

Slope Safety Technical Review Board

Key Messages: A Slope Safety Technical Review Board (SSTRB) was first established in 1995 to review the Government's work in slope safety management and advise on technical aspects of the slope safety system. The SSTRB benchmarks the work of the Geotechnical Engineering Office (GEO) against international practice and assists the GEO in enhancing technical quality improvement. The current Board was appointed by the Director of Civil Engineering and Development in 2026 with a term that expires in 2029. The Board currently comprises Dr Suzanne Lacasse of Norway, Professor David Petley of the United Kingdom (UK), Professor Jean Hutchinson of Canada and Academician Yin Yueping of the Chinese Mainland.

Introduction

The Slope Safety Technical Review Board was established by the then Director of Civil Engineering in May 1995 to advise the Government on technical aspects of slope safety. A total of nine Boards have been formed since then. The first to the eighth Boards each comprised three renowned geotechnical experts, while the ninth Board was expanded to four members. The tenure of each Board is four years. The current Board commenced in July 2026. The Board members include Dr Suzanne Lacasse, Professor David Petley, Professor Jean Hutchinson and Academician Yin Yueping. A list of members of the previous Boards is presented in Annex A.

Work of the Slope Safety Technical Review Board

During the annual visits of the SSTRB, the Members interact extensively with staff of the GEO and are briefed on GEO's work, the subjects of which include rainfall and landslides in Hong Kong, climate change impacts on slope safety, landslide studies, Landslip Prevention and Mitigation Programme, technical development in slope engineering, natural terrain landslide risk management, remote sensing (including satellite, aerial and terrestrial) technology, applications of quantitative risk assessment, AI Landslip Warning System, emergency preparedness, innovation and technology, slope safety public education, and collaborations with the industry and academia. The Board also holds meetings with the Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) and local geotechnical professional groups.

The Board has noted that the challenges with regard to slope safety in Hong Kong are unique in the world. The Board has expressed commendation for the GEO's contribution and the state-of-the-art expertise in landslide risk management:

"The level of expertise on slope safety at the GEO is unique on an international scale. The SSTRB finds that the GEO continues to lead international practice on slope safety and is a model that other countries aspire to follow."

Criteria for Selection of Board Members

Recognising the importance of the SSTRB in enhancing GEO's work, the Government decided

to appoint the ninth SSTRB in 2026 with a term that expires in 2029.
The criteria for the selection of members to the SSTRB were:

- (i) high international standing in the geotechnical field;
- (ii) appropriate knowledge and experience related to slope safety; and
- (iii) no involvement with commercial projects in Hong Kong that could have a real or apparent conflict of interest with the SSTRB duties.

Members of the Ninth Board (2026-2029)

The ninth Board currently comprises:

Dr Suzanne Lacasse is an Expert Adviser of the Norwegian Geotechnical Institute (NGI), Norway. She is a renowned geotechnical expert with a wide range of engineering experience from consulting, research and university teaching. Her areas of expertise include geotechnical laboratory and in-situ testing techniques, slope stability evaluation, and hazard and risk assessment and management.

Professor David Petley is Vice-Chancellor and President of Nottingham Trent University, UK. He enjoys a high international standing in the geotechnical field, with expertise in landslide risk evaluation and management, slope deformation monitoring and forecasting, remote sensing, and engineering geomorphology. He has served as a Technical Advisor for the Public Works Department of the Malaysian Government on the National Slopes Master Plan.

Professor Jean Hutchinson is a Professor Emerita in Geological Sciences and Geological Engineering at Queen's University, Canada. She is well respected for her wide-ranging expertise from engineering geology and rock engineering to site characterisation and geotechnical risk management for mining and transportation infrastructure, with a focus on slope instability, landslide hazards and novel monitoring techniques.

Professor Yin Yueping is an Academician of Chinese Academy of Engineering and the Chief Scientist of the Technical Guidance Centre for Geological Disaster Prevention, Ministry of Natural Resources. He is highly renowned in the field of geological hazard prevention and control. He has long been engaged in work on geological hazards and their prevention and control, and has led a number of key national research projects over the years. He has extensive experience in landslide failure mechanisms, early warning, and mitigation.

Geotechnical Engineering Office
Civil Engineering and Development Department
September 2026

Annex A - Members of the First to the Eighth Slope Safety Technical Review Boards

	<u>Year</u>	<u>Members</u>
First Board	1995 - 1998	• Professor Norbert Morgenstern • Professor Robin Fell • Sir John Knill
Second Board	1998 - 2001	• Professor Norbert Morgenstern • Dr Suzanne Lacasse • Professor C F Lee
Third Board	2002 - 2005	• Professor Norbert Morgenstern • Professor Malcolm Bolton • Professor Wang Sijing
Fourth Board	2006 - 2009	• Professor Wang Sijing • Dr Suzanne Lacasse • Professor Oldrich Hungr
Fifth Board	2010 - 2013	• Dr Suzanne Lacasse • Dr Peter Lyttle • Professor Wilson Tang (2010 - 2012) • Professor David Petley (starting from July 2012 in replacement of the late Professor Wilson Tang)
Sixth Board	2014 - 2017	• Dr Suzanne Lacasse • Professor Oldrich Hungr (2014 - August 2017) • Professor David Petley
Seventh Board	2018 - 2021	• Dr Suzanne Lacasse • Professor David Petley • Professor Kenichi Soga
Eighth Board	2022 - 2025	• Dr Suzanne Lacasse • Professor David Petley • Professor Jean Hutchinson (starting from July 2023)