

Half-Century of the Natural Science Museum of The University of Tokyo at Komaba

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There was a virtual museum in the College of Arts and Sciences, The University of Tokyo at Komaba, named Natural Science Museum, which started 1953 and united to Komaba museum in 2003. The museum had been operated by university staffs of biology, geology, geometry and graphics. This report will be concentrated to geological activity of the museum.

Japan's economic growth after the World War II depend on the mining industry of metal and coal development until 1960's, which is linked to the necessity of hands-on specimen study in earth science education. Early professors had experiences of working at mining company, not only at Japan mainland, but also at Korea, Taiwan, and Southerneast Asia countries. These seems to be a reason why the "museum" needed for introductory earth science education.

The museum activity connected with student circle activity, including excursion at mining company(e.g. Chichibu Mine, for a week) with professor and assistant professor geologists of General education, and also connected with excursions directed and lead by University staffs of earth science, open 3-4 times every year at verious geological spot over the country.

There are few mining company working in Japan now, and hands-on education has a difficulty to realize its importance in natural science education, however, It seems there are some hint in the past activities of the natural science museum at Komaba, to realize the importance of traditional geology to study natural system of earth activity and also on environmental sciences.

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