

Landslide warning: Amrita varsity bags World Centre of Excellence

Published: Jun 22, 2017, 10:14 AM IST

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Kollam: The Amrita Centre for Wireless Networks and Applications, Amrita University, has caught the attention of the world with a wireless sensor network for detection and early warning of landslides, the first of its kind in the world. The Centre set up the World's first wireless network for early warning of landslides and disaster reduction at Munnar and later at Sikkim at the behest of the central government.

The 'World Centre of Excellence Award' was presented to the university by the International Program on landslides at the fourth World Landslide Forum held at Ljubljana in Slovenia. Centre Director Maneesha Sudheer, who has been on the forefront of the program said that the next round of efforts will be directed towards setting up a national wireless network that can monitor landslides real time and give pre-emptive warning for disaster reduction. The Centre is the country's first landslide laboratory in the country and was established in 2008.

Landslides are currently categorized as the third most dangerous natural calamity. Twelve percent of the country's total land area is prone to landslides. It is also estimated that over \$40,000 crores is spent on landslide disaster mitigation and management every year globally.