

Disaster risk reduction workshop utilizing GIS and Saba-meshi: A practice of the Department of Geography, Oita Univ.

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The Department of Geography at Oita University held a disaster risk reduction workshop on November 3, 2013, for schoolchildren and their parents (A total number of participant was fifty one). The purpose of the event was to motivate the schoolchildren and their parents to aware of a disaster prevention and reduction in their daily life. The event consisted of the following two experiences: drawing a map using a geographic information system (GIS), and cooking rice using two 350ml aluminum cans and three 1L milk cartons (Survival *Meshitaki*). Survival *Meshitaki* is called *Saba-meshi* for short, and it is material for teaching about disaster prevention through practical experience.

After the event, the participants were requested to respond the questionnaires in order to evaluate the event. The results of the questionnaire showed that we received high evaluations from many participants on the experiences offered at the event. Therefore, we were able to raise the participants' awareness of disaster prevention and disaster reduction.

Furthermore, thirteen university students, who intend to become schoolteachers, participated the event as assistant staffs. They acquired in advance the fundamental skills of GIS and *Saba-meshi* by a preliminary training workshop. These are useful skills in the field of school education. The event, in conclusion, has given the participants and the students intending to be schoolteachers: very effective experiences and practical knowledge respectively and the experience-based event such as this workshop is worth to be held repeatedly.

Keywords: Geographic Information System, Saba-meshi, Disaster risk reduction workshop, The 2011 off the Pacific coast of Tohoku Earthquake, Students intending school teachers, Oita Prefecture