

## **Regarding the responses of the national and local governments in the Kirishimayama (Shinmoedake) eruption, 2011**

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Japanese islands are home to 110 active volcanoes that consist 10 percent of these on the Earth total. However, Japan Metrological Agency (JMA) set up a network of seismometers, telephoto cameras and angle meters only around 47 volcanoes throughout Japan for 24 hours monitoring-these 47 are selected by the Coordinating Committee for Prediction of Volcanic Eruptions, an organization of academics and related government agencies. Kirishimayama is one of these 47 and Shinmoedake in Kirishimayama erupted in 2011 making a lot of local residents flee their homes.

Kirishimayama is one of the Japan's most active volcanoes, which is located in the popular hot spa area in Kyushyu district. Kirishimayama includes Takachihonome, Nakadake, Ohatayama, Karakunidake, Tairoike, Ohachi, and Shinmoedake. On 26th January 2011, the magmatic eruption has occurred at Shinmoedake for the first time since AD1716. Perhaps due to its long dormancy, local governments around Kirishimayama had not prepared any evacuation plans against volcanic disaster. There is not prepared any effective plan for evacuation except the one for Kagoshima-city against Sakurajima volcano according to the Cabinet Office in Japan (CAO).

A series of 2011 eruptions produced the lava fountains and flows, volcanic bomb, and ash cloud. In the maximum eruption, ash cloud reached a height of 4,000m and Miyazaki prefecture, about 50km to the east. As a result, 612 residents evacuated from Takaharu town that is located 7 km east from the crater of Shinmoedake.

These volcanic activities forced Takaharu-town to issue evacuation announcement to about 1,000 people on 30th January, based on Disaster Countermeasures Basic Act circumstances. Under such circumstances, CAO has decided to dispatch the Japanese government team which is consisted by some ministries and government offices to Kirishimayama in order to support local governments around the volcano including Kagosima and Miyazaki prefectures. The team completed 5 tasks, which includes 1) creating the guidebook for local governments on how to prepare evacuation plan, 2) preparing handbooks on how to protect own body against disaster on volcanic eruption and debris avalanche, 3) publishing the handbook on how to survive against volcanic bombs, 4) strengthening volcanic observation systems, and 5) setting the countermeasure against the damage of ash-fall especially for mitigating damages on agricultural crops. As the Japanese government team took positive measures to deal with organizing the "Kirishimayama volcano disaster management council" which is consisted from local governments, Takaharu-town and Kirishima-city were able to settle the evacuation plan promptly in a month.