**UNCTAD National Workshop Jamaica** 30 May – 1 June 2017, Kingston, Jamaica

# "Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Coastal Transport Infrastructure in Caribbean SIDS"

# Sea Level Rise, SIDS and Transport Infrastructure: Lessons From Real Examples of Coastal Subsidence

By

#### **Miguel Esteban**

The University of Tokyo, Japan

This expert paper is reproduced by the UNCTAD secretariat in the form and language in which it has been received. The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the UNCTAD.



### Summary • Adaptation to Sea Level Rise • Small Islands: • Case Study in Philippines • Cities: • Case Study of Jakarta • Ports: • Case Study of Jakarta • Case Study of Jakarta • Case Study of Tohoku • Breakwaters and Climate Change • Port Downtime • Cost of Adapting in Tokyo



Jamero, L., Esteban., M. and Onuki, M. (2016) "Potential In-Situ Adaptation Strategies for Climate-Related Sea-Level Rise: Insights from a Small Island in The Philippines Experiencing Earthquake-Induced Land Subsidence", J-Sustain 4 (2) pp 44-53.



Consequences of >0.5 subsidence due to the 2013 Earthquake											
Island	Highest elevation (m)	Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Cross- section (m)	Built environment	Flooding situation	Severity					
Batasan	2.28	58,296	47.4	From the start, ground raised using coral stones:	<u>Before earthquake:</u> Flooded during strong typhoons     After earthquake: Completely flooded	2					
Ubay	2.15	14,638	84.8	houses built up to the sea	during spring tides (e.g. 1 hour daily floods for 1 week around new and full moon)	1					
Pangapasan	1.91	20,694	71.1			3					
Bilangbilangan	1.99	16,668	100.3	Ground not raised; Has beach, with some areas		4					
Mocaboc	2.06	29,674	118.1	lined with seawall; houses built well within grounds	<ul> <li><u>Before and after earthquake</u>: Houses near waterline occasionally flooded during very high tides (i.e. +2.0m) and typhoons. No perceived changes in flood levels before and after earthquake</li> </ul>	5					
Bagonbanwa	2.5	60,839	187.4		<u>Before and after earthquake</u> : Not flooded	6					





#### **Adaptation: Bio-adaptation vs Engineering**



Islands with mangroves are facing far less problems that those that have attempted to build seawalls

However, not so easy to plant mangroves!

But, generally it seems to be the way to go...





#### **Adaptation strategies: Effectiveness**

		Elood boight	Hard Measures				
		rioou neight	Stilted	House	Raised	Floor	
Flooding Severity	Island	Median (cm)	Median (cm)	Households <u>Not</u> Flooded	Median (cm)	Households <u>Not</u> Flooded	
Low	Pangapasan	20.5	87	100%	29	73%	
	Bilangbilangan	24.5	79	100%	27.5	67%	
Medium	Batasan	36	100	100%	44	22%	
	Ubay	43	120.5	100%	67.25	46%	

**STILTED HOUSES** have great allowances for flooding, and even for high waves during typhoon and monsoon seasons. However, they also need to be properly engineered against strong winds

Jamero, L., Esteban., M. and Onuki, M. (2017) "Small island communities in the Philippines prefer local measures to relocation in response to sea-level rise", Nature Climate Change (accepted)











#### 2007 Flooding and Raising of Dyke

Pluit District suffered extensive inundation during a high tide on November 26, 2007

The thin dyke protecting the settlement was raised by about a meter after the 2007 event by the local government

However, sea levels almost reach the top of the dyke on a monthly basis (dike is being raised almost on a yearly basis...)



















Esteban, M., Onuki, M., Ikeda, I and Akiyama, T. (2015) "Reconstruction Following the 2011 Tohoku Earthquake Tsunami: Case Study of Otsuchi Town in Iwate Prefecture, Japan" in Handbook of Coastal Disaster Mitigation for Engineers and Planners. Esteban, M., Takagi, H. and Shibayama, T. (eds.). Butterworth-Heinemann (Elsevier), Oxford, UK



#### Current Philosophy Behind Breakwater Construction

Traditional breakwater design assumes that:

- · Sea level does not change
- Future weather patterns will be the same as historical weather (i.e. by studying past weather we can obtain future return periods for a given design wave height)

It appears that both of these assumptions might be incorrect in the future

- Increase in tropical cyclone intensity (i.e. hurricanes)
- · Sea level rise (as discussed yesterday in detail)



### Design According to Limiting Breaker Height (H<sub>b</sub>)

- Many breakwaters in the world are in shallow water (small fishery ports, typically protected just by rock armour)
- Limiting Breaker Height ( $H_b$ ) gives us the maximum wave that is possible at a structure for a given water depth (i.e.  $H_b$  will take the place of  $H_s$ )
- Goda (1985)

$$H_{b} = 0.17L_{0} \left\{ 1 - exp \left[ -1.5 \frac{\pi h}{L_{0}} \left( 1 + 15tan^{4/3} \alpha \right) \right] \right\}$$

in which *h* is the water depth at the breakwater,  $L_0$  is the deep water wave length,  $\alpha$  is the slope of sea



































#### **Port Downtime**

- Ports have to close when wind speed is too high, as it interferes with crane operations, etc
- Assumed that knots port operation will stop when wind speed is over 30 knots
- <u>Disclaimer:</u> Many problems with this and other assumptions, it might be possible to work a bit longer, there is also the issue of preparations for typhoon, etc.

















