学 位 論 文 要 旨

論文題名

(英語) Characterization of the aquifer system and groundwater level trends in the Red River Delta of Vietnam

(日本語) ベトナム紅河デルタにおける帯水層構造および地下水位トレンドの 特性評価

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(学位論文要旨)

In the world, groundwater is the largest and most important source of potable water. Achieving sustainable management of groundwater resources is one of the essential objectives for the future of developing countries, especially when the rising demand for clean drinking water is considered. Groundwater management is particularly important in the Red River Delta, one of the two biggest deltas in Vietnam including the capital of Hanoi, because water supply in the delta greatly depends on groundwater due to the uneven distribution and unfavorable quality of the surface water. Aside from excessive groundwater exploitation and unwise management, inadequate understanding of the aquifer system and groundwater level characteristics has caused serious problems, such as drying up of shallow wells, water level decline, land subsidence, and groundwater pollution which threaten sustainable groundwater development in the delta.

Therefore, it is essential to investigate the spatial characteristics of the aquifer system and groundwater level trends in order to provide fundamental references for further groundwater analyses ensuring sustainable groundwater development in the Red River Delta. The main objectives of this study are: (1) to identify the aquifer framework and determine characteristics of the aquifer system in the delta; (2) to clarify the variation and spatial patterns of recent trends in groundwater levels of the identified aquifers. To achieve these goals, regional hydrogeological and groundwater monitoring databases for the entire delta were established, and then the aquifer system was identified and characterized by analyzing well logs and pumping test data. The non-parametric Mann-Kendall trend test and Sen's slope estimator were then utilized to detect possible trends and their slopes in groundwater levels. Finally, spatial patterns of the trends and trend slopes were elucidated using Geographic Information System (GIS) and geo-statistical techniques.

This dissertation is composed of five chapters.

Chapter 1 is the introduction which contains the background, motivation, and objectives of this study. A comprehensive review of literature as well as a description of scopes and methods were also presented.

In chapter 2, the study area and data used in this study were described, taking into account the general geographic and hydro-climatic characteristics of the Red River Delta. This chapter also provided brief descriptions about establishment of National Hydrogeological Database, National Groundwater Monitoring Network, and National Groundwater Monitoring Database in Vietnam.

From the Hydrogeological Database established, well log data (mostly about geologic strata, materials, and geological ages) of 778 boreholes in the Red River Delta were used to identify the aquifer frameworks, and then field data from 637 pumping tests out of 778 boreholes including specific capacity, specific yield of unconfined aquifers or storage coefficient of confined aquifers, and hydraulic conductivity or transmissivity were used to characterize the aquifer system and to estimate groundwater potential of each aquifer. Furthermore, groundwater levels during a period of 15 years (1995-2009) in 120 observation wells were selected from the Groundwater Monitoring Database for detecting their recent trends.

In chapter 3, the aquifer systems of the Red River Delta were identified and characterized. Comprehensive analyses of borehole data (i.e. well logs and hydrogeological parameters) for potential groundwater resources were conducted by creating and analyzing hydrogeological maps, cross sections, and contour maps of main aquifers' thickness and transmissibility. It was found that groundwater mainly exists in Quaternary unconsolidated sediments as porous water forming the topmost Holocene unconfined aquifer (HUA) and the shallow Pleistocene confined aquifer (PCA) sandwiching the Holocene-Pleistocene aquitard (HPA). Cleft and karst water exist in consolidated Neogene formations and Mesozoic rocks constituting the Neogene water bearing layer (NWL) and Mesozoic fractured zones (MFZ), respectively. It was also revealed that PCA and HUA are almost entirely distributed over the delta, and they serve as the highest groundwater potential and the most important aquifers for water supply. NWL and MFZ, which are placed below PCA but exposed on the surface outside the delta, are minor sources for local domestic water supply only.

In chapter 4, spatial patterns of recent trends in groundwater levels and their slopes were investigated for two main aquifers (i.e. HUA and PCA) by utilizing the non-parametric Mann-Kendall trend test and Sen's slope estimator. At each well, 17 time series (i.e. annual average, rainy and dry season average, annual maximum and minimum, and 12 time series for each month across years) were computed from the original record of groundwater levels, and then used for trend analysis.

Before conducting the trend analysis, this study carried out some preliminary analyses to get an initial understanding of groundwater level fluctuation. These analyses indicated an overall flow from northwest to southeast (from inland to the sea) corresponding to the delta topography for both HUA and PCA. HUA has formed a cone of depression in Hanoi during the past 15 years, while large cones of depression of PCA had already existed in 1995 in urban areas (Hanoi, Haiphong, and Namdinh) and they were greatly expanded in 2009.

The results of the trend analysis of the annual time series revealed that 35% of the wells for HUA showed downward trends, while about 21% showed upward trends. Spatial analysis has highlighted that strong downward trends were mainly in Hanoi with slopes of about 0.3 m/year, whereas upward trends were found in coastal region, Hungyen province, and northern parts of the delta with slopes of around 0.1 m/year. On the other hand, the study revealed that groundwater levels of PCA have decreased in almost all wells with average slope of about 0.2 m/year. There was no upward trend at all. The areas which showed serious downward slope of more than 0.3 m/year have occupied almost 3,400 km² (about 25% of the delta). Although the trend results for the 17 time series at a given well were quite similar, different trend patterns were detected in several time series.

The chapter 5 presents overall conclusions, recommendations for groundwater management, and future works.

研 究 業 績 一覧

*印は、本論文に直接関係するものを示す

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1.	論文(査読あり)				
No.	論文名	掲載誌	巻,号,頁	発行年	著者名
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上記のとおり相違ありません。

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※講演も記載すること。著者名は全員記載し、ご本人に下線を引いてください。 ご本人のローマ字入力のお名前も下線をお願いいたします。 主要論文に*など印をつけてください。

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