

PWD: Rain Monitoring Systems Help Cut Cost

Existing rainfall-monitoring systems to warn against floods can complement the Landslide Warning System (LWS) to minimise cost, says Slope Engineering Division Director of Public Works Department, Dr Che Hassandi Abdullah. Data from the Drainage and Irrigation Department and the Meteorological Department's (MET) automated meteorological weather stations could be used for the LWS. The department's report on the National Slope Master Plan showed that there were 50 automated meteorological weather stations in the Peninsular, but none in Sabah and Sarawak. "The department would have to set up its own automated stations in the landslide-prone areas in these two states," said Dr Hassandi. Most of the MET's automated stations were located on flat ground, instead of hilly terrain where they would be most useful for landslide warning systems. The system was being developed mainly for the Ampang-Ulu Klang area, a major landslide-prone zone due to its hilly terrain and intense rainfall pattern. Dr Hassandi said the Public Works Department has divided the country into six major regions, based on geological structure and weather patterns, to enable easier monitoring and management of the early landslide warning system.

(Sourced from The Star, 4 February 2013)