

~~A Strategic Framework for Natural Disaster-Induced Cost-Risk Analysis and Mitigation: A Two-Stage Approach Using Deep Learning and Cost-Benefit Analysis~~Strategic Framework for Natural Disaster Risk Mitigation Using Deep Learning and Cost-Benefit Analysis

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Abstract. ~~Due to gradual increases in the frequency and severity of natural disasters, risks to human life and property from natural disasters are exploding. To reduce these risks, various risk mitigation activities have been widely conducted. Risk mitigation activities are becoming more and more important for economic analysis of risk mitigation effects due to limited public budget and the need for economic development. To respond to this urgent need, this study aims to develop a strategic evaluation framework for natural disaster risk mitigation strategies. The proposed framework predicts natural disaster losses using a deep learning algorithm (stage I) and introduces a new methodology that quantifies the effect of natural disaster reduction projects adopting cost-benefit analysis (stage II). To achieve the main objectives of this study, data of insured loss amounts due to natural disasters associated with the identified risk indicators were collected and trained to develop the deep learning model. The robustness of the developed model was then scientifically validated. To demonstrate the proposed quantification methodology, reservoir maintenance projects affected by floods in South Korea were adopted. The results and main findings of this study can be used as valuable guidelines to establish natural disaster mitigation strategies. This study will~~

32 help practitioners quantify the loss from natural disasters and thus evaluate the effectiveness of risk reduction projects. This
33 study will also assist decision makers to improve the effectiveness of risk mitigation activities. Given trends in more frequent
34 and severe natural disaster events, developing effective risk mitigation strategies is crucial to reduce negative economic
35 impacts, due to the limited budget for rehabilitation. To address this need, this study aims to develop a strategic framework for
36 natural disaster risk mitigation, highlighting two different strategic implementation processes (SIPs). SIP-1 is intended to
37 improve the predictability of natural disaster-triggered financial losses using deep learning. To demonstrate SIP-1, SIP-1
38 explores deep neural networks (DNNs) that learn storm and flood insurance loss ratios associated with selected major indicators
39 and then develops an optimal DNN-driven learning model and generalizes. SIP-2 underlines the risk mitigation strategy at
40 the project level, by adopting a cost-benefit analysis method that quantifies the cost effectiveness of disaster prevention projects.
41 In SIP-2, a case study of disaster risk reservoir projects in South Korea was adopted. The validated result of SIP-1 confirmed
42 that the predictability of the developed DNN is more accurate and reliable than a traditional parametric model, while SIP-2
43 revealed that maintenance projects are economically more beneficial in the long-term as the loss amount becomes smaller after
44 8 years, coupled with the investment in the projects. The proposed framework is unique as it provides a combinational approach
45 to mitigating economic damages caused by natural disasters at both financial loss and project levels. This study is its first kind
46 and will help practitioners quantify the loss from natural disasters, while allowing them to evaluate the cost effectiveness of
47 risk reduction projects through a holistic approach.

48
49 **Keywords.** Natural disaster; risk mitigation strategy; economic damage; deep learning; cost-benefit analysis

51 **1 Introduction**

52 **Over the past decades, 1.1 Natural disaster and risk**

53 The frequency and intensity-severity of extreme weather events due to climate change are rapidly increasing due to climate
54 changes. These events represented by flooding, drought, heavy rain, tropical cyclone, heat waves or cold waves have often
55 caused causing various damages. These damages are expected to affect extreme weather events in the not only short term, with
56 but also various long-term effects such as sea level rises and disease spreads. Examples of extreme weather events include
57 flooding, drought, heavy rain, tropical cyclone, heat waves, and cold waves. These extreme weather events are rapidly
58 increasing losses associated with their increases in frequency and intensity. The negative impact of these event has been warned
59 by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (The Fifth Assessment Report, 2014). Nevertheless, across the world,
60 severe weather events such as typhoons, heavy rains and changing patterns of meteorological disasters have already increased
61 the loss of many lives and built assets. These damages are still expected to be accelerated in coming future (Kim et al., 2020).

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Given the continuous trend, it is well known that natural disaster-triggered losses ~~Increases of these losses have~~ are causing been very closely tied with many economic losses worldwide. For example, Western European countries such as France, Germany, and Switzerland were hit by three consecutive tropical cyclones (e.g., Anatol, Lothar, and Martin) in 1999, resulting in a loss of 13 billion euros (Ulbrich et al., 1999). Typhoon Haiyan, which hit the Philippines and China of South Asia in 2013, was one of Category 5 Super Typhoons, was the most extreme tropical cyclone recorded on land. The typhoon's life-threatening wind and rain were enough to smash properties. South Asian countries adjacent to the typhoon track inflicted about \$300 billion in damage (Kim et al., 2019). Hurricane Katrina ~~that, which hit the the southeastern~~ South Eastern areas in United States in 2005; caused the most severe damage in ~~American history~~ the national historic record as ~~Hurricane Katrina was a~~ Category 5 tropical cyclone. In detail, it ~~e-that had~~ caused the US Gulf Coast city to have \$180 billion in direct and indirect damages due to substantial rain and robust winds (Blake et al., 2007). ~~Later, In the United States~~ in 2017 solely, three different powerful-strong hurricanes named by (Harvey, Maria, and Irma) caused together a total damage amount of about \$293 billion, based on the individual damage amounts of with Harvey causing \$125 billion by Harvey in damage, Maria causing \$90 billion by Maria, and Irma \$77.6 billion by Irma (USNHC, 2018).

~~Moreover, over the past century, the severity and frequency of natural disasters worldwide have increased. Climate anomalies have also increased. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (The Fifth Assessment Report, 2014) has already warned of an increase in global average temperature, average sea level escalation, heating, and acidification. In many countries, severe weather events such as typhoons and heavy rains and changing patterns of meteorological disasters have already increased the loss of many lives and property. These damages are expected to accelerate in the future (Kim et al., 2020).~~

~~Therefore~~In this sense, the quality of lives living in the built environment and property worldwide are has been threatened by natural disasters in the globe. ~~Such threats will increase.~~ To reduce these threats, ~~numerous-many of~~ non-governmental organizations and countries ~~are investing~~ have investigated a lot of in prevention or post-disaster recovery strategies, on aspects of time, time, budget, and manpower to mitigate natural disaster risks ~~from natural disasters~~. Mitigation of risks can reduce the loss by decreasing vulnerability or by decreasing the frequency and severity of causal factors (Rose et al., 2007). For risk mitigation, the execution and allocation of financial resources should be carried out quickly-promptly and extensively, against the limited resources available. ~~In practice, the efficiency and amounts of financial resources should be considered due to limited resources.~~ Hence, it is important to estimate strategically grasp the amount-cost impact of natural disaster risks and the effect of risk reduction at the same time, specifically aiming at to achieving the ultimate reduction and mitigation of risks through an efficient use of the limited resources. ~~In other words, it is essential for risk mitigation against potential risks by predicting the exact amount of risk, which aims to make an active investment to reduce the predicted risk, and to find out the economic effect of the risk reduction. Consequently, as part of a case study on risk mitigation costs, this study developed a strategic framework by developing a natural disaster damage prediction model using deep learning algorithms and proposing a methodology to quantify the effect of natural disaster reduction through cost-benefit analysis.~~

