

Volcanic disaster prevention and city planning by using the ecomuseum concept

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1. Introduction

One of the most important subjects for volcanic disaster prevention and city planning is that the residents recognize the risks in their living area. The hardware upgrading for disaster prevention can decrease direct damages. On the other hand, the recognition about disasters also decreases. The upgrading of software is more needed than hardware upgrading.

There is the method that residents learn about the living area. It is called an ecomuseum which regards the whole area as a museum and provided an interpretation of the area. It is one of a social education system that the residents teach the nature, history and culture of their area as curators. Local nature, history and culture are closely related to disasters and it is important to teach them for disaster prevention.

We are trying to apply the ecomuseum concept for disaster prevention in Sakurajima volcano. Following are the practice examples, results and subjects.

2. Practice examples

We carried out educational events over fifty times, and told about the features of Sakurajima volcano to 3,500 people. The targets are wide from children to old person. It is divided for school and for general public. The contents are lectures, experience seminars, and exhibition etc. about Sakurajima volcano. The themes are not only about volcanic disasters but also history, culture, sightseeing etc.

We are also trying to train the residents as curators together with the board of education. The contents are workshops to know and make the best use of features of Sakurajima

3. Results

The concept of the ecomuseum begins to be acknowledged to administration, and it also begins to be attracted as one of the method of the city planning. The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport discusses the city planning by using the ecomuseum concept in Sakurajima.

We recognize some things from example practices.

- (1) The concept of ecomuseum is useful tool for telling the risks of disasters
- (2) The concept of ecomuseum is expected to be a tool for area promotion and disaster prevention by administration
- (3) The base of ecomuseum can be constructed by the full-time city planning coordinator

4. Subjects

Firm operation organization and funds are necessary for management of the ecomuseum. We are perpetrating the NPO (Sakurajima Museum) to carry out the ecomuseum in Sakurajima. We are thinking the utilization of Designated Manager System the funds resource. Designated Manager System is a system that the private enterprises can manage the public institution. There are two public exhibition centers in Sakurajima. They have some problems about management. The NPO (Sakurajima Museum) that has the achievement in Sakurajima will be able to take charge of the management of these institutions as Designated Manager. It means that the NPO can take the funds and carry out the ecomuseum.