

Kazan Friendship Network: Online Community for the Volcano Fans

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Kazan Friendship Network (hereafter KFN) started as an online community for a wide range of volcano fans including volcanologists and non-specialists. Anyone who is interested in volcanoes is welcome to join the community.

The aim of KFN is to provide a better understanding of volcanoes to the public, to enjoy the benefits from volcanoes, and to attempt to improve and protect the quality of life with volcanoes. This community also plays an important role in sharing interests and deepening knowledge among specialists and non-specialists of volcanoes. It is our belief that the education and the communication with people is the way to soften the prevailing image of hazardous volcanoes and to live in harmony with volcanoes.

All the members can communicate through our mailing list (ML). The number of ML member is now over 300. We chat about various kinds of topics related to volcanoes, including update reports of volcanic activities all over the world, latest volcanological studies, travel reports around volcanoes, and information on volcano-related events, TV programs and movies.

Our web site (<http://kazan-net.jp>) provides many interesting subjects that attract the public to volcanoes. One of the most popular contents is Volcano library, which is a large database of published matters related to volcanoes. Another popular content is *Gazou-de-tadoru-Shitonihon*, which provides volcanological interpretation of the famous volcanological scientific fiction, *Shitonihon*, written by A. Ishiguro, with abundant images (pictures).

Various off-line activities are also provided for face-to-face communication in the member of KFN and the public. Field excursions in volcanic field give us the chances to meet up, expand volcanological interests, exchange update news, enjoy the benefits from volcanoes and develop their friendship. We promote Kitchen Volcanology, easy experiments using food and materials that are familiar to us, in an attempt to encourage people's interests in volcanology and disaster prevention. We demonstrate the kitchen experiments at events to the public. The recipes of the kitchen experiments are shown on the website. We also have an on-going project: Publishing a translation of *Volcanoes* (Rosi et al., 2003). Volcanologists and some other members in the KFN contribute to the translation or editing the articles. This translation will be published in 2008.