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98 2 Point of Departure: The need of more effective strategic framework for natural disaster risk mitigation

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100 2.14.2 Decision-support for natural disaster risk mitigation strategies r-loss-quantification

101 Given the increasing frequency and severity of natural disasters, the demand for sophisticated natural disaster loss forecasting
102 also increases. In response to such demand, various companies and national organizations have developed models to predict
103 natural disaster losses. The New Multi-Hazards and Multi-Risk Assessment Method for Europe (MATRIX) in Europe, the
104 HAZUS-Multi Hazard (HAZUS-MH) by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in the United States, the
105 RiskScape in New Zealand, and the Probabilistic Risk Assessment initiative in Central America are representative models
106 (Kim et al., 2017). Florida, USA, has developed a Florida Public Hurricane Loss Model (FPHLM) to predict losses due to
107 hurricanes as it is located on the main north-facing road of hurricanes (Kim et al., 2020). These models are being used in
108 different regions to assess the loss of life and potential economic losses for buildings and infrastructure owing to natural
109 disasters. Nevertheless, since these models were developed based on the vulnerability of natural disasters and the severity and
110 frequency of natural disasters in specific areas, they could not be applied to other areas.

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112 Companies specializing in natural disaster risk modeling have also developed different models, including EQECAT, Applied
113 Insurance Research (AIR), and RMS (Risk Management Solution) (Kunreuther et al., 2004; Sanders, 2002). These models are
114 widely used by insurers and reinsurers around the world to assess the risk of economic loss from natural disasters (e.g.,
115 windstorms, earthquakes, floods, ~~earthquakes~~, winter storms, and tornadoes). Nonetheless, these models have annual fees that
116 are expensive to small and medium-sized users. In addition, these models are available only for the limited number of major
117 countries (Europe, USA, Japan, China, etc.). ~~In addition~~ Furthermore, it is difficult to optimize them for users since they have
118 difficulties to reflect a user's portfolio, capital, business preference, and so on (Kim et al., 2019).

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120 To reflect characteristics and vulnerabilities of each country associated with various situations of users, it is crucial to evaluate
121 the loss through its own model. In order to develop a loss evaluation model, the development of an in-house model using a
122 deep learning algorithm can be a solution. Recently, the 4th revolution technology (e.g., unmanned transportation, big data,
123 artificial intelligence, IoT, robots, etc.) has been applied to various fields and its effectiveness has been recognized (Gledson
124 and Greenwood, 2017; IPA, 2017). To effectively and efficiently analyze the complexity of various sensors-driven big data,
125 the demand for deep learning applications has been increased dramatically. Given the increasing demand, many research efforts
126 on applying deep learning techniques for risk assessment were made recently (Al Najar et al. 2021; Khosravi et al. 2020; Kim
127 et al. 2021; Moishin et al. 2021; Shane Crawford et al. 2020; Sugiyarto and Rasjava 2020; Yi et al. 2020; Zhang et al. 2022).

Especially, for improved natural disaster risk assessment and mitigation, neural networks have been widely used for deep learning in various ways (Khosravi et al. 2020; Moishin et al. 2021; Shane Crawford et al. 2020; Yi et al. 2020). Some researchers developed deep learning models to predict flood events (Khosravi et al. 2020; Moishin et al. 2021). Khosravi et al. (2020) developed a flood susceptibility map using convolutional neural networks (CNN). More specifically, 769 historical flood locations in Iran were trained and tested based on amounts of soil moisture, slopes, curvatures, altitudes, rainfalls, geology, land use and vegetation, distances from roads and rivers. In addition, a hybrid deep learning algorithm integrating the merits of CNN and long short-term memory (LSTM) networks was built to manage flood risks by predicting future flood events, by training and testing daily rainfall data obtained from 11 sites in Fiji between 1990 and 2019 (Moishin et al. 2021).

Other previous studies focused on post-disaster detection caused by landslides or tornados, which uses remote sensed data collected from satellites for deep learning (Al Najar et al. 2021; Shane Crawford et al. 2020; Yi et al. 2020). Shane Crawford et al. (2020) adopted CNN to classify damages of 15,945 buildings affected by the 2011 Tuscaloosa tornado in Alabama. To this end, the authors used satellited-driven images of trees as the damage classification indicator to estimate wind speeds. In addition, satellite images were embraced into the CNN-driven deep learning process to detect earthquake-induced landslides in China (Yi et al. 2020). More recently, Al Najar et al. (2021) estimated accurately ocean depths simulating remote sensed images using a deep learning technique, which overcomes drawbacks of traditional bathymetry measurement activities to track the physical evolution of coastal areas against any potential natural disasters or extreme storm events. Previous studies reviewed reveal consistently that deep learning techniques can overcome shortcomings of existing methods and thus to provide more accurate and reliable decision-support models for risk assessment and risk-informed mitigation strategies.

In addition to applications of deep learning for location detection or event prediction-focused, as stated earlier, it is important to quantify negative economic impacts caused by natural disasters. Given the importance of economic damage aspects, Kim et al. (2021) applied a deep learning technique as a cost-effective and risk-informed facilities management solution. In detail, the authors generalized maintenance and repair costs of educational facilities in Canada, using deep neural networks that learn sets of maintenance and repair records, asset values, natural hazards such as tornados, lightening, hails, floods, and storms. In this sense, this study proposed a deep learning modeling framework to predict financial losses caused by natural disasters. In this sense, this study proposed a framework for developing a natural disaster risk quantification model based on deep learning technology to predict losses due to natural disasters.

2.2.1.3 Investment strategies for Cost-benefit analysis of natural disaster risk mitigation

Mitigating the risk with efficient investment and operation of resources is a challenging task because resources are finite while risk reduction should be done made quickly and extensively in a timely manner, with the limited financial resources. To address

these issues, cost-benefit analysis has been widely adopted (FEMA, 2005; Rose et al., 2007). For instance, efficient use of public resources is indicated when total estimated profits of a risk mitigation activity surpass the entire cost or are parallel to earnings on investment of both private and public.

