

Unzen Volcano : the 1900-1992 eruption

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Foreword

Unzen Volcano, Kyushu, Japan, abruptly started eruption after 198 years of dormancy, and presented varied aspects of volcanic activity, ranging from early phreatic eruptions through the successive extrusion and growth of lava domes to the formation of pyroclastic flows. Furthermore, debris flows frequently occurred associated with this eruptive activity. This volcanic eruption caused serious disaster and forced many people in Shimabara City to evacuate and to live under unfavorable conditions for a long time.

Many scientists from Science, Technological, Agricultural, Literature and Medical schools endeavