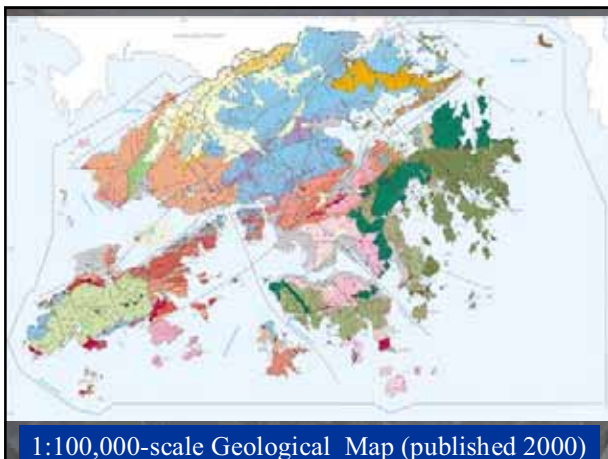
17

Recent Geological Mapping

- Increasing detail
- More data (e.g. boreholes)
- New survey techniques (e.g. geophysics)
- New analytical techniques (e.g. age dating)
- Digital data storage and transfer

Improved maps (accuracy and precision) with improved distribution of units, and refinements of classification

18



The Quaternary Geology of Hong Kong with 1:100,000-scale geological maps

- Presents a comprehensive overview of the Quaternary Geology of Hong Kong, including its superficial deposits, both onshore and offshore, geomorphology, and weathering of insitu rock. The superficial deposits are described in terms of their age, stratigraphy, composition, engineering characteristics, and resource significance.

'Engineering Soil'*



* Not engineering geology manuals

20

The Pre-Quaternary Geology of Hong Kong with 1:100,000-scale geological maps

- Presents a comprehensive overview of the Pre-Quaternary Geology of Hong Kong, including its stratigraphy and structure. The classification and description of the rocks are discussed in detail and their ages and distributions are described and interpreted. Hong Kong rocks are also considered in relation to regional stratigraphy and tectonics.

'Engineering Rock'*

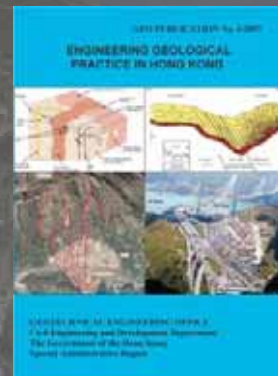


* Not engineering geology manuals

21

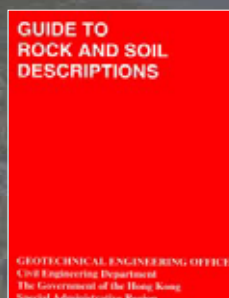
Engineering Geological Practice in Hong Kong - GEO Publication No 1/2007

- Introduce the principles of engineering geology as applicable to Hong Kong
- Illustrate the application of these principles to civil engineering works



Geoguide 3 – Guide to Rock and Soil Descriptions

- Presents a recommended standard of good practice for the description of Hong Kong rocks and soils for engineering purposes



23

Some Common Rock Types



A: Fine-grained Granite B: Medium-grained Granite C: Coarse-grained Granite

24

Some Common Rock Types



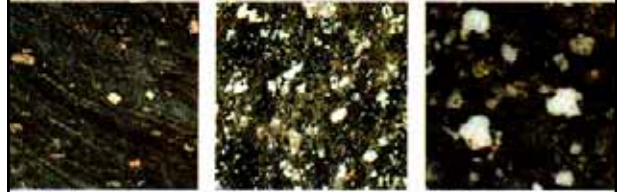
D: Aphite
(intruding granodiorite)

E: Pegmatite

F: Granodiorite

25

Some Common Rock Types



G: Rhyolite

H: Rhyodacite

I: Dacite

26

Some Common Rock Types



S: Fine Ash Tuff

T: Coarse Ash Tuff

U: Lapilli Tuff

27

Some Common Rock Types



V: Pyroclastic Breccia
($\times 1/2$)

W: Mudstone

X: Sandstone

28

Some Common Rock Types



Y: Conglomerate

Z: Sedimentary Breccia

AA: Chert

29

Classification and Distribution of Rocks and Superficial Deposits

- Sedimentary rocks
- Volcanic rocks
- Granitic rocks
- Metamorphic rocks and fault-related rocks
- Onshore and Offshore Superficial deposits

30

3 main groupings of rocks

- Older, localised sedimentary rocks, including marble, mainly in NW/NE New Territories
- Extensive volcanic and granitic rocks, some sedimentary rocks
- Younger sedimentary rocks, including those offshore

31

Sedimentary Rocks

Grain-size and Compositional Classification, eg

- Conglomerate >2 - <60mm
- Sandstone >0.06 - <2mm
- Siltstone > 0.002 - <0.06mm
- Claystone <0.002mm

Detrital - Mudstone, siltstone, sandstone, conglomerate, and breccia

Chemical and Biological - Limestone and chert

32

Key Older Sedimentary Rocks (c.340Ma)

Lok Ma Chau Formation

Tai Shek Mo Member - Metasandstone with metaconglomerate

Mai Po Member - Metasiltstone with graphite schist

• Yuen Long and Ma On Shan Formations

Marble (>50% carbonate) + cavity/cavity-infill
Pure and Impure (up to 17% impurities)

