

DISTRIBUTION AND DEVELOPMENT PROCESS OF SLUM DISTRICTS IN YANGON

O. MURAO¹, H. YAMADA², and T. TANAKA²

¹ Professor, International Research Institute, Tohoku University, Sendai, Japan,

² Former Graduate School Student, Graduate School of Engineering, Tohoku University, Sendai, Japan,
Correspond to Prof. O. MURAO (murao@irides.tohoku.ac.jp)

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1. INTRODUCTION

Myanmar has rapidly been urbanized alongside transition to democratization from its military government era which came after the British colonial era in the 19th century. It is important for the government to consider disaster risk reduction strategies for the rapid urban development in big cities in the country. The authors had been working to evaluate urban vulnerabilities of Yangon City in a SATREPS project named “Development of a Comprehensive Disaster Resilience System and Collaboration Platform in Myanmar” for six years since 2014 and estimated future urban risk due to earthquakes. One of the problems for future safety of the city is rapidly increasing slum districts.

2. SLUMS IN URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Figure 1 shows changes in slum district location in Yangon. Many households formed along rivers or streets, and others were relocated into the industrial areas developed by urban policy. The authors conducted investigation in one of the biggest slums, named “555,” in 2018 and 2020 to understand how to form such slum district. The detailed information will be presented at the conference.

3. CONCLUSIONS

As a conclusion, this research clarified as follows: (1) slum settlements in Yangon City were distributed along the central north-south axis of the city before 1988, and they were relocated to three Townships. In recent years, new slums had been formed with the expansion of the city. (2) The slum “555” was gradually formed after 2008 Cyclone Nargis, consisting of five communities which has own town functions. (3) In the absence of government

support, foods and minimum lifelines had been supplied in residential areas and they had been able to spend independent lives in “555”. On the other hand, environmental improvement seems to be necessary in the perspective of sanitation and vulnerability. Regarding the residents’ future intentions, two third of them want to move out of the slum settlement area.

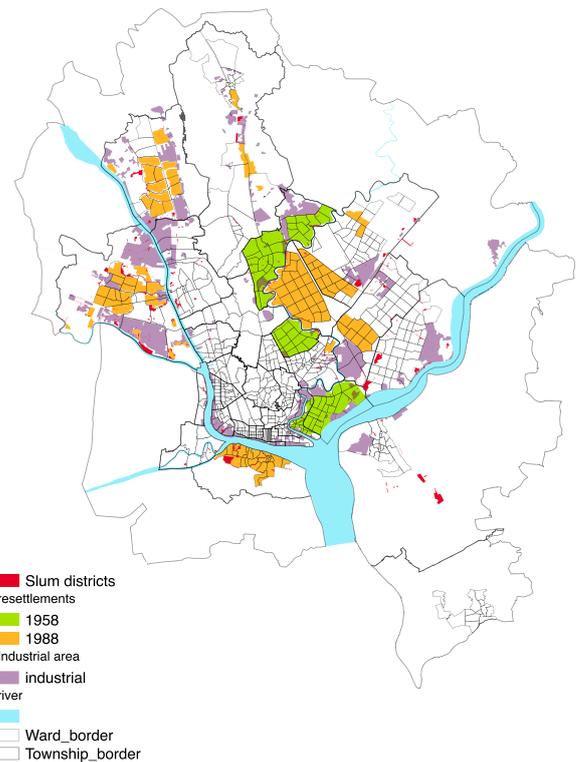


Figure 1. Changes in Slum District Location in Yangon

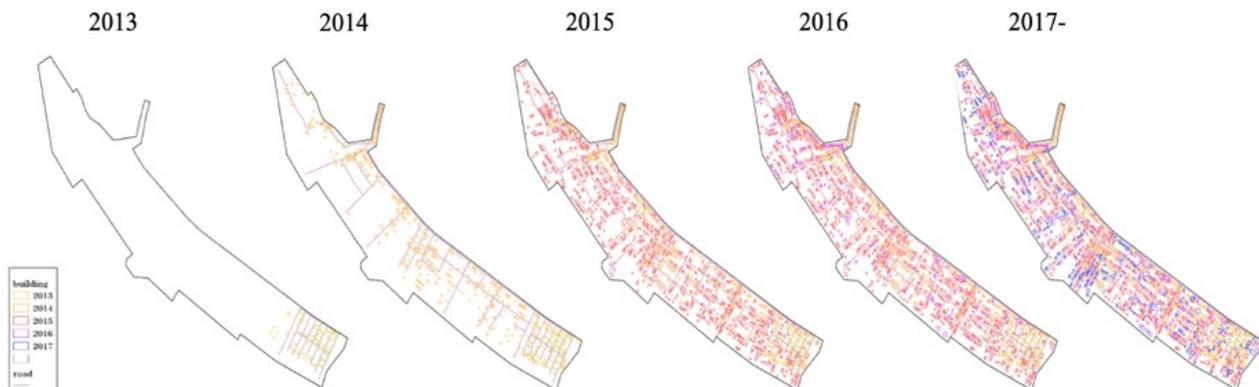


Figure 2. Formation process of slum settlement “555”