

## **Volcanic Hazard Maps, Disaster Management Local Plans, and New Volcanic Alert Levels**

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More than 60 volcanic hazard maps have been published for 33 active volcanoes among the 108 active volcanoes in Japan since 1983. Large eruptions, the 1991 eruptions of Unzen and the 2000 eruptions of Usu and Miyakejima, increase greatly the concern for volcanic hazards. Disaster Management Local Plans are to be promoted by each local government, according to the Disaster Countermeasures Basic Act, 1961. However, only five local governments of 25 prefectures neighboring active volcanoes have established specific volcano disaster countermeasures.

Volcanic information through the introduction of eruption alert levels was notified in December, 2007 by Panel to Discuss Volcanic Disaster Prevention Countermeasures Corresponding to Volcanic Information, the Cabinet Office and Japan Meteorological Agency to establish volcanic information and evacuation systems toward establishing more effective systems to prevent volcanic disasters.

Volcanic hazard maps, volcano disaster countermeasures, and assessments of volcanic threat analyses have to be completed. However, no assessments of volcanic risk analyses have yet been carried out by any local government in Japan. It is necessary to prepare hazard maps for the major active volcanic areas, with assuming possible eruption scenarios and the evacuation systems in response to the eruption alert levels. Therefore, local governments with the cooperation of volcanologists and the support.