33

Tin Shui Wai & Yuen Long Scheduled Area No. 2

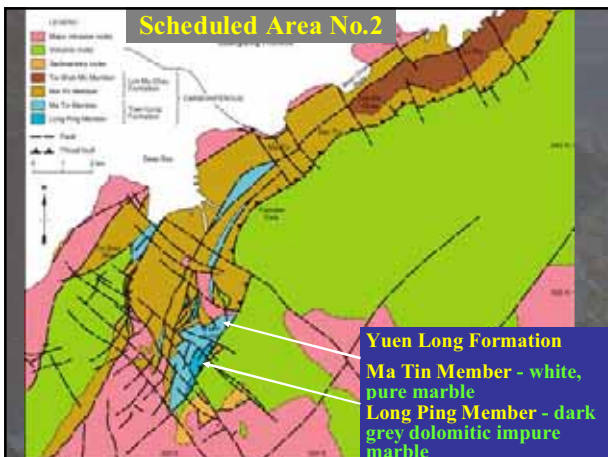
Ma On Shan Scheduled Area No. 4



Tung Chung Designated Area of Northshore Lantau

Areas of Marble Subcrop

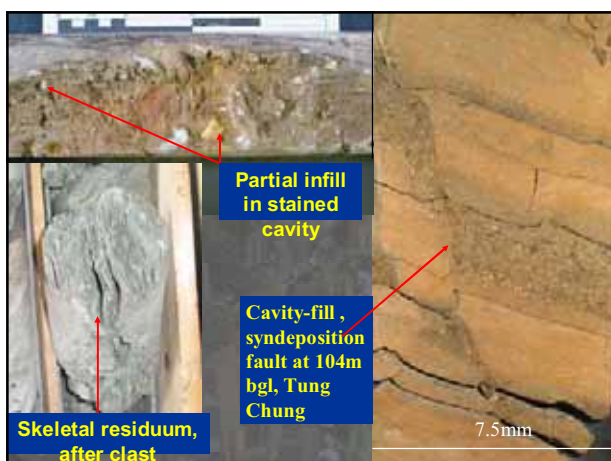
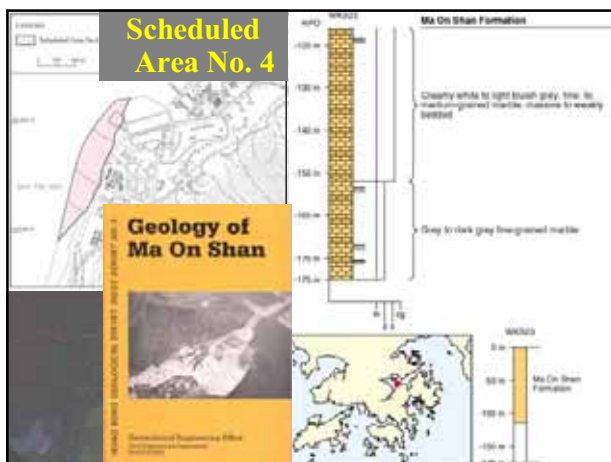
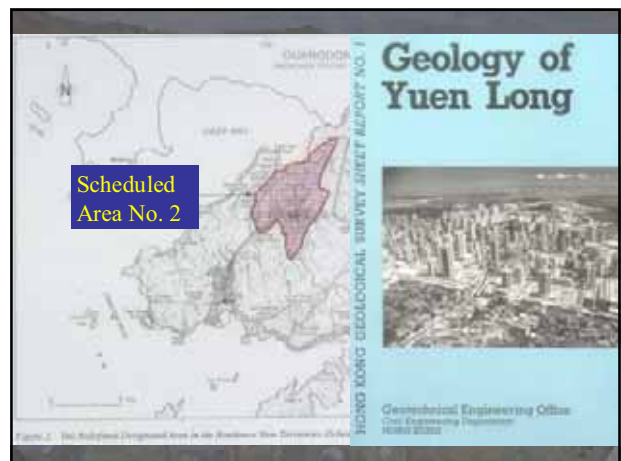
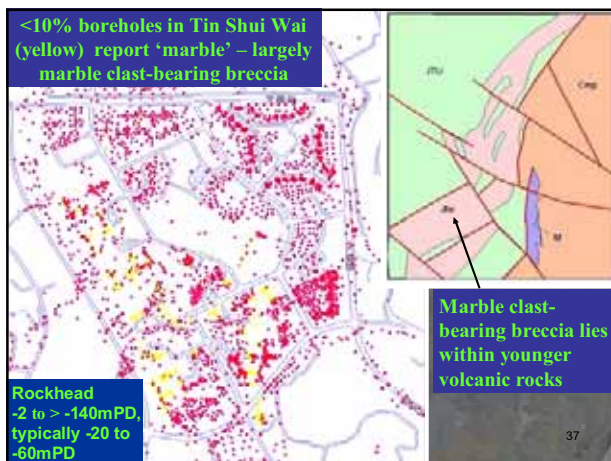
Scheduled Area No.2

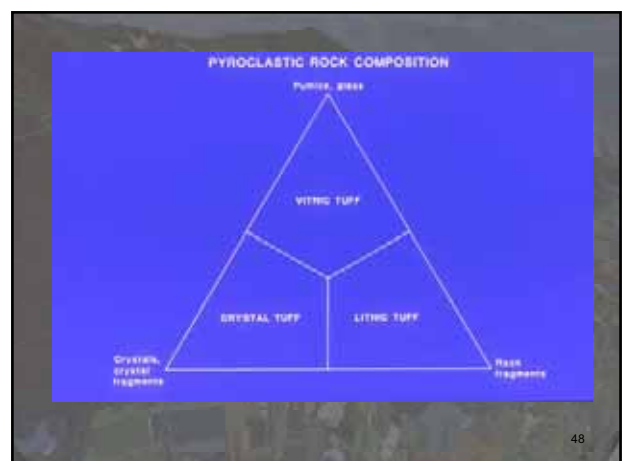
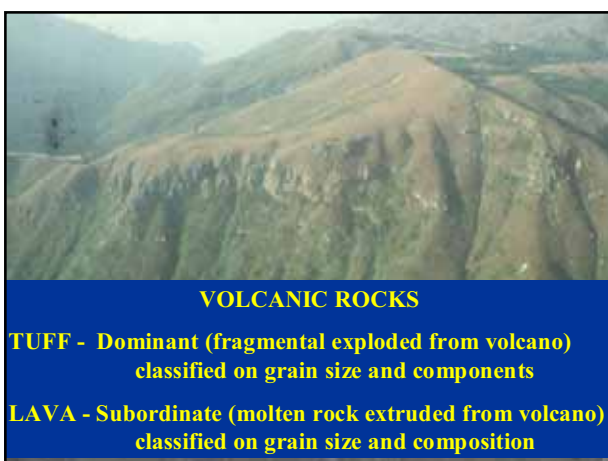
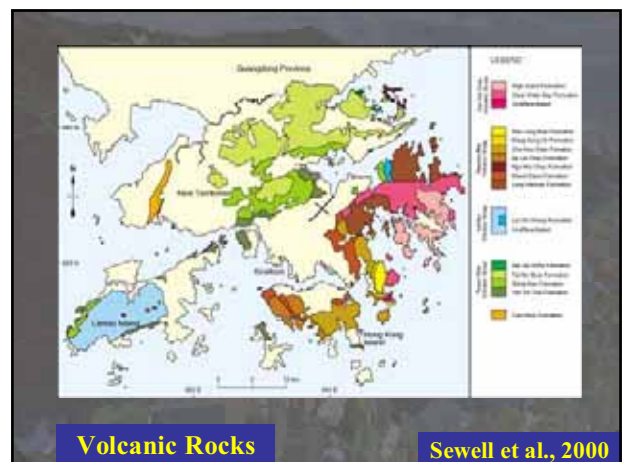
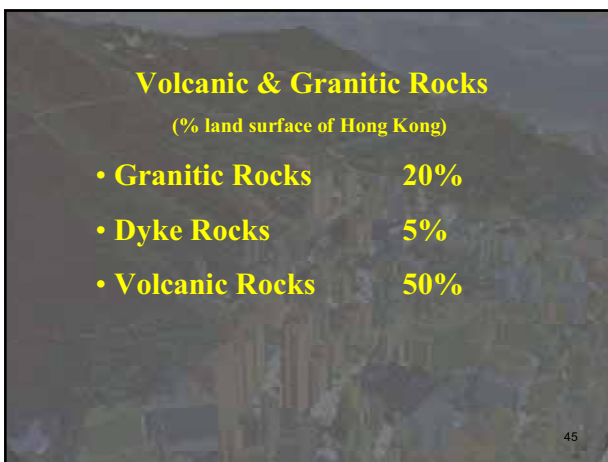
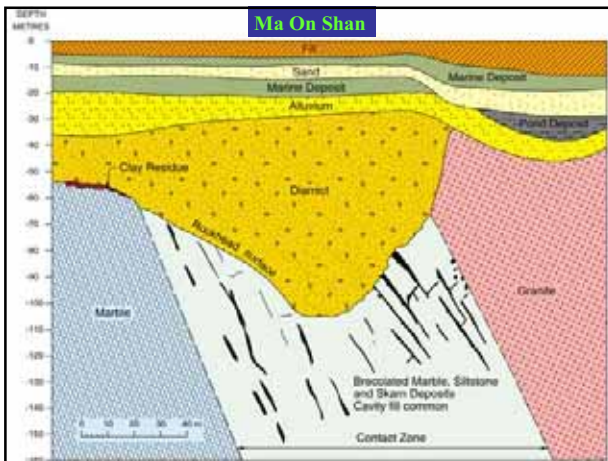