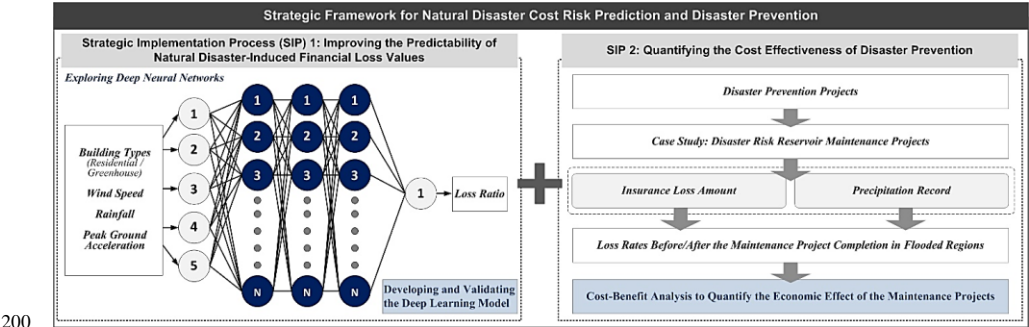
Disaster risk mitigation represents mitigating social, environmental, and economic damage caused by natural disasters. Since economic losses due to natural disasters are hard to minimize or avoid separately, there is an increasing public demand for risk reduction investments to reduce these economic losses (Bouwer et al., 2007; Shreve and Kelman, 2014). Since resources for risk mitigation investment are restricted, it is critical to estimate economic costs and benefits in order to determine the effectiveness and appropriateness of the investment. For instance, the Federal Emergency Management Agency of the United States has reported that the average ~~benefit-cost~~cost-benefit ratio is 4 for risk mitigation investment (e.g., structural ~~defense~~defence measures against floods and typhoons, building renovations in preparation for earthquakes, etc.) after reviewing 4,000 natural disaster risk reduction programs in the United States (Kunreuther et al., 2012; Rose et al., 2007). In addition, studies in developing countries have shown a high ~~cost-benefit~~benefit-cost ratio in a study of 21 investment activities such as re-establishment of schools and forestry in preparation for tsunami (Bouwer et al., 2014).

Despite these high potential benefits, investment in risk reduction for residents living in areas at risk of natural disasters is restricted (Bouwer et al., 2014). According to Hochrainer-Stigler et al. (2010), since natural disaster risk reduction measures are focused on short-term outcomes, only about 10% of residents in areas vulnerable to natural disasters receive natural disaster risk reduction measures in the United States. In the case of a natural disaster risk reduction project, a large initial investment is required, which reduces the expected profit if performance indicators need to be met in a short period of time. As a result, policy makers and politicians are reluctant to make bold investments in natural disaster risk reduction. They prefer to provide economic support after disasters (Cavallo et al., 2013). This phenomenon is also reflected in the budget distribution of disaster management funds of donations and development agencies. Most (98%) of the budget is allocated to reconstruction or relief. Only the remaining budget (2%) is allocated to risk reduction (Mechler, 2005). As such, while the need for pre-disaster risk reduction through proactive disaster investment is widely recognized, the economic impact of natural disaster risk reduction is often not fully considered in decision-making. Moreover, although cost-benefit analysis (~~CBA~~) is the main decision-making tool commonly used in ~~public sector~~ investment and financial evaluations by public sectors, natural disaster risk is not sufficiently applied in the CBA-cost-benefit analysis (Hochrainer-Stigler et al., 2010). Natural disasters in public sectors' investment projects ~~are were~~ often overlooked or not evaluated in-based on the cost-to-benefit comparison~~CBA-assessments~~ (Kreimer et al., 2003). ~~Hence~~In turn, in this study, this study explored the effectiveness of a natural disaster risk reduction projects and analyzed the cost effectiveness of the projects adopting a cost-benefit analysis method was determined through a case study of cost-benefit analysis conducted by the Korean government is considered and a methodology for calculating dismissal was presented.

194 **2-3 Research objectives and methods**

195 Given trends in more frequent and severe natural disaster events, developing effective natural disaster risk mitigation strategies
196 is crucial to reduce negative economic impacts on built assets, due to the limited budget for rehabilitation. To address this need,
197 this study aims to develop a strategic framework for natural disaster risk mitigation, highlighting two different strategic
198 implementation processes (SIPs), as depicted in Figure 1.

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203 More specifically, SIP-1 is intended to improve the predictability of natural disaster-triggered financial loss model. To this
204 end, SIP-1 develops a deep neural network (DNN) model that learns insurance loss amounts to generalize loss ratios, associated
205 with major indicators including rainfall, wind, and ground acceleration. To reduce economic losses caused by natural disasters,
206 it is necessary to quantify losses caused by natural disasters and make active investments to reduce risks. Therefore, for
207 economic analysis of losses from natural disasters, this study attempted to examine the investment effects, predict losses caused
208 by natural disasters. The main objectives of this study are to develop a strategic framework that predicts natural disaster losses
209 using a deep learning algorithm and introduces a methodology to quantify the effect of natural disaster reduction projects using
210 cost-benefit analysis. To achieve the main objective of this study, a two-stage approach was adopted.

211

212 To demonstrate In-SIP-1 Stage I, this study collected reliable storm and flood damage insurance data and natural disaster risk
213 indicators, created a predictive model based on using a deep learning algorithm, and verified validate the improved predictability
214 of the model. This study proposed a deep learning modeling framework that could accurately learn and predict multiple
215 natural disaster indicators known to affect losses caused by natural disasters. The first research objective was achieved through
216 the following steps:

- 217 1) To collect data on loss caused by natural disasters, this study collected data on claim payout for storm and flood
218 damage insurance from the Korea Insurance Development Institute (KIDI) over the past 11 years between 2009 and
219 2019.
- 220 2) This study obtained natural disaster risk indicators based on the collected data.
- 221 3) A model of deep learning algorithm was developed using Python 3.7, Keras, and Scikit-Learn libraries. The model
222 was trained, tested, and validated using the collected data.
- 223 4) A multiple regression model was independently developed using IBM Statistical Package for the Social Sciences
224 (SPSS) version 23 for model validation.
- 225 5) The root mean squared error and mean absolute error values of the deep learning algorithm model and the multiple
226 regression analysis model were estimated and paralleled, respectively.

227 5) ~~Compared to SIP-1, SIP-2 underlines the risk mitigation strategy at the project level, by proposing a methodological
228 implementation process for quantifying the cost effectiveness of natural disaster risk reduction by adopting a cost-benefit
229 analysis method that quantifies the cost effectiveness of disaster prevention project. To demonstrate SIP-2, a case study of
230 disaster risk reservoir maintenance projects completed in South Korea was adopted. In Stage II, through the following steps data
231 on natural disaster risk reduction projects conducted by national institutions were collected and cost-benefit analysis was
232 performed for cost of natural disaster risk reduction. This study intended to propose a framework for quantifying the economic
233 cost of natural disaster risk reduction. To realize the goal of this study, the following steps were used. In addition, this study
234 intended to propose a framework for quantifying the economic cost of natural disaster risk reduction. The second objective of
235 this study was achieved through the following steps:~~

- 237 1) Among natural disaster risk reduction projects carried out by the South Korean government, information on disaster
238 risk reservoir maintenance projects completed in 2009-2019 was collected.
- 239 2) The loss rate of storm and flood insurance in the region where the flood damage occurred after the completion of the
240 maintenance project was investigated through ~~the Korea Insurance Development Institute (KIDI).~~
- 241 3) The amount of precipitation before and after the disaster risk reservoir maintenance project was investigated.
- 242 4) Cost-benefit analysis was conducted to determine the economic feasibility of the maintenance project.

