

The Historical Photo Platform: Space-Time Memory of the 1999 Chi-Chi Earthquake



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The Historical Photo Platform

- To enhance public awareness of disaster prevention and to preserve photos of Taiwan's sediment disasters throughout the years and commemorate the historical lessons they impart, the Agency of Rural Development and Soil and Water Conservation, MOA established a Historical Photo Platform in 2017.
- Each photo on the platform's space-time map includes essential elements: 'image,' 'location,' 'timeline,' and 'story,' and is shared under a Creative Commons license.
- Users can access images of past disasters in their area of interest through temporal or spatial queries and even use Google Street View to quickly compare these images with the current state.



Compare memories (Wufeng District, Taichung)



Stores more than 82,000 photos across Taiwan.



Provide displays of time-space photos based on query conditions such as event, time, and location.

Space-Time Memory

- The 1999 Chi-Chi earthquake caused severe damage to many places across Taiwan, and many areas are facing reconstruction challenges. Images and photos capture post-disaster scenes and reconstruction processes, helping to evaluate the effectiveness of disaster reconstruction strategies.
- These photos not only serve as witnesses to history but also as important references for planning post-disaster reconstruction and formulating subsequent disaster prevention policies.



This disaster event resulted in over 2,400 deaths, more than 10,000 injuries, and nearly 150,000 houses partially or completely collapsed.

Keep photos to record the land

Database of Historical Records and Analysis

- Preserving images and videos of various incidents and impacts, assists in understanding the history, location, frequency, and environmental impacts of disasters.

Education and Research

- The visualization of image data enhances the effectiveness of educational training, enabling a deeper analysis of the occurrence of natural disasters and drawing lessons to improve future disaster prevention strategies.

Social and Cultural Memory

- The historical photo platform aids in preserving the historical and cultural memory of events, which is significant for the reconstruction of social psychology and the inheritance of historical culture.



歷史影像平台

<https://photo.ardswc.gov.tw/>