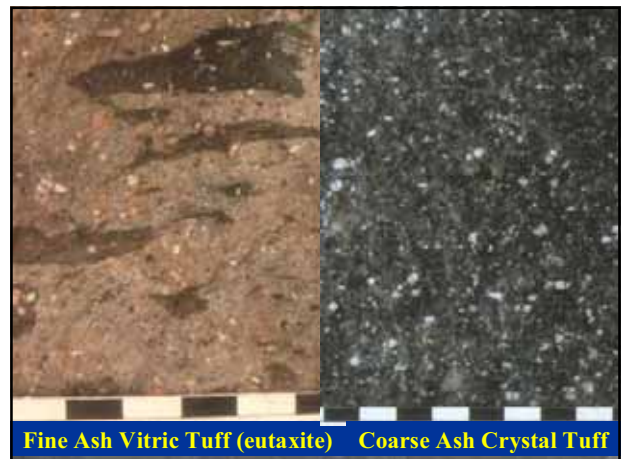
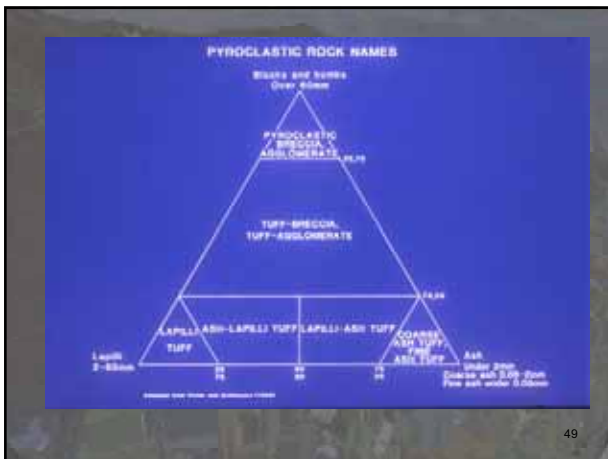
Yuen Long Formation
Ma Tin Member - white, pure marble
Long Ping Member - dark grey dolomitic impure marble



Boundary of mottled pale grey marble with dark grey marble







Volcanic Rocks

All very quartz rich (except in Tuen Mun area)

Mainly - coarse ash crystal tuff, or fine ash vitric tuff

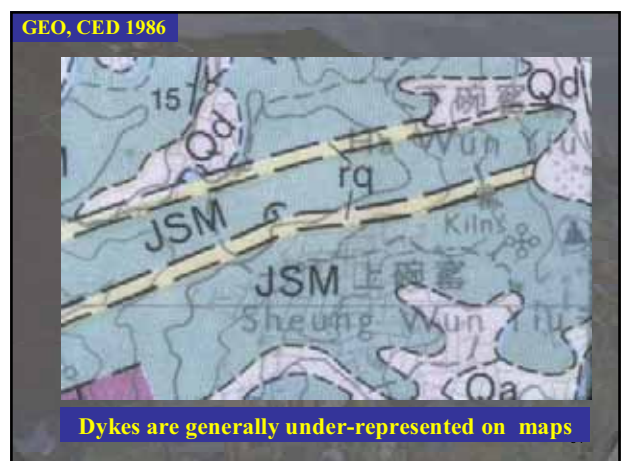
- Four groups of 'rhyolitic' formations (same age /chemistry) each of similar characteristics – may be equivalent to formations in Guangdong = suitable level of classification for engineering

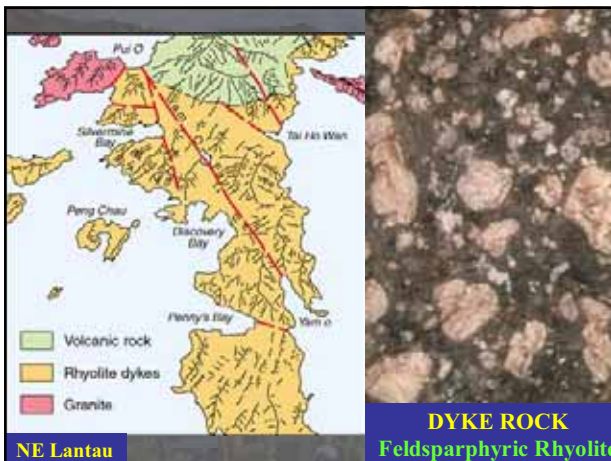
Tsuen Wan, Lantau, Repulse Bay and Kau Sai Chau volcanic groups

52

DYKE ROCKS - Classified on basis of composition, grain size, dominant crystals

- Feldsparphyric Rhyolite
- Quartzphyric Rhyolite
- Aplite
- Pegmatite
- Basalt/Lamprophyre
- Can significantly influence local hydrogeology
 - especially basaltic dykes
 - have influenced some significant landslides⁵³



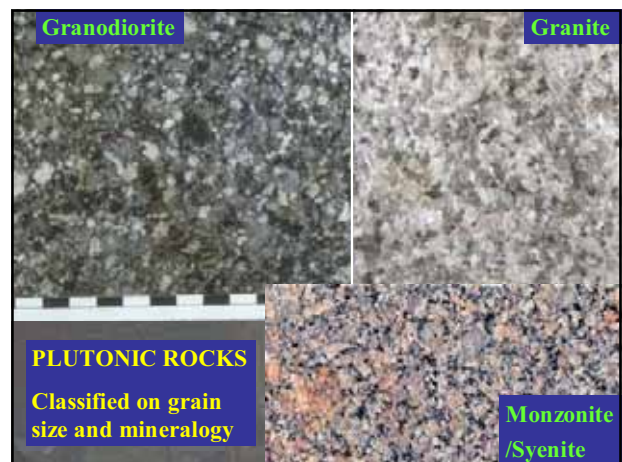
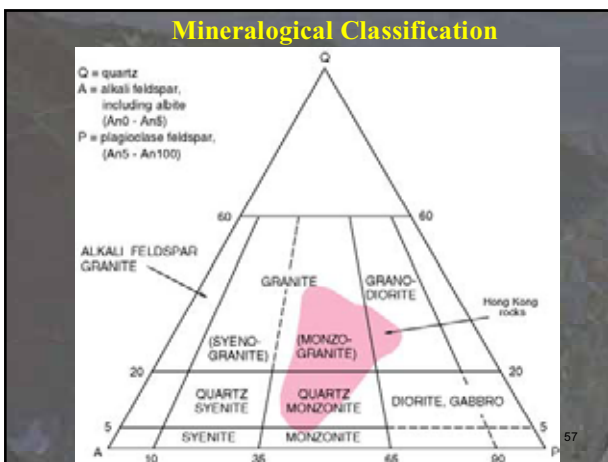


Classification Scheme for Granitic Rocks

Based on measurable grain size and mineral (chemical) composition

- Grain size
 - Coarse-grained >6mm
 - Medium-grained >2mm - <6mm
 - Fine-grained <2mm
- Mineralogy – proportions of quartz (Q) alkali feldspar (A) and plagioclase (P)

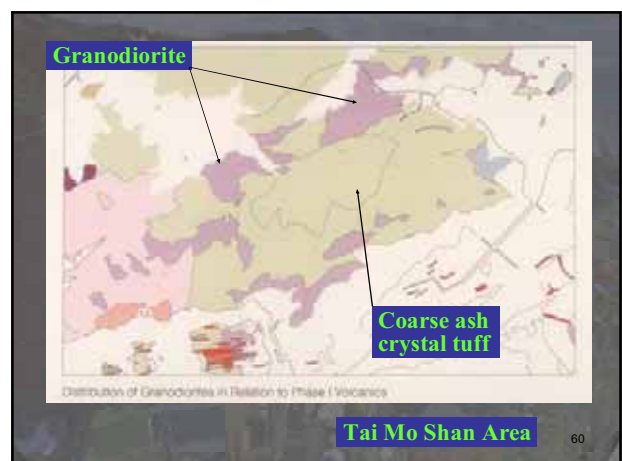
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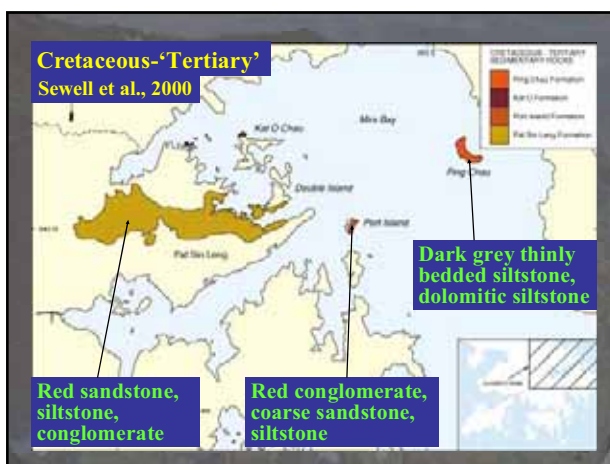
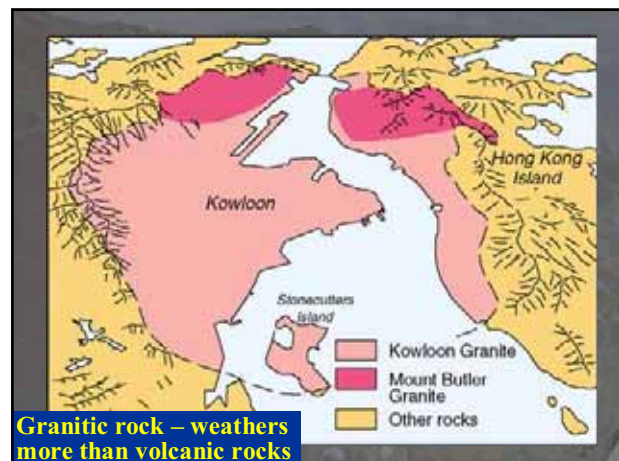
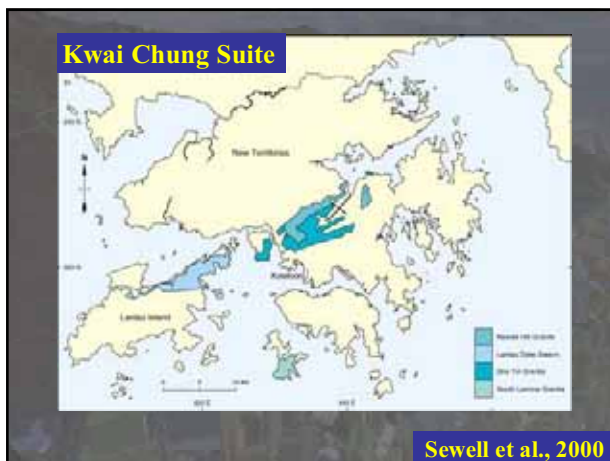


Granitic Rocks

- As with volcanic rocks, many individual intrusions (units)
- Granitic rocks are grouped (chemistry/age) into four suites, each with their own similar characteristics
- Lamma, Kwai Chung, Cheung Chau and Lion Rock suites

59





METAMORPHIC ROCKS

- mainly dynamic (thrust-fault-related) foliated (schist, mylonite)
- contact – hornfels, recrystallization: also skarns where carbonates affected (calc-silicates, iron-rich rocks)

FAULTS

- thrust, normal, strike slip: resulting in foliation, brecciation, gouge etc.