243 4) ———

244 **3-4 SIP-1: Improving the predictability of Stage I: Development of a natural disaster-induced financial loss values**
245 **using deep learning prediction model**

246 SIP-1 aims to explore deep learning-driven modelling processes and develop an optimal learning model that can improve the
247 predictability of natural disaster-triggered financial losses. To demonstrate SIP-1, the loss amounts of storm and flood
248 insurance were learned, and the corresponding loss ratios were generalized associated with the selected risk indicators by the

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249 property type. To scientifically validate the robustness of the learning model, the prediction results were compared with a
250 conventional parametric model underpinned by multiple regression analysis.

251 **3.4.1 Data collection**

252 ~~This section develops and validates a deep learning algorithm model that can efficiently and accurately predict losses due to~~
253 ~~natural disasters based on data about the loss amount of flood insurance with high reliability. To collect such data, this study~~
254 ~~used A total of 458 KIDI's storm and flood damage insurance claims for 11 years from 2009 to 2019 was collected from KIDI's~~
255 ~~data sets.~~ KIDI was established in 1983. It is an insurance professional service organization that develops insurance products,
256 calculates insurance rates, and protects the rights of policyholders. It also collects and manages various statistical data such as
257 insurance information and losses of each insurance company (Choi and Han, 2015). Storm and flood damage insurance, which
258 reflects the loss amount, is an insurance that compensates for property damage caused by natural disasters (e.g., typhoons,
259 floods, heavy rains, tsunamis, strong winds, storms, heavy snow, earthquakes, and so on). It has been implemented since 2006
260 under the initiative of state and local governments (Kwon and Oh, 2018). The insurance payout amount is determined by
261 objective analysis of certified loss assessment service according to standardized procedures for each insurance company. Its
262 reliability is high (Kim et al., 2020). The collected data information includes the total loss amounts, the total net premiums,
263 building types, and location profiles, which is publicly available. The prediction model was trained, tested, and validated using
264 losses and natural disaster risk indicators.

265
266 The cost of loss due to natural disasters was divided by the total net premiums to calculate the ratio and then log-transformed,
267 which distribution of the data is shown in Figure 2. In addition, natural disaster risk indicators affecting insurance loss due to
268 natural disasters were collected. For natural disaster risk indicators, building type, wind speed, total rainfall, and peak ground
269 acceleration were selected as variables through past literature studies (Kim et al., 2017, 2019; Kim et al., 2020; Kim et al.,
270 2021). Figure 3 shows the distributions of the selected indicators. A description of variables is presented in Table 1. Building
271 types were set as dummy variables that consist of residential buildings and greenhouses. Wind speed and the maximum value
272 of rainfalls were collected from the Korea Meteorological Administration (KMA). Peak ground accelerations were collected
273 from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Accordingly, Table 2 summarises the descriptive
274 statistics of variables are displayed in Table 2.

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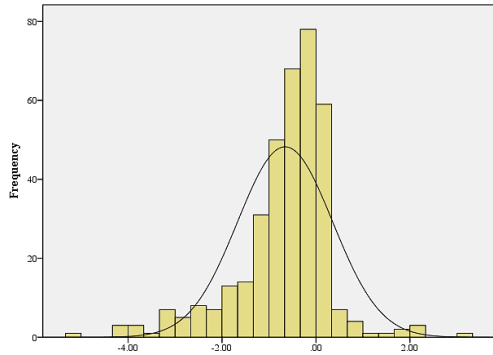
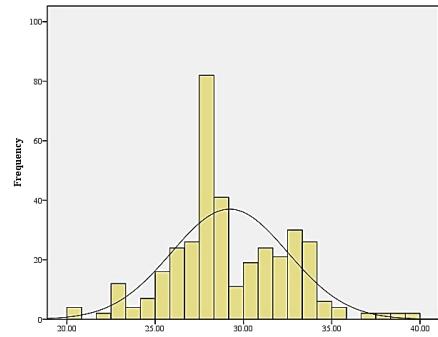
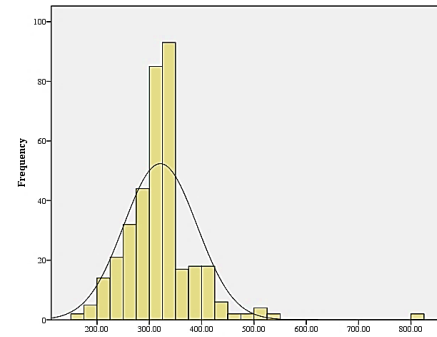


Figure 2. Distribution of the insurance loss ratio record



(a) Wind speed (m/s)



(b) Rainfall (mm/day)

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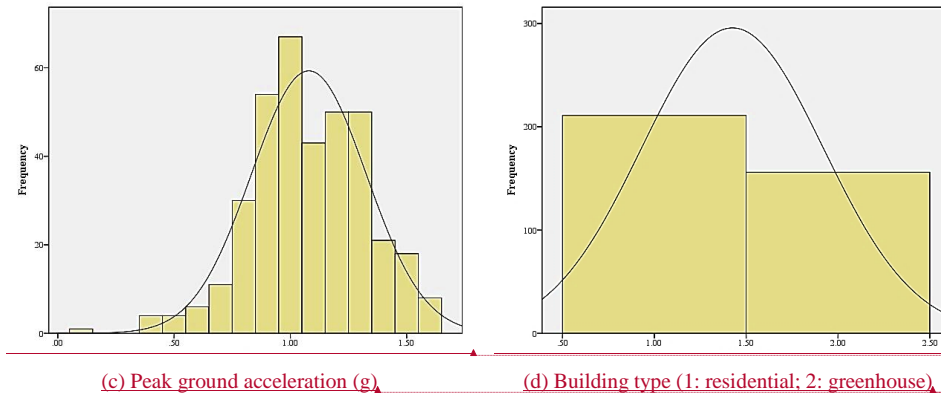


Figure 3. Distributions of the indicators to learn the loss ratios

Table 1. Description of variables

Variable	Explanation
Loss ratio	Total loss divided by the total net premium (<u>Amount unit: KRW; log-transformed</u>)
Building type	Buildings covered by storm and flood insurance (Categorical variable - Residential building: 1; Greenhouse: 2)
Wind speed	10-minute average maximum wind speed (m/s)
Rainfall	Maximum precipitation per day (mm/day)
Peak Ground-ground Aacceleration acceleration	Value of Peak-peak Ground-ground Aacceleration acceleration (PGA) (g)

Table 2. Descriptive statistics of variables by the building type (i.e., residential building and greenhouse)

Variable (Unit)	N Sample size	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Loss ratio (<u>L</u> og-transformed <u>value</u> KRW)	458	-5.12	3.17	-0.66	1.01
Building type (1: residential; 2: greenhouse)	458	-	-	-	-
Wind speed (m/s)	458	20.80	39.20	29.21	3.17
Rainfall (mm/day)	458	172.00	801.20	319.02	68.57

Peak ground acceleration (g)	458	0.10	1.60	1.10	0.25
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34.2 Modeling Modelling deep neural networks

A deep learning algorithm is a neural network with many layers and various structures in general. Its use in research and industry for prediction and recognition has spread rapidly, proving its effectiveness (Kim et al., 2021). Deep learning algorithms are also widely used for regression analysis and type classification as a machine learning technique (Ajayi et al., 2019). Deep learning models have the same training framework as other types of neural networks. However, they can train large data sets more effectively with multiple hidden layers (Bae et al., 2021). Deep learning algorithms can be divided into deep neural network (DNN), generative adversarial network (GAN), recurrent neural network (RNN), convolutional neural network (CNN), and auto encoder (AE) according to their structure and processing method (Kim et al., 2021). Especially, DNN is used for cataloguing and prediction in various engineering and academic fields (Krizhevsky et al., 2012; Toya and Skidmore, 2007). Moreover, DNNs can be applied to train and model complex nonlinear relationships due to their multi-layered structures. Thus, in this study, a DNN model was accepted considering nonlinearity of collected loss data.

