

Mountain environment change from 26ka to present of the Kamikochi, Northern Japan Alps

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Before 640ka, Older Azusa River flowed west into the Miya River, branch of the Jinzu River. From 640ka to 26ka, the Older Azusa River flowed northwest into Takahara River, branch of the same Jinzu River. The stream turned southeastward at 26ka. Volcanic activity of the Shirataniyama Volcano began at 26ka, and it was believed that the stream was dammed up and made a great lake. It appears from the above that overflow water of the lake cut deep valley along the present upper reach of the Azusa River.

We currently drill at the Kamikochi Basin for the purpose of sampling of the lake deposit and research for the older valley bottom. Gravity Bouguer anomalies and electrical resistivity data indicate that unconsolidated deposit about 200m thick are buried in this area. We will talk about thickness, lithostratigraphy and pollen analysis for the lacustrine deposit.