

Evaluation of subsurface warming in the Tokyo metropolitan area, Japan

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Three-dimensional subsurface temperature distribution and its long-term change were examined by repeated observations of temperature-depth profiles at monitoring wells from 2000 to 2014 in groundwater temperature monitoring from 2007 to 2012, to evaluate effects of regional groundwater flow and environmental changes due to urbanization on subsurface thermal environment in the Tokyo metropolitan area, Japan.

Subsurface warming has been found at shallow depths in the whole study area by our previous study (Miyakoshi et al., 2010). Especially, subsurface temperature beneath the city center was particularly high not only at shallow part but also deep part. In contrast, relatively low temperatures were found beneath the suburban area. Comparison result between past subsurface temperature data (2004 to 2005, previous study) and present subsurface temperature data (2013 to 2014, this study) showed that subsurface warming was found at the shallow part in the last 9 to 10 years. Subsurface temperature increase in the city center was larger than the suburban area, and the temperature difference between both areas showed an increasing tendency. Additionally, subsurface warming in the present data was recognized deeper than the past data. This result suggests that distribution of subsurface warming is expanding toward the deeper part.

Moreover, results of subsurface temperature monitoring showed difference of subsurface warming tendency by area and depths. The difference suggests that subsurface warming is affected by not only surface warming but also many factors such as geological condition, groundwater flow and waste heat from subsurface structure. Results of this study suggest that mechanism of subsurface warming is able to be evaluated by combined analysis of geological condition, groundwater flow and subsurface temperature changes.

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