

## Selection of official terms for public information about earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, based on questionnaire survey

# Masato Koyama[1]; Fumi Shibata[1]; Mayuko Tanimura[1]; Toshiko Kikkawa[2]

[1] DIST, Education, Shizuoka Univ.; [2] Faculty of Business and Commerce, Keio Univ.

[http://sk01.ed.shizuoka.ac.jp/koyama/public\\_html/Welcome.html](http://sk01.ed.shizuoka.ac.jp/koyama/public_html/Welcome.html)

For better mitigation of disasters, knowledge and information about earthquake and volcanoes should enough be shared among scientists, officials, journalists, and residents. Several Japanese scientific and administrative terms, which have been traditionally used in public information about earthquake and volcanic disasters, are ambiguous and have potential for misunderstanding. We made two questionnaire surveys for 1862 residents and local officials to select ideal terms for public information. Survey 1 treated 12 Japanese terms (including synonyms), each of which expresses an eruptive phenomenon such as debris avalanche, lahar, or projectiles. Survey 2 treated 12 official titles (including synonyms) of public information or alerts, each of which announces the risk level of earthquakes or volcanic eruptions, or announces advisories on methods of disaster mitigation. Through these surveys, we asked (1) cognitive level of each term (selection from 1: know the term, 2: remember the term, or 3: never heard the term), (2) first impression of each term (selection of level from adjective scales), and (3) first impression of occurrence frequency of each phenomenon or public information. Collected answers were analyzed using simple and multivariate statistics. On the basis of the results, we made proposals for renaming of several terms and official titles of public information.