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A new disaster reduction education after the 1995 Kobe earthquake: Decade activities of Schoolchildren's Summer Course

Masayuki Takemura^{1*}, Working group for Schoolchildren's Summer Course of Seismology and Volcanology²

¹Kobori Research Complex Inc., ²-

After the 1995 Kobe earthquake, many citizens said they had believed until the earthquake that there is no big earthquake in Kansai area. This speech urged seismologists to the sever reflection for their outreach activities. Schoolchildren's Summer Course in Seismology and Volcanology was born through their reflections. One of the characteristics of the program of the summer course is to make an opportunity of direct communications between schoolchildren and professional seismologists and/or volcanologists and another is to let the children recognize the natural benefits as well as the risks resulted from the activities of earthquakes and volcanoes. We believe that the feeling of reverence for nature is born by the accurate recognition for its provision in childhood and that the activities of the disaster reduction are not continued and not succeed without having this feeling. Lessons learned and future problems for Schoolchildren's Summer Course in Seismology and Volcanology were discussed in the memorial conference in Tokyo on Nov., 28-29, 2009. We will also present the results of this meeting.

Keywords: Schoolchildren's Summer Course, disaster reduction education