

## REY-rich mud within the Minamitorishima EEZ - A general overview of the latest research results -

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In 2013, we confirmed the presence of rare-earth elements and yttrium (REY)-rich mud containing more than 6,000 ppm of total REY within the Japanese Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) surrounding Minamitorishima Island. Since the discovery of the “extremely REY-rich mud”, we have conducted a variety of approaches such as geochemical analyses, detailed microscopic observations, REY-leaching experiments, application of sub-bottom profiling to the exploration, and statistical analysis of the geochemical data set, towards the exploitation of the new and highly promising REY-resource in the near future. Here we report a general overview of the latest research results on REY-rich mud in the Minamitorishima EEZ.

Keywords: deep-sea mineral resource, REY-rich mud, Minamitorishima Island