

Understanding various geohazards

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Aso volcano is an active volcano with the world-leading gigantic caldera. Active Nakadake crater, with unique topography formed by continuous volcanic activities and geological features comprised of pyroclastic flow, volcanic ash and lava, all of which can be observed. These features create special climatic conditions. While receiving blessings from the volcano, there is high tendency for occurrence of climate disasters such as landslides, floods due to high overall rainfall and frequent torrential rains, and also volcanic disaster. The climate disaster is likely to occur in the rainy season and may affect mainly the local communities. On the other hand, the volcanic disaster may impact tourists as they visit the Nakadake crater. It seems that eruptions may occur once in several years and decades. The crater releases huge amount of volcanic toxic gas a day even during calm periods. In the past, gas-poisoning accidents occurred frequently at the site. Moreover, the disaster also brings serious impact to agricultural crops in the region.

Overall, most natural disasters in the Aso region relate to the volcano. Its cause, sites of occurrence, disaster victims and occurrence tendency is varied. As long as we share the natural bounty of the volcano, a deep understanding of various natural disasters related to the volcanic background is essential. Raising awareness of disaster prevention for the local community as well as visitors is important role for Aso Geopark activities.

Presented in Theme 1