

Wonders of the Kirishima Volcano: The 6th Schoolchildren's Summer Course of Seismology and Volcanology

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Summary

We held the schoolchildren's summer course of seismology and volcanology on August 19-20, 2005. Our management policy is as follows,

- 1) Scientists tell children about volcanoes and earthquakes.
- 2) Children learn not about the risks of natural disasters but about the long-term benefits produced by the activities of volcanoes and earthquakes.
- 3) The children were split into several teams throughout the activities. We first pose several questions to the children and support them finding their own answers. We introduce team competition for collecting cards which are given to children presenting unique answers or ideas.

The body

We opened the working group on March 2005 and looked for volunteer academic researchers and teachers. This project was held from August 19 to August 20. We learned about volcanoes and earthquakes by experiments and observations on August 19. We went to observation points at Kirishima volcano on August 20.

Participants in the school were 21 schoolchildren. They were taken care of by 23 volunteer academic researchers and teachers. The schedule was as follows,

August 19, children gathered at Miyazaki Prefectural Miike Youth Outdoor Education Center. An opening ceremony and orientation was held in the there. Children separated into 4 groups, and learned about volcanoes and earthquakes by the experiments and observations.

August 20, children gathered at Ebino Highland. Then we went to Ebino Ecomuseum and observed curious of the Kirishima volcano.

Finally we gathered in the Ebino Ecomuseum in the afternoon and announced the answered to the questions that was given to the children the previous day. A closing ceremony was held at there.