The learning performance of the model was appraised by measuring the values of root mean squared error (RMSE) and mean absolute error (MAE). RMSE and MAE are representative indicators of the size of the error by comparing the predicted result of an artificial neural network with the actual value (Daniell et al., 2011). RMSE is a value that measures the average error magnitude. MAE is a value obtained by converting the difference between the actual value and the predicted value into an absolute value and averaging it. Both indicators can be used to indicate that the prediction error decreases as the error value gets smaller (e.g., closer to zero).

The collected loss data were pre-processed using a z-score normalization method to adjust the unit and quantity of the data. The pre-processed completed input data were divided into a training set, a verification set, and a test set of data. The training set of data were used for learning of the DNN algorithm. The verification set of data were used to judge whether training was optimal and the test set of data were used to verify whether the developed model was finally trained for the purpose. In this study, considering the amount of data, 70% of the total data were set as training set of data and 30% of them were used as test set of data. Then 30% of training data were utilized as verification data.

The DNN model selected the optimal combination through a trial-and-error method since the DNN model could update the weights of neural network nodes with a backpropagation algorithm. Since various combinations were possible depending on the input variable and the output variable, it was necessary to find the optimal combination through the trial-and-error method. For such an optimal combination, it is necessary to define the network structure scenario for setting the number of layers and

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315 nodes and defining hyper parameters such as optimizers, activation functions, and dropouts (Cavallo et al., 2013). This study
316 adopted a network structure scenario with three hidden layers considering data characteristics. Dropout is a regularization
317 penalty to avoid overfitting. It was set to reduce prediction errors caused by overfitting. In this study, making an allowance for
318 the amount of training data, dropout was set to 0 and 0.2 and simulated. The ReLu (Rectified Linear Unit) function was utilized
319 as the activation function, a method of adjusting the weight of each node for optimal learning. The ReLu function allows the
320 input value to change when the input value is greater than 0 or less than 0. It was established to resolve the problem of gradient
321 loss of the existing Sigmoid function (Krizhevsky et al., 2012). The Adaptive Moment Estimation (Adam) method as accepted
322 as the optimizer (Krizhevsky et al., 2012). Optimizer is used for speed and stability of learning. The Adam Method is a widely
323 assumed algorithm since its development in 2015 (Kingma and Ba, 2015). The batch was defined as 5 as a data group
324 designation for efficient learning and the number of epochs was designated as 1,000 for the number of learning (Bae and Yoo,
325 2018; Ryu et al., 2018).

326

327 **3.4.3 Development Exploring DNNs and developing of the DNN model**

328 Table 3 shows MAE and RMSE values according to the network structure and dropout. Amongst outcomes, the model with
329 the minimum MAE and RMSE was adopted as the final structure. As the number of hidden layer nodes increased, the MAE
330 and RMSE values fluctuated slightly. However, the number of hidden layer nodes was minimized at 25-25-25. When the
331 dropout was 0, MAE and RMSE values were commonly lesser than when the dropout was 0.2. It could be realized that when
332 the number of hidden layer nodes was 25-25-25 and the dropout was 0.0, both MAE and RMSE had minimum values.
333 Consequently, in the final structure, the number of nodes was 25-25-25 and the dropout was 0. Table 4 and Figure 4
334 demonstrate the network structure and hyper parameter configuration of the optimization model.

335

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Table 3. Training results

Network Structure Scenario	Dropout (0)		Dropout (0.2)	
	MAE	RMSE	MAE	RMSE
5-5-5	0.521	0.484	0.521	0.484
10-10-10	0.498	0.468	0.524	0.484
15-15-15	0.521	0.484	0.523	0.487
20-20-20	0.522	0.484	0.521	0.484
25-25-25	0.476	0.461	0.521	0.484
30-30-30	0.521	0.484	0.521	0.484
35-35-35	0.521	0.484	0.522	0.484

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40-40-40	0.521	0.484	0.521	0.484
50-50-50	0.521	0.484	0.522	0.484

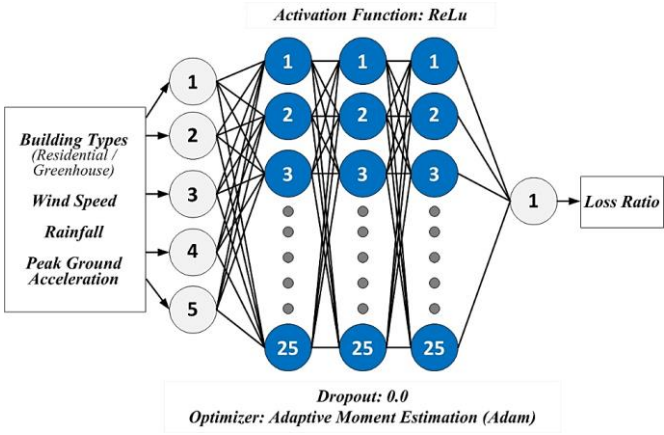
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338

Table 4. Network structure and hyper parameter formation of the final model

Category	Configuration	Feature
Network structure	Number of Hidden Layer	3
	Node	25-25-25
Hyper-parameter	Dropout	0.0
	Activation Function	ReLu (Rectified Linear Unit)
	Optimizer	Adam (Adaptive Moment Estimation)
	Epoch	1000
	Batch Size	5

339



340

341

Figure 4. Final model of deep neural networks

342

34.4 The robustness validation of the final DNN model

343

An MRA (Multiple Regression Analysis) model was added for systematic validation of the final DNN model. MAE and RMSE values of these two models were compared. The MRA method is widely adopted as an essential method for numerical prediction models (Kim et al., 2021). Table 5 displays validation results of these models. Results of the DNN model showed

345

346 MAE of 0.531 and RMSE of 0.480 with the verification set of data. For the test set of data, results showed MAE of 0.452 and
347 RMSE of 0.435. There was no significant difference in MAE or RMSE between results with the test set of data and those with
348 the verification set of data since the overfitting problem of the final model could be overlooked. In addition, the MRA model
349 showed an MAE of 0.533 and a RMSE of 0.484. Equating outcomes of the DNN model and the MRA model, it was found
350 that the DNN model had meaningfully minor prediction error rates of 15.2% MAE and 10.12% RMSE than the MRA model.

