

# The 2004 eruption at Asama Volcano and future activity based on its comparison with old eruptions

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This presentation is the result of the joint research group on the 2004 eruption at Asama Volcano (due to web input impossibility, the author is expressed only by S.N.). Asama Volcano had been active in the first half of the 20th century and eruption events occurred less frequently in the second half including eruptions in 1973, 1983 and so on. The eruption started with a vulcanian explosion on 1 September 2004, and followed continuous strombolian explosions in the middle September. Four major vulcanian explosions were recorded by November 2004. Though the main phase seems to be over at once, inflation of the summit area had still continued and earthquakes of type A had increased by January 2004. Joint research group was organized in order to evaluate the eruptive activity at Asama Volcano. Judgment on whether Asama will go to the active stage like in the first half of the 20th century or is still relatively quiet like in the second half of the century, is currently important scientific theme.

Comparative study between the present and old eruption events in the second half of the 20th century shows the closest similarity of the present eruption to the 1973 eruption, especially in terms of mode of eruptions. However, the mode of seismic activity and scale of each vulcanian explosion are different between the two. These differences, continuation of the summit inflation and increasing A-type quakes after the main phase of eruptive activity imply the 2004 event not as the single-year event like 1973, but a high possibility of successive eruptions in 2005.