

Spread and education about volcanic disaster mitigation knowledge through Geopark activities in Izu-Oshima Volcano

KAZIYA, Akimi^{1*}, Jun NAGAO¹, Hitoshi YAMASATO², Jun Funasaki², Tadayoshi UENO², Yasunobu TAKAGI², Akiko OKAGAKI²

¹Izu-Oshima Resident Office for Volcanic Disaster Mitigation, Japan Meteorological Agency, ²Volcanological Division, Seismological and Volcanological Department, Japan Meteorological Agency

Japan suffered from several severe disasters in 2011, such as Kirishima (Shinmoedake) Volcano eruptions, the 2011 off the Pacific coast of Tohoku Earthquake (M9.0) and the Typhoon Talas (the 12th typhoon in 2011). These disasters reminded us of the importance of education for disaster mitigation.

It is pointed out that it is difficult for people to realize a severe natural hazard happening once in several hundred years and need to take refuge when it really happens. Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) has held lectures and meetings in order to tell people directly about disaster mitigation knowledge. However, efficiency of such measures is limited. In a sightseeing spot, it is important to obtain mutual understandings with tourist industry about disaster countermeasures to prevent harmful rumors.

To conquer these difficulties, the activities of Geoparks are effective in spread and education about volcanic disaster mitigation knowledge.

Geoparks aim at protecting geological heritage, supporting education of disaster mitigation and prompting tourism.

In the Izu-Oshima Geopark, private enterprises have cooperated with the governmental agency. We take many measures as Geopark activities; tour with nature guide, outdoor education and nature guide cultivation lecture. We are thinking volcanic disaster mitigation as important in Geopark activities. It is effective to experience vivid volcanic and geological activities, with enjoying themselves. The leading role of these activities is field guides. The knowledge about disaster mitigation is spread in the broad age group through these guides to students and tourists. JMA staff and volcano researchers cooperate in cultivation of guides, and they cooperate with tourist agents to ensure safety in tourism. This approach has successfully acquired understanding of tourist industry companies.

Izu-Oshima Local Cooperative Office for Volcanic Disaster Mitigation was established in the Oshima town office in April 2008 as a local branch office of JMA. It has cooperated with Oshima town office and has been carrying out disaster mitigation.

We report the spread of disaster mitigation knowledge in Izu-Oshima, and the measure of education through Geopark activities.

Keywords: geopark, volcanic disaster mitigation