351

352

Table 5. Results with the validation set and test set of data

	Validation Set		Test Set	
	MAE	RMSE	MAE	RMSE
DNN	0.531	0.480	0.452	0.435
MRA	-	-	0.533	0.484
DNN/MRA (%)			-15.20%	-10.12%

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353 **4-5 SIP-2: Quantifying the cost effectiveness of Stage II- Cost-Benefit analysis of natural disaster risk reduction**
354 **projects using cost-benefit analysis**

355 Management of a disaster risk reservoir is a part of the disaster prevention project. According to the Special Act on the Disaster
356 Risk Reduction Project and Relocation Measures, the purpose of disaster prevention measures necessary for improving the
357 disaster risk area is for fundamental prevention and permanent recovery of disasters. The disaster prevention project was started
358 in 1998 when the Disaster Response Division of the Ministry of Government Administration and Home Affairs discovered
359 disaster-prone facilities and areas with risk of human casualties and provided government funds for the maintenance of natural
360 disaster risk areas for systematic management and prompt resolution of disaster risk factors (Lee, 2017). Disaster prevention
361 projects include natural disaster risk improvement districts, disaster risk reservoirs, steep slope collapse risk areas, small rivers,
362 and rainwater storage facilities (Kim et al., 2019). Given the significance of disaster prevention projects, SIP-2 examines
363 economic effects through cost-benefit analysis of natural disaster risk reduction projects to reduce losses from natural disasters.
364 To demonstrate SIP-2, a cost-benefit analysis was conducted for the natural disaster reduction project by comparing losses
365 from storm and flood insurance before and after the disaster risk reservoir maintenance project.

366

367 **5.1 Data collection and investigation of historical record**

368 Among natural disaster risk reduction projects carried out by the South Korean government, the data set of disaster risk
369 reservoir maintenance projects completed in 2009-2019 was extracted from the Public Data Portal (data.go.kr) managed by
370 the South Korean government to collect and provide public data created or acquired by public institutions in one place. The
371 system was established in 2011 to provide public data in the form of file data, visualization, and open API (Application
372 Programming Interface) (Closs et al., 2014). During the study period of 2009-2019, 474 reservoirs were designated as disaster

373 risk reservoirs and 290 maintenance projects were initiated. Among them, a total of 12 areas were flooded before and after the
374 completion of the disaster risk reservoir maintenance project. Table 6 shows the loss rate and maximum precipitation at the
375 time of flooding before and after completion of the maintenance projects in these 12 areas. Data about the loss amounts from
376 storm and flood insurance were obtained from KIDI. Precipitation data were collected from KMA and the maximum daily
377 precipitation at the time of the flooding was used. Insured loss was expressed as a rate of the incurred loss divided by the
378 accrued premium. The loss rate before the maintenance project was 34.32% on average, while that after the maintenance
379 project was completed was 5.9% on average, showing a sharp decrease of 82.8% on average.

380 This section examines economic effects through cost-benefit analysis of natural disaster risk reduction projects to reduce losses
381 from natural disasters. To gather data, among natural disaster risk reduction projects carried out by the South Korean
382 government, information on disaster risk reservoir maintenance projects completed in 2009-2019 was collected from the Public
383 Data Portal (data.go.kr) managed by the South Korean government to collect and provide public data created or acquired by
384 public institutions in one place. The system was established in 2011 to provide public data in the form of file data, visualization,
385 and open API (Application Programming Interface) (Closs et al., 2014).

386

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388 Risk Reduction Project and Relocation Measures, the purpose of disaster prevention measures necessary for improving the
389 disaster risk area is for fundamental prevention and permanent recovery of disasters. The disaster prevention project was started
390 in 1998 when the Disaster Response Division of the Ministry of Government Administration and Home Affairs discovered
391 disaster-prone facilities and areas with risk of human casualties and provided government funds for the maintenance of natural
392 disaster risk areas for systematic management and prompt resolution of disaster risk factors (Lee, 2017). Disaster prevention
393 projects include natural disaster risk improvement districts, disaster risk reservoirs, steep slope collapse risk areas, small rivers,
394 and rainwater storage facilities (Kim et al., 2019). In this paper, a cost-benefit analysis was conducted for the natural disaster
395 reduction project by comparing losses from storm and flood insurance before and after the disaster risk reservoir maintenance
396 project. During the study period of 2009-2019, 474 reservoirs were designated as disaster risk reservoirs and 290 maintenance
397 projects were initiated. Among them, a total of 12 areas were flooded before and after the completion of the disaster risk
398 reservoir maintenance project. Table 6 shows the loss rate and maximum precipitation at the time of flooding before and after
399 completion of the maintenance projects in these 12 areas. Data about the loss amounts from storm and flood insurance were
400 obtained from KIDI. Precipitation data were collected from KMA and the maximum daily precipitation at the time of the
401 flooding was used. Insured loss was expressed as a rate of the incurred loss divided by the accrued premium. The loss rate
402 before the maintenance project was 34.32% on average, while that after the maintenance project was completed was 5.9% on
403 average, showing a sharp decrease of 82.8% on average. However, when data of precipitation as the main cause of flooding
404 accidents during flood damage were compared, the average precipitation was 331 mm/day before the maintenance project and
405 215 mm/day after the maintenance project. It could be seen that the amount of precipitation was decreased by 35% when flood
406 damage occurred after the maintenance project. The sharp decrease in the loss rate after the maintenance project could be due

407 to the effect of the maintenance project. It could also be attributed to a relatively small amount of precipitation compared to
408 that before the maintenance project. Therefore, it is difficult to conclude that the decreased loss rate is due to the effect of
409 reducing storm and flood damage caused by the maintenance project.

410 Table 6. Comparison of loss rate and precipitation before and after maintenance projects in flooded regions in South Korea

No	Region	Loss rate		Precipitation (mm/day)	
		Before (%)	After (%)	Before	After
1	Yongin City	47.40%	20.60%	425	188
2	Nonsan City	30.10%	0.80%	334	306
3	Wanju-gun	40.70%	3.40%	364	142
4	Gangjin-gun	76.30%	0.40%	235	166
5	Sejong City	7.30%	4.90%	257	223
6	Muan-gun	25.80%	2.00%	285	192
7	Hampyeong-gun	23.80%	10.30%	301	230
8	Gyeongju City	33.10%	1.20%	488	280
9	Changwon City	10.60%	10.70%	300	266
10	Namhae City	22.10%	8.50%	324	231
11	Naju City	53.90%	5.10%	330	106
12	Goheung-gun	40.70%	3.00%	325	249
Average (%)		34.32%	5.9%	331	215
After/Before (%)			82.8%		35.0%

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412 **5.2 Cost-benefit analysis and results of natural disaster risk reduction projects**

413 As seen in Table 6, when data of precipitation as the main cause of flooding accidents during flood damage were compared,
414 the average precipitation was 331 mm/day before the maintenance project and 215 mm/day after the maintenance project. It
415 could be seen that the amount of precipitation was decreased by 35% when flood damage occurred after the maintenance
416 project. The sharp decrease in the loss rate after the maintenance project could be due to not only the effect of maintenance
417 project, but also decreased rainfalls. In turn, it is difficult to conclude that the decreased loss rate is due to the effect of reducing
418 storm and flood damage caused by the maintenance project.

