

Field seminar for improvement of the volcano disaster prevention awareness in Ontake Volcano

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In Ontake Volcano, seismic activity became active at the end of 2006, and extremely small eruption occurred in 2007, and eruption alert level was introduced in the end of March 2008 by Japan Meteorological Agency. In addition, a new eruptive history has been identified by some recent studies (Oikawa 2007, Suzuki et al., 2007). In such a background, Gifu prefecture has been engaged in educational activity for improvement of the volcano disaster prevention awareness in Ontake Volcano.

First, we improved the 'volcanic disaster prevention map of Ontake Volcano' which took in information corresponding to the eruption alert level. Besides, we made physical terrain model of volcanic disaster-prevention map utilizing for educational tool.

Second, we performed field seminar for improvement of the volcano disaster prevention awareness at Ontake National Children's Center in 25-26 October, 2008. The number of participants who took part in this seminar was 13 that contain 6 children. Participants observed volcanic terrain around Ontake Volcano and columnar joint of Gandake lava flow. Later, we gave a general account of volcanic activity and conducted experiments of kitchen Volcanology. Experiment descriptions were 'Columnar joint of lava flow made from starch with water', 'Mud flow made from cocoa powder and sponge cake', 'Eruption of jellied volcano' and 'Coke eruption'. At the end of seminar, we gave qualification test combined with questionnaire to participants and awarded certificates 'Doctor of Ontake Volcano'.

Moreover, other workshops in limited scale for improvement of the volcano disaster prevention have performed. We lectured about volcanic activity and conducted experiments of kitchen Volcanology for science teachers and junior high school students in Gero city. Besides, we try to work together with local NPO for the purpose of performing continuous disaster prevention education by the hand of inhabitants.