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Wisdom of people who make the best use of Cirrus (SHIRASU)

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"Cirrus" is a pyroclastic flow deposit in the dialect of Kagoshima. Especially, most of the land surface in Kagoshima is covered with thick Cirrus of the Aira caldera. Therefore, people in Kagoshima have lived for a long time with Cirrus. Cirrus has a lot of benefits. For instance, the rain water which passed through the Cirrus plateau turns into springwater rich of minerals. Moreover, this springwater does not wither even if there is no rain for some time. Because, Cirrus has a water-holding capacity, thus it supplies high-quality steady amount of drinking water as well as the agricultural water. Cirrus has not only the above benefits but also provides a good drainage system. Therefore, the alluvial fans made by Cirrus have become a splendid soil for crops and fruits. A Sakurajima small mandarin orange, the smallest mandarin orange in the world "Sakurajima komikan", and the largest radish in the world "Sakurajima daikon", is also produced in Sakurajima, are produced on Cirrus. It is mysterious that the above fruits do not grow up with same characteristics even if the same kinds of fruits are raised on other land.

Cirrus has brought a lot of favours to people in Kagoshima for a long time. However, some people in Kagoshima do not have a good image for Cirrus. The fact for their unlike of Cirrus is its character of weakness for water stream and water shock. If there is heavy rain fall in Kagoshima, there occurs landslide everywhere inside a prefecture. For instance, the 8.6 (August 6th) flood disaster in year 1993 still remains fresh in our memory. The roads broke into parts, the train was swept away by the mud flow, and there were 79 victims of this incident.

The people of Kagoshima, though living with Cirrus from long time, had annoyed by the disasters, however the way of thinking of the people has changed significantly in recent years. When the character of Cirrus was researched again, the unexpected character was clarified. Therefore people have reviewed the character of Cirrus, and started using it for industry. The enterprise in various fields uses Cirrus by their original and new idea, thus succeeded in developing new products. This is a new way with Cirrus that people used wisdom of a modern science.

In the present research and review study, we examined kinds of products made from Cirrus. And, we wanted to promote greater understanding about the character of Cirrus through this investigation.