64

HONG KONG STRUCTURES

- FAULTS** normal, thrust, strike-slip
- FOLDS**
- BEDDING**
- CONTACTS** granites, dykes, veins
- FOLIATIONS** volcanic, metamorphic
- LINEATIONS**
- JOINTS** columnar, tectonic, sheeting, stress relief
- FRACTURES**

65

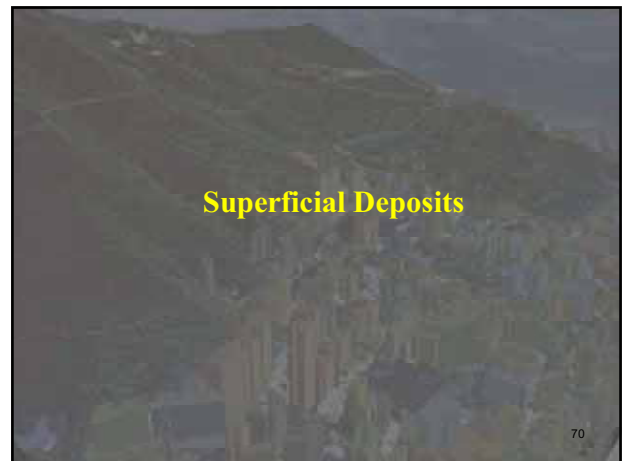
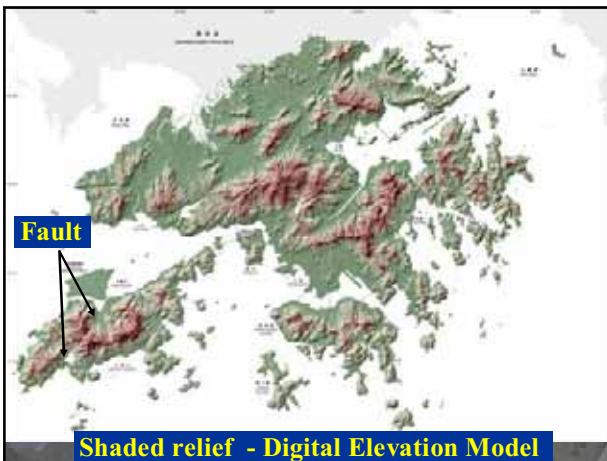
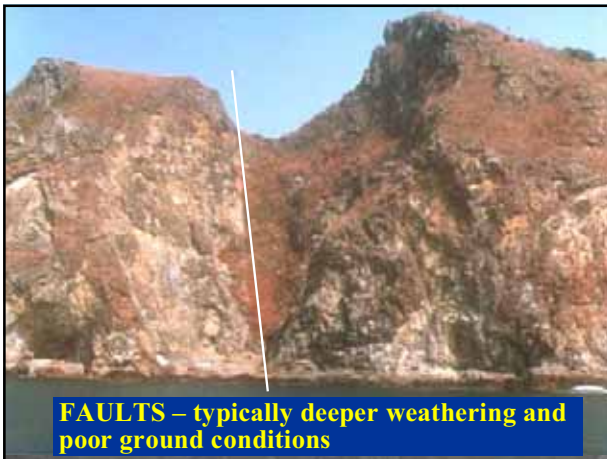
HONG KONG STRUCTURES

Importance to engineers

- Define areas/zones of contrasting material type (lithology, strength)
- Control material weathering grades, rock mass weathering characteristics (PW zones) and rockhead depth and form
- Influence hydrogeology
- Influence instability etc.

Maybe structures more important to the engineer than rock type? - in rock? - in soil?

66



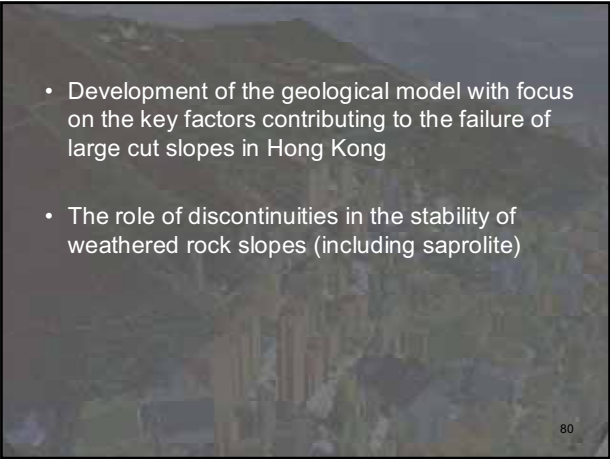
Classification of Rock Material Decomposition Grades						
Descriptive Term	Grade Symbol	General Characteristics for Granite & Intrusive Rocks & Other Rocks of Equivalent Strength in the Fresh State	Additional Typical Characteristics for Specific Rock Types			
			Granite	Granodiorite	Coarse-grained Crystalline Tuff	Fine-grained Tuff
Intact	I	Intact rock mass completely unweathered. Can be excavated by hand and large pieces are common.	Intact rock mass. Freshly fractured surfaces are smooth and show no signs of weathering. Rock is hard and strong.	Intact rock mass. Freshly fractured surfaces are smooth and show no signs of weathering. Rock is hard and strong.	Intact rock mass. Freshly fractured surfaces are smooth and show no signs of weathering. Rock is hard and strong.	Intact rock mass. Freshly fractured surfaces are smooth and show no signs of weathering. Rock is hard and strong.
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Crackling	II	Crackling rock surface observed. Can be excavated by hand and large pieces are common. Small pieces of rock are common.	Crackling rock surface. Freshly fractured surfaces are smooth and show no signs of weathering. Rock is hard and strong.	Crackling rock surface. Freshly fractured surfaces are smooth and show no signs of weathering. Rock is hard and strong.	Crackling rock surface. Freshly fractured surfaces are smooth and show no signs of weathering. Rock is hard and strong.	Crackling rock surface. Freshly fractured surfaces are smooth and show no signs of weathering. Rock is hard and strong.
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Lightly Decomposed	III	Lightly decomposed rock surface observed. Can be excavated by hand and large pieces are common. Small pieces of rock are common.	Lightly decomposed rock surface. Freshly fractured surfaces are smooth and show no signs of weathering. Rock is hard and strong.	Lightly decomposed rock surface. Freshly fractured surfaces are smooth and show no signs of weathering. Rock is hard and strong.	Lightly decomposed rock surface. Freshly fractured surfaces are smooth and show no signs of weathering. Rock is hard and strong.	Lightly decomposed rock surface. Freshly fractured surfaces are smooth and show no signs of weathering. Rock is hard and strong.
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Mediumly Decomposed	IV	Mediumly decomposed rock surface observed. Can be excavated by hand and large pieces are common. Small pieces of rock are common.	Mediumly decomposed rock surface. Freshly fractured surfaces are smooth and show no signs of weathering. Rock is hard and strong.	Mediumly decomposed rock surface. Freshly fractured surfaces are smooth and show no signs of weathering. Rock is hard and strong.	Mediumly decomposed rock surface. Freshly fractured surfaces are smooth and show no signs of weathering. Rock is hard and strong.	Mediumly decomposed rock surface. Freshly fractured surfaces are smooth and show no signs of weathering. Rock is hard and strong.
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Highly Decomposed	V	Highly decomposed rock surface observed. Can be excavated by hand and large pieces are common. Small pieces of rock are common.	Highly decomposed rock surface. Freshly fractured surfaces are smooth and show no signs of weathering. Rock is hard and strong.	Highly decomposed rock surface. Freshly fractured surfaces are smooth and show no signs of weathering. Rock is hard and strong.	Highly decomposed rock surface. Freshly fractured surfaces are smooth and show no signs of weathering. Rock is hard and strong.	Highly decomposed rock surface. Freshly fractured surfaces are smooth and show no signs of weathering. Rock is hard and strong.
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Fresh	I	Fresh rock surface. Can be excavated by hand and large pieces are common. Small pieces of rock are common.	Fresh rock surface. Can be excavated by hand and large pieces are common. Small pieces of rock are common.	Fresh rock surface. Can be excavated by hand and large pieces are common. Small pieces of rock are common.	Fresh rock surface. Can be excavated by hand and large pieces are common. Small pieces of rock are common.	Fresh rock surface. Can be excavated by hand and large pieces are common. Small pieces of rock are common.
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Descriptive Term & Grade Symbol	Coarse-grained Granite	Medium-grained Granite	Fine-grained Granite
Intact	I	I	I
Crackling	II	II	II
Lightly Decomposed	III	III	III
Mediumly Decomposed	IV	IV	IV
Highly Decomposed	V	V	V
Fresh	I	I	I

