

PALEO-ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY AND KOSA (DUST AND SAND STORM) FLUCTUATION AT ARID - SEMI-ARID REGIONS IN EAST ASIA

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There are two methods to monitor environmental changes and desertification at arid and semiarid regions. The first one is the short-term monitoring, and examined the changes during several years or decades by meteorological, hydrological, geophysical and geochemical observations. The second one is the long-term monitoring, and presumed changes of environment during hundreds or thousands years using geologic and geographical methods. Although a lot of expeditions have reported short-term changes, the reports for long-term environmental changes have been limited because it takes a lot of efforts to take efficient samples to presume in detail environmental histories.

Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, Kyushu University has started international research project to make long-term monitoring of desertification in East Asia to correspond with the East Asian Environmental Problems Project of Kyushu University. In cooperation with Mongolian Academy of Sciences, National University of Mongolia, Xinjiang University in China, the filed surveys have been done to obtain samples for long-term monitoring at lakes, ponds and marshes in Mongolia and north western China using geological and geographical methods. Our researches presumed long-range (about hundreds or thousands years) changes of the lowering of lake levels and under ground water levels, the reducing of forest areas and the expanding of deserts in those regions. The desertification has been accelerated in these two hundred years in both regions.

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