

Collaboretion Program of "Hokkaido Volcano Summit", Japan

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Hokkaido Volcano Summit is a unique collaborating program among the people, officials, and scientists who are interested and concerned in active volcanoes in Hokkaido. From the historical experiences, especially after the 2000 eruption of Usu volcano, we came to the firm conclusion that working together during volcano dormancy is the best way for mitigating future volcanic disasters. Executive Committee was established shortly after the 2005 Mt. Tarumae Forum, and the first Summit was held at Sapporo in October 2005. The second Summit was held in 2006 at Iburi District where active volcanoes Eniwa, Tarumae, Kuttara and Usu were located. About 1000 people were participated altogether - (1) Hazard and Tourism Symposium on Kuttara Volcano (Noboribetsu Spa area), (2) Mt. Tarumae Summer School, (3) Display/Study Program on Disaster Related Machineries, (4) Revival Womens Police Team for the Kids (as worked during the 2000 Mt. Usu crisis), (5) Bosai Camp Eniwa, (6) Usuzan Kids Forum, (7) Mt. Tarumae Field Trip, (8) Mt. Usu Field Trip, and (9) finally the Main Symposium in Tomakomai City. The main symposium is usually consisted of basic/memorial/invited lectures, poster sessions, activity reports from the coordinating bosai committee at each active volcanoes, panel discussions, and closing event with the volcano summit declaration. The third Summit was held in 2008 in the area around Mt. Tokachidake in central Hokkaido; (1) Asahikawa Science Cafe on Ayako Miuras Nobel Deiryu Chitai (=Lahar Area), (2) Field Study Tour of Volcano Sabo Facilities by Kids with their parents, (3) Peoples Workshop in Biei Town, (4) Peoples Workshop in Kamifurano Town, (5) Lectures on Volcano Hazard Mitigation, and (6) finally two days Main Symposiums at towns Biei and Kamifurano. About 400 were participated. It was also a year of the 20th years anniversary since the all winter-long evacuation at Shirogane Spa area due to the 1988-1989 eruption of Mt. Tokachidake. The fourth Summit was held in 2012 in the area around Mt. Meakandake in eastern Hokkaido; (1) Study Climbing Tour of Mt. Meakandake by the kids in Kushiro City and Ashoro Town, (2) Study Climbing of Mt. Meakandake, (3) Study Bus Tour using new guide book Preparing the Future Eruptions of Mt. Meakandake, and (4) finally main Symposium at Marimu-kan Hall, Akan Spa - Kushiro City. About 312 were participated. We strongly believe that our mitigation ability of volcanic disaster in Japan is quite strong for the top-down vertical lines, but unfortunately not so effective for the neighboring lateral linkages. Vital hazards might occur due to such gaps. Overcoming such lateral linkage gaps, it is very important to meet together and learn each other who are struggling at each specific volcanoes. So, volcano summit had worked well in the past, but because of the further continuity and financial difficulties, we have to find new sustainable way to establish more close and effective lateral interactions.