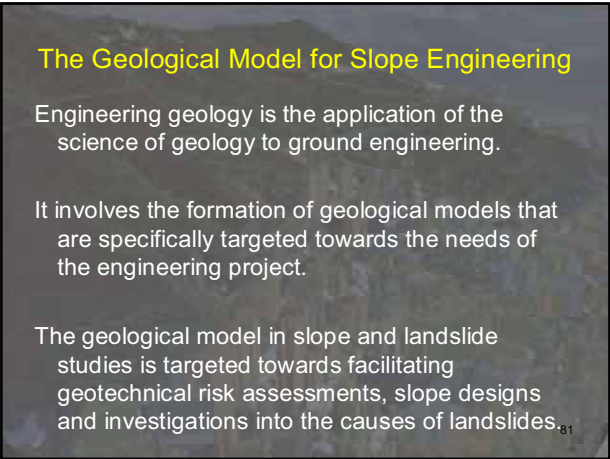


Application of Engineering Geology in Landslide and Slope Studies

79

- 
- Development of the geological model with focus on the key factors contributing to the failure of large cut slopes in Hong Kong
 - The role of discontinuities in the stability of weathered rock slopes (including saprolite)

80



The Geological Model for Slope Engineering

Engineering geology is the application of the science of geology to ground engineering.

It involves the formation of geological models that are specifically targeted towards the needs of the engineering project.

The geological model in slope and landslide studies is targeted towards facilitating geotechnical risk assessments, slope designs and investigations into the causes of landslides.⁸¹

81



Questions?

82



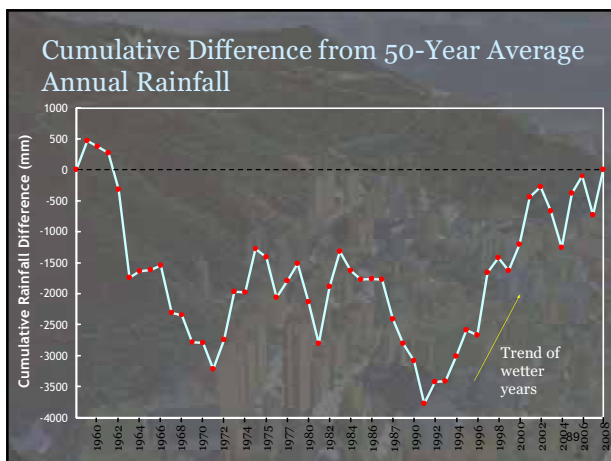
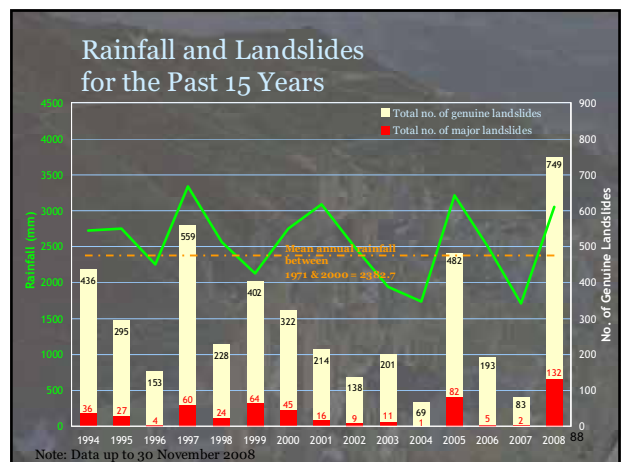
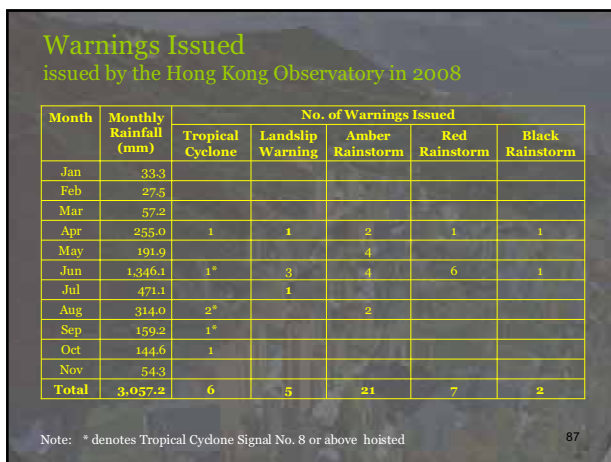
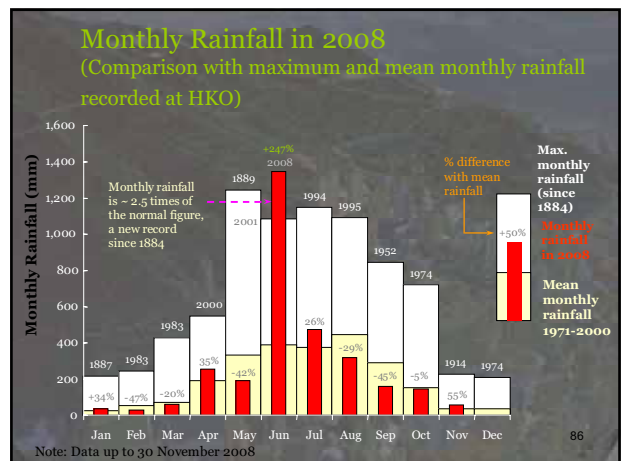
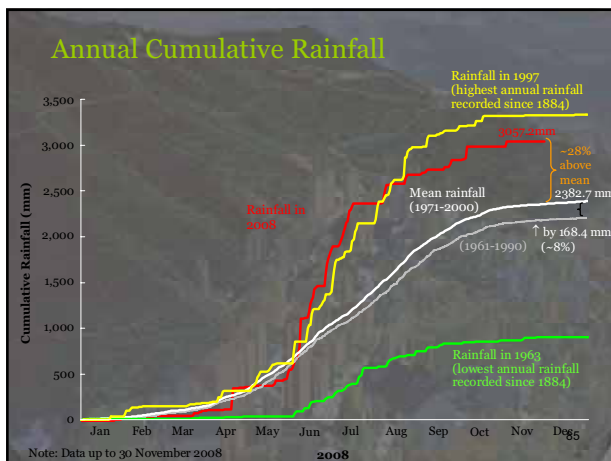
BREAK

