

Showa-Shinzan and Five Scientists --- Creating Visual Archive Story

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Using abundant data accumulating at the Mimatsu Masao Memorial Museum (Showa-Shinzan Museum), and Volcano Study Room of Sobetsu Information Center (Sobetsu Town), we are on the way constructing digital archives focusing specific five scientists who contributed deeply studying the 1943-1945 Volcanic Activity of Mt. Usu, that produced lava dome of Showa-Shinzan 70 years ago, now it is one of the most important Geosites of Toya-Usu Global Geopark since 2009.

The names of those scientists are: (1) Mimatsu Masao (1888-1977) – Amateur Volcanologist (former Sobetsu Post Master), (2) Kouji Fukutomi (1908-1997) - Professor of Hokkaido University in Geophysics; (3) Takeshi Minakami (1909-1985) – professor of Tokyo University in Volcano Physics, Toshio Ishikawa (1909-1995) – Professor of Hokkaido University in Volcano Geology, (5)Kenzo Yagi (1914-2008) – Professor of Tohoku University (later Hokkaido University) in Volcano Petrology.

Earlier data sources are due to Masao Mimatsu, and Yoshio Katsui (including Toshio Ishikawa's collection), and recent data after 1977 eruption are supplied by Saburo Mimatsu, Yoshio Katsui (Volcano Geology), and H. Okada (Volcano Geophysics) who worked at Usu Volcano Observatory, Hokkaido University till 2007.

The final goal is creating visual archive story, easy and quick understanding for the public on the formation of Showa-Shinzan, and the scientists' interactions. The program has some difficulties for the public release, because of protecting privacy and clearing copyright, so we will release the data after careful consideration. We also will expand similar program covering other volcanic Activities in 1910, 1977-82 and 2000 at Mt. Usu.