

How to disseminate the researches and results of earth sciences to the public

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Scientists should not devote all of their efforts into science itself. The scientists should also make efforts to keep public informed of their progress of researches, the goal, and the present problems and possible solutions of science. Because the public and the society should eventually share the results of science, these efforts by scientists are required. This process is especially important for earth science, including seismology and volcanology, because earth science is closely related not only to various natural hazards, but also to environment and the fate of the earth that is threatened by pollution.

To educate younger generation is an important role for science. But in Japan we have a serious problem; earth science has been eliminated to be an obligatory subject for high school children, which causes the serious problem for Japanese people to know about earth and natural hazards. Various attempts to educate the public in earth sciences should be enhanced by a cooperation between earth scientists and school teachers.

On the other hand in recent years textbooks of Japanese language and literature in junior high schools, which includes to help teaching the way of thoughts and the correct usage of Japanese language, have extensively introduced the field of science. Because the Japanese language is a obligatory subject for every school child, it is an invaluable chance to teach science, including earth science, in these textbooks. I have written two articles for these textbooks of Japanese language, which have been used continuously from 1990 until 2006. I believe that my activities to write articles in textbooks help school children to know the way of science, to study about earth, and to think about the future and fate of the earth.

I have also written 12 popular books of science for the public, which are my efforts to keep public informed of their progress of researches, the goal, and the present problems and possible solutions of earth science.

Also, for the same purpose I have been managing an internet web site, which is only in Japanese language at the moment, and have got more than 55 thousands accesses during these 2.5 years since 1999. I am enjoying the advantage of the internet which enables bilateral communication with the readers.