83



Rainfall in 2008

84



- Five rainstorms in 2008 triggered the issue of the Landslip Warnings

- The Landslide Potential Index (LPI) for these rainstorms are :

Rainstorm	LPI
19 April 2008	2.0
7 June 2008	12.3
13 June 2008	1.4
25 June 2008	1.7
10 July 2008	1.0

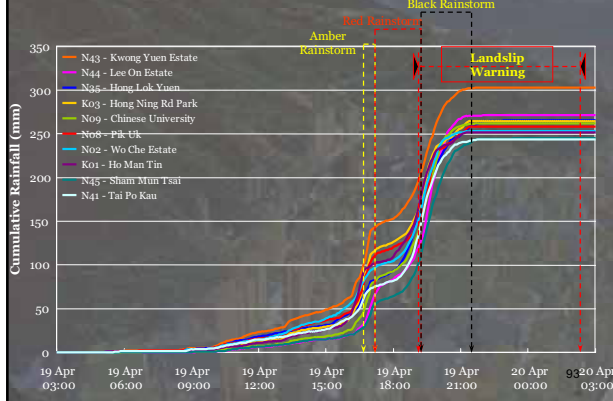
- The LPI depicts the relative severity of a rainstorm with respect to its potential to cause landslides. For comparison, the LPI of the rainstorm in late July 1994, which led to 5 deaths at Kwun Lung Lau, is set to be 10.