419

420 To analyze the cost effectiveness of the maintenance projects in flood regions, a cost-benefit analysis method using an equal-
421 payment-series present-worth factor was adopted. The present-worth factor, assuming an annual loss rate i , is a coefficient
422 used to find the present value corresponding to annual equivalent loss A for the next n years. Eq. (1) presents a widely used
423 concept in economic analysis (Park & Sharp, 2021):

424 Therefore, cost-benefit analysis was conducted to analyze the economic effect. Equal-payment-series present-worth factor was
425 used for cost-benefit analysis. Equal-payment-series present-worth factor, assuming an annual loss rate i , is a coefficient used

426 to find the present value corresponding to annual equivalent loss A for the next n years. Eq. (1) presents a widely used concept
427 in economic analysis (Park and Sharp, 2021):

428
$$P = \frac{A[(1+i)^n - 1]}{i(1+i)^n}$$

429 (1)

431 Where:

432 P: Present value

433 A: Annual loss amount

434 i: Loss rate

435 n: Year

436
437 The initial cost of each maintenance project was collected through The Public Data Portal and the average cost of the
438 maintenance project was calculated. For the loss rate, the average loss rate of the loss area was used. For the annual loss amount,
439 the average annual loss for the study period (2009-2019) was used as seen in Table 7. However, it was assumed that no
440 additional costs incurred due to the maintenance project. Figure 4-5 shows calculation results before and after the maintenance
441 projects, which reveals that As can be seen from Figure 4-1, the loss amount becomes smaller after 8 years due to investment
442 through the maintenance projects.

443
444 Table 7. Summary of inputs

Input	Before	After
Initial cost	-	22.088*
Loss rate	0.343	0.059
Annual loss amount	0.371*	0.006*

445 * Billion KRW

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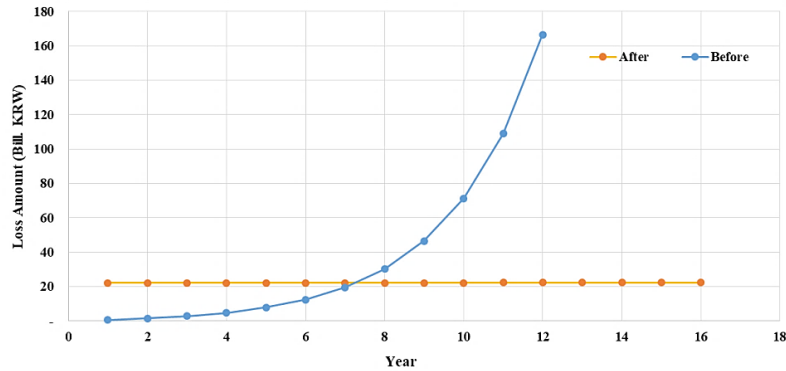


Figure 4-5. Comparison of losses before and after the maintenance projects.

5-6 Discussion

Within the proposed strategic framework, In Stage I, this study SIP-1 developed an improved model for predicting economic losses due to natural disasters using the DNN algorithm among deep learning algorithms. For model development, insurance company's storm and flood damage insurance loss records were used to collect economic losses caused by actual natural disasters. After developing a DNN algorithm model and training it with collected data, the final network model was validated selected by comparing different models with other DNN alternatives. To scientifically validate the improved predictability, the performance (i.e., actual-to-predicted comparison using MAE and RMSE methods) of the developed DNN model was compared with a parametric model underpinned by MRA. The results revealed that the DNN model was 15.2% less in the MAE and 10.12% less in the RMSE, compared to the MRA model. These results confirm that deep learning can produce more accurate and reliable prediction results of natural disaster-induced economic loss values associated with non-linear characteristics of risk indicators. It is noteworthy that the proposed implementation process is applicable to various natural disaster-triggered loss predictions, as the amount and its fluctuation of losses are diverse dependant on various types and strengths of natural disasters. In this sense, the proposed SIP-1 will help In addition, network scenarios and hyper parameters were found using the trial and error method to derive the optimal model. The DNN model was 15.2% less in the MAE and 10.12% less in the RMSE than the MRA model. As shown in prediction results, the non-parametric model DNN was more proper than the parametric model MRA model for the economic loss analysis of natural disasters with non-linear characteristics. These results also indicate that the DNN model has higher reliability than other models in identifying financial losses due to natural disasters. Due to the nature of natural disasters, the loss is very diverse. Thus, the prediction error value can be very large. It can be seen that the DNN model reflects this diversity of natural disaster losses well. By using the development model and the methodology described in this study, natural disaster risk managers will be able to predict the financial loss cost of

natural disasters or develop an optimally customized deep learning prediction model according to user conditions by adopting deep learning. It can also be used as a reference when developing systems or models risk reduction investment plans or financial guideline for predicting natural disaster losses in a public and/or private sectors. For example, by applying this implementation process, it would be possible Based on this sophisticated economic loss prediction, it will be possible to estimate reliably the negative impact of natural disaster events on existing financial management practices and thus make decisions proactively foron the most feasible active-risk reduction investment plan that . Such investment can strengthen natural disaster risk management and reduce the amount of risk, ultimately reducing the economic loss caused by natural disasters. Based on the well-developed financial guideline, it would be possible to avoid any transfers of unexpected financial losses from insurance coverages or special purchases suitable for expected losses. Despite the merit of SIP-1, there still remain some limitations. For example, it will be possible to calculate the amount of economic loss in an area expected to be flooded in advance and establish a preventive strategy for loss measures and appropriate facility investment according to the expected loss amount. Moreover, such loss forecasting can help prepare financial guidelines such as emergency reserves and budgeting. It can also be used to prepare budget guidelines according to the calculated expected loss and manage business continuity. In addition, according to established financial guidelines, it will be helpful for strategies to avoid and transfer financial losses through insurance coverage or special purchases suitable for expected losses. These activities can ultimately reduce the risk of financial loss due to natural disasters. Nevertheless, this study has some limitations. First, owing to the limited data set, it was problematic to accumulate different data sets. Additional research in the future is needed to parallel and prove loss records in other countries or regions. In addition, further research is required to increase the amount of available data and upgrade the model through the introduction of additional variables to more precisely predict losses from natural disasters using deep learning algorithms.

