

What do teachers think about school science and hours for comprehensive studies ?; an investigation through enquete

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With an enforcement of new curriculum began in April, 2002, school education in Japan had to make drastic changes. The major change includes cutoff of educational contents and introduction of hours for comprehensive studies to school education, along with the beginning of 5-day-a-week regime in school. Committee on school and social education, Japanese Association of Mineralogists, Petrologists and Economic Geologists (JAMPEG) made an investigation on this new educational regime through questionnaire, with an aid of Geological Museum, Geological Survey of Japan, AIST. Questionnaire was sent to 96 school teachers belonging to JAMPEG and to 98 school teachers who were the visitors of the Geological Museum. The answers to the questionnaire were obtained from 69 out of 194 teachers. The detail of the questionnaire and statistics on the answer are put up on a bulletin board of the committee; URL = <http://8134.teacup.com/gankou/bbs>.

The results of our investigation can be summarized as follows; 1) the cutoff of contents is too sever for science in elementary school, 2) the lack of teacher's ability, time and study field for field science that become necessary in junior-high education, 3) too many contents in school Earth science in high school, 4) very poor supports to general science A and B in new high school science curriculum, 5) contrasting view to hours for comprehensive studies in elementary and junior high

schools and in high school, 6) lecture by university teachers and scientists are generally welcome in school, 7) teachers in elementary and junior high schools want to visit museum for hours for comprehensive studies while high school teachers do not.