91

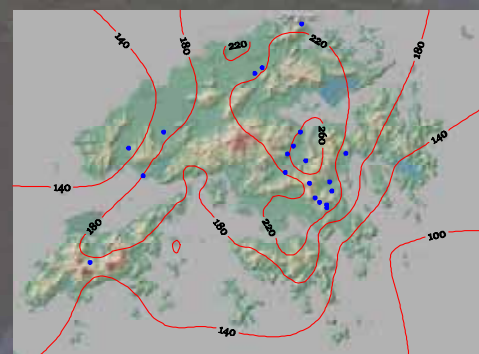
Rainstorm of 19 April 2008

92

Cumulative Rainfall



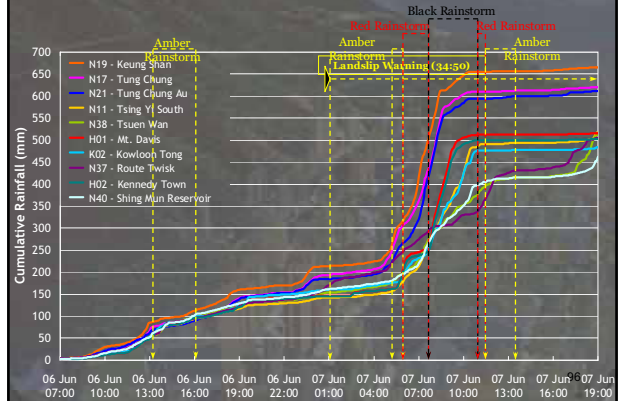
Maximum Rolling 24-hour Rainfall



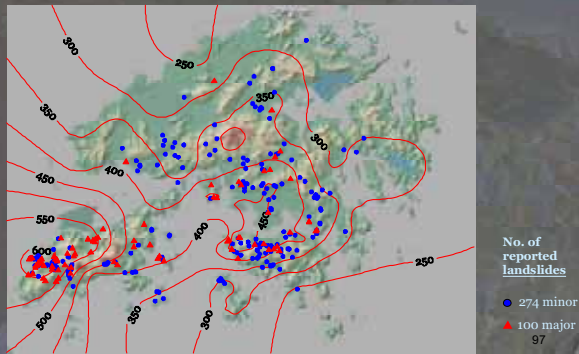
Rainstorm of 7 June 2008

95

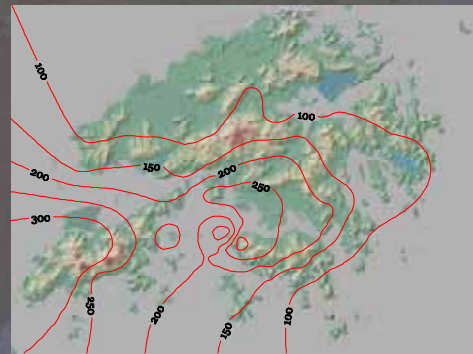
Cumulative Rainfall



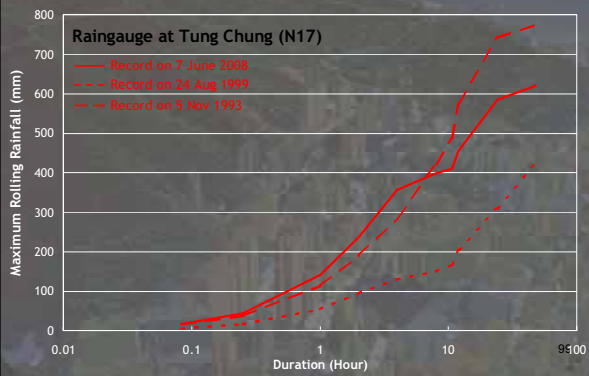
Maximum Rolling 24-hour Rainfall



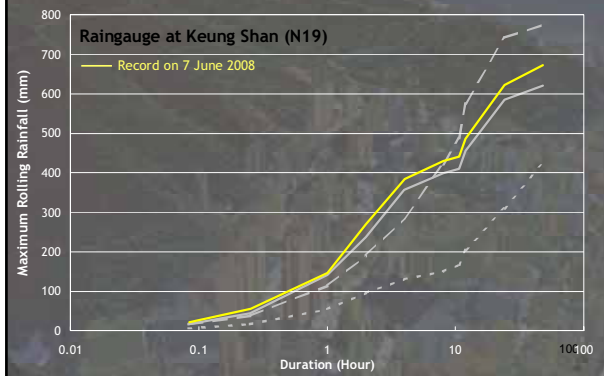
Maximum Rolling 4-hour Rainfall



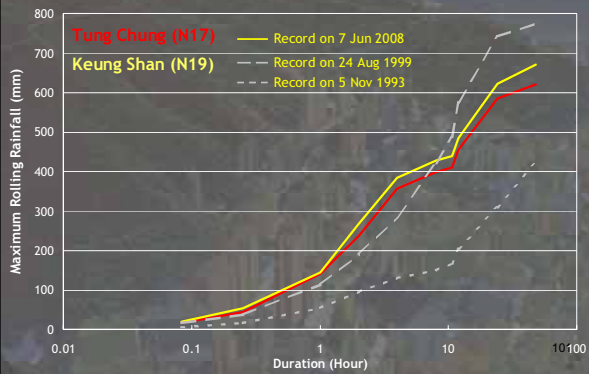
Rainfall Profile at Lantau



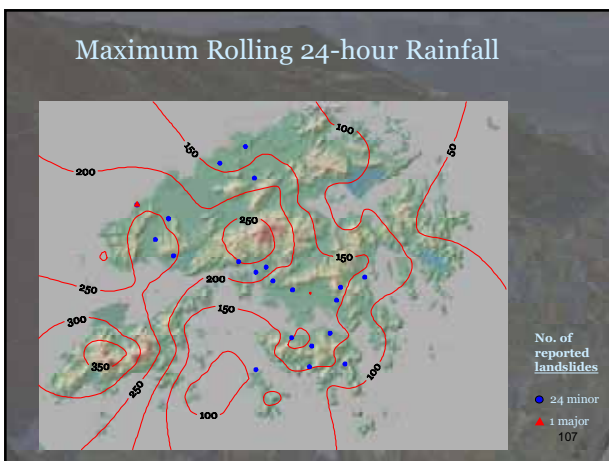
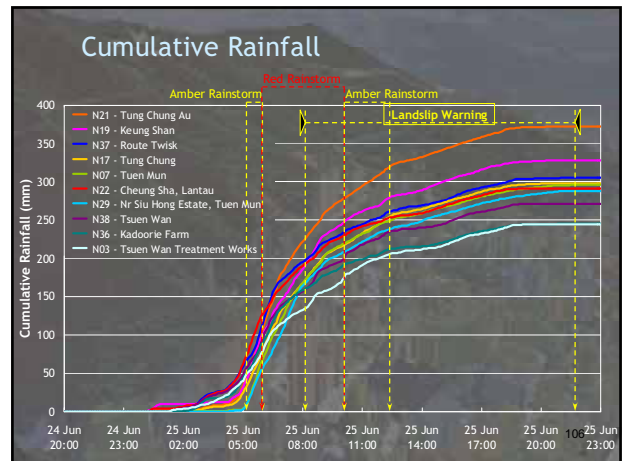
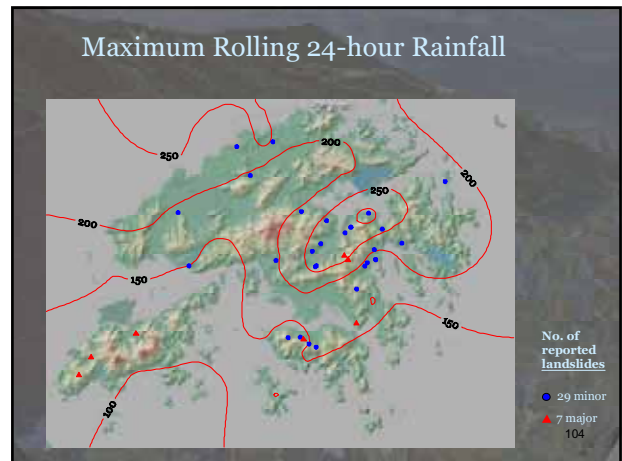
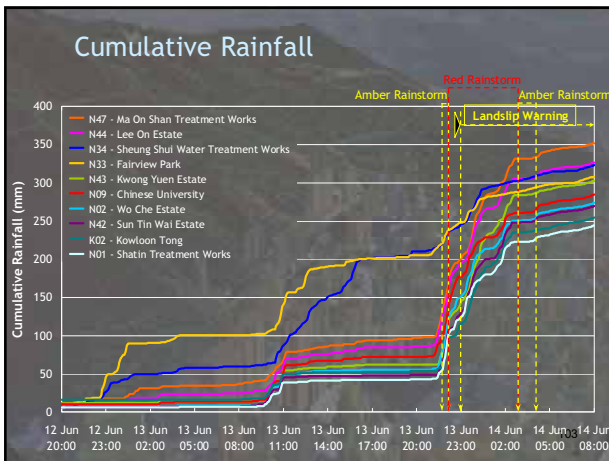
Rainfall Profile at Lantau

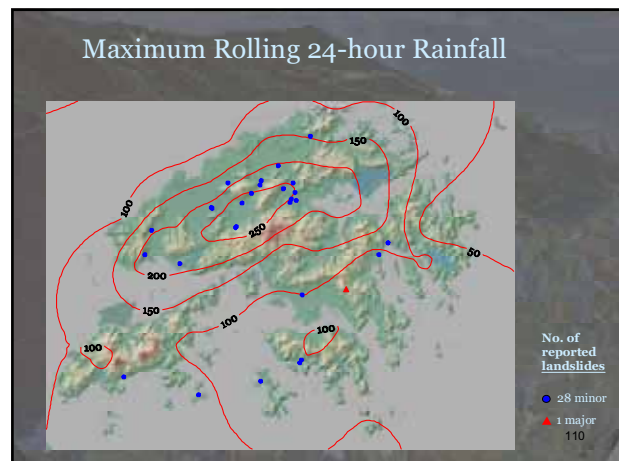
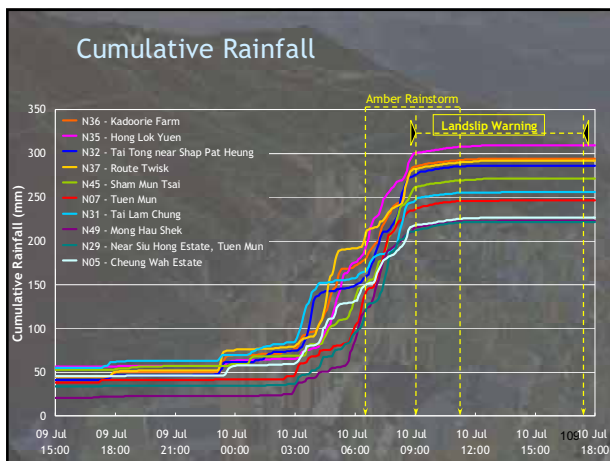


Rainfall Profile at Lantau



Rainstorm of
13 June 2008





Summary

- Annual rainfall ~28% above mean and so far 761 landslides reported
- Monthly rainfall in June and hourly rainfall recorded on 7 June at HKO's principal raingauge broke the records since 1884
- 5 rainstorms triggered the issue of the Landslip Warnings
- The most severe rainstorm on 7 June 2008 caused >300 reported landslides and > 1,500 landslides on natural hillsides

111

Questions?

112

Thank You

113