Compared to SIP-1, SIP-2 proposed a new methodology that can quantify the cost effectiveness of natural disaster risk reduction projects through the cost-benefit analysis. To demonstrate SIP-2, among natural disaster risk reduction projects were implemented in South Korea, specific information of the disaster risk reservoir maintenance projects where flood damage occurred before and after completion was collected. Then, to identify benefits and costs, corresponding loss rates and daily precipitation amounts were investigated and compared at the project level. Lastly, the cost effectiveness of the projects was analyzed using a cost-benefit analysis method. As the result of cost-benefit analysis, in the short term, the loss after the maintenance project was greater than that before the maintenance project. However, this was reversed from 8 years after the maintenance project and the loss amount before the maintenance project was larger than that after the maintenance project. Although it is difficult to expect profits from the maintenance project in the short term, it can be seen that the maintenance project is economically beneficial in the long term (8 years or more). SIP-2 would be useful for making sounder decisions on natural disaster management policy and natural disaster risk reduction project investment plans. Evaluating the effectiveness of risk reduction through SIP-2 will lead to drastic investment, which will ultimately reduce the amount of natural disaster risks. However, it should be noted that the study period shown in the SIP-2 case study was relatively short, while the location of project samples was limited to South Korea. In addition, it was assumed that the inflation rate is identical during the study

period. In turn, it is necessary to conduct additional analyses considering various locations venerable to natural disasters in other countries and more realistic financial loss values using a net present value concept.

~~Based on this sophisticated economic loss prediction, it will be possible to make decisions for active risk reduction investment. Such investment can strengthen natural disaster risk management and reduce the amount of risk, ultimately reducing the economic loss caused by natural disasters. For example, it will be possible to calculate the amount of economic loss in an area expected to be flooded in advance and establish a preventive strategy for loss measures and appropriate facility investment according to the expected loss amount. Moreover, such loss forecasting can help prepare financial guidelines such as emergency reserves and budgeting. It can also be used to prepare budget guidelines according to the calculated expected loss and manage business continuity. In addition, according to established financial guidelines, it will be helpful for strategies to avoid and transfer financial losses through insurance coverage or special purchases suitable for expected losses. These activities can ultimately reduce the risk of financial loss due to natural disasters. Nevertheless, this study has some limitations: First, owing to the limited data set, it was problematic to accumulate different data sets. Additional research in the future is needed to parallel and prove loss records in other countries or regions. In addition, further research is required to increase the amount of available data and upgrade the model through the introduction of additional variables to more precisely predict losses from natural disasters using deep learning algorithms.~~

In Stage II, a methodology was proposed to quantify the effectiveness of natural disaster risk reduction projects using cost-benefit analysis. Among natural disaster risk reduction projects were implemented in South Korea, information was collected and analyzed for the disaster risk reservoir maintenance project where flood damage occurred before and after completion. To analyze benefits and costs, this study collected and analyzed the loss rate and precipitation from wind and flood damage before and after the maintenance project in the target area and judged the efficiency of the maintenance project. As a result of CBA analysis, in the short term, the loss after the maintenance project was greater than that before the maintenance project. However, this was reversed from 8 years after the maintenance project and the loss amount before the maintenance project was larger than that after the maintenance project. Although it is difficult to expect profits from the maintenance project in the short term, it can be seen that the maintenance project is economically beneficial in the long term (8 years or more). Results and methodology of this study will be helpful for decision making of natural disaster management policy and natural disaster risk reduction project investment. Evaluating the effectiveness of risk reduction through this analysis will lead to drastic investment, which will ultimately reduce the amount of natural disaster risk. However, the study period was relatively short and cases that could be analyzed were limited because all study subjects were from South Korea. In addition, it was assumed that the inflation rate is identical during the study period. Therefore, it is necessary to conduct additional analyses considering various locations venerable to natural disasters in other countries and more realistic financial loss values using a net present value concept.

6-7 Conclusion

Due to increasing threats to the life of general public and property-built assets from natural disasters, a variety of risk mitigation activities are being carried out extensively to reduce these threats. Given the continuous trend toward natural disaster risk mitigation, the significance of relevant economic analysis-analyses of natural disaster risk mitigation effects ishas been underlined, against becoming increasingly important due to the limited public budget and its economic feasibility. To overcome this difficulty, this study proposed a strategic framework for natural disaster risk mitigation, highlighting two different SIPs. SIP-1 introduced more powerful method that can improve the predictability of natural disaster-triggered financial loss values using deep learning, while SIP-2 highlighted the risk mitigation strategy at the project level, adopting a cost-benefit analysis method. In SIP-1, Therefore, in this study, a framework for developing a natural disaster loss prediction model based on a deep learning algorithm for predicting natural disaster losses was presented and a methodology for quantifying the effect of natural disaster reduction through cost-benefit analysis was presented as a case study. A DNN model for natural disaster loss prediction was developed, and the improved predictability was validated by comparing with MRA and verified. The developed model learned and generalized the loss amount of natural disaster risk indicator facilities (building type, wind speed, total rainfall, and peak ground acceleration) and wind and flood insurance. By evaluating learning performances of 18 different DNN alternatives using RMSE and MAE values as representative evaluation indicators of deep learning algorithms, 25-25-25 hidden layers with dropouts of 0.0 structure was selected as the optimal learning model. The robustness of the developed model was technically validated by comparing RMSE and MAE values of a conventional parametric model using a multiple regression analysis-methods. Validation results confirmed that the non-parametric DNN model was powerful for predicting non-linear characteristics of losses caused by natural disasters. In SIP-2, The cost-benefit analysis was conducted on the disaster risk reservoir maintenance project that occurred before and after the completion of the flood damage. As the result, it was difficult to expect profits from the maintenance business in the short term. However, in the long term (more than 8 years), it was found that the maintenance business was economically profitable. The proposed framework is unique as it provides a combinational approach to mitigating cost risk impacts of natural disasters at both financial loss and project levels. Main findings of this study could be used as a guideline for decision-making of natural disaster management policies and investment in natural disaster risk reduction projects. This study is its first kind and supporting the current knowledge framework. This study will help practitioners quantify the loss from various natural disasters, while allowing them to evaluate the cost effectiveness of risk reduction projects through a holistic approach.

~~This study offers a holistic analytical modeling framework for the prediction of natural disaster losses utilizing deep learning algorithms.~~

~~The cost-benefit analysis was conducted on the disaster risk reservoir maintenance project that occurred before and after the completion of the flood damage. As the result, it was difficult to expect profits from the maintenance business in the short~~

567 term. However, in the long term (more than 8 years), it was found that the maintenance business was economically profitable.
568 Results and methodology of this study could be used as a guideline for decision-making of natural disaster management
569 policies and investment in natural disaster risk reduction projects. This study an also be used as a reference for application to
570 other types of loss. The suggested methodology can also be used to support the current knowledge framework.
571

572 **Code and data availability.**

573 The data presented in this research are available from the first or corresponding author upon reasonable request.

574 **Author contributions.**

575 **J.-M.:** contributed to the conceptualization and supervision; methodology development; data curation; investigation; project
576 administration; resources and visualization; and writing the original manuscript and reviewing the revised manuscript. **S.-G.:**
577 contributed to data curation; investigation and validation; and reviewing the manuscript. **H.:** contributed to investigation;
578 improving the literature review; and reviewing the manuscript. **J.:** contributed to strengthening research methodology and
579 strategic framework design; visualization and validation; and reviewing and editing the manuscript as the corresponding author.

580 **Competing interests.**

581 The authors declare that they have no conflict of interests.

582 **Acknowledgement**

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