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Flow of the ice body in the Gozenzawa perennial snow patch, the Tateyama Mountains, central Japan

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The Gozenzawa perennial snow patch is one of the largest perennial snow patch in Japan. The snow patch is located in the east-facing slope of Mt. Oyama (3003 m), and its width and length are about 700 m and 200 m, respectively. Based on the ice radar surveys in September 2009, we identified a large ice body, which had 30 m in thickness beneath the snow patch. Geodetic surveys of the ice body were conducted to identify the ice body flow. The positions of eleven survey points on the ice body were established in the end of August 2010 by static GPS surveys. Repeated surveys were conducted in early October 2010. The horizontal displacements of four survey points in the lower part of the ice body were between 6 and 30 cm during the survey period. Based on this result, we guessed that the ice body was active glacier.

Keywords: Glacier, Tateyama Mountains, Gozenzawa Perennial snow patch, Flow, GPS survey