

OES005-11

Room: 302

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The museum of volcanology "Action for Kirishima Geopark"

Shuji Maeda^{1*}, Hiroyuki Sakanoue¹, Masateru Niibo¹, Kenichirou Yanagita¹,
Tuyoshi Yamaguchi¹

¹Kirishima Geopark Promotion Team

"Mt.Kirishima" is a generic designation of a cluster of Quaternary volcanoes situated in southern Kyushu, Japan. This volcano occupies an area of about 20 km x 30 km elongated in the northwest to southeast direction, it spread out between Miyazaki prefecture and Kagoshima prefecture, and contains more than 20 small volcanoes which have been repeatedly active from Pleistocene to Recent times. The last eruption occurred on 22 August 2008.

Kirishima Volcano is situated on the southern rims of the Kobayashi and Kakuto calderas. The activity of Kirishima Volcano is divided into the older and younger periods based on the Kakuto caldera forming (about 330,000 years ago). Kirishima Volcano as we see them today has been made by the activities belonging to the younger period. Kirishima Volcano is just like a "Museum of volcanology" because we can observe many types of volcanoes and volcanic products (lavas, pyroclastic flows, lahars, etc). And we can look at the volcanic front of South Kyushu on the top of mt.Karakuni, or mt.takachihonome.

Many eruptive records have been recorded in the famous Japanese myths and ancient literature since A.D.742, and the volcano has been the object of faith. (The Kirishima Shrine had several time the disaster by eruption. This disaster's record was closely related with live of people at that time.) The records contain information on eruptive disasters, and it has been useful for making geological hazard maps.

The eruptive activity of Kirishima and global climate change make a very rich natural environment in this area. We can observe many kinds of precious animals and plants in all seasons. Kirishima Volcano was designated one of the first areas for National Park status in Japan in 1934. Kirishima Volcano is suitable for geo-tourism with an easily approachable field and a wide diversity of volcanoes. We can set up observational courses that everyone can enjoy in all seasons.

7 local governments and many organizations around mt.kirishima had formed The Council for the Promotion of the Kirishima Geopark, aim at building a system of geo-tourism.

We are building a system that offers Geo-Park services at Kirishima volcano, and we hope to send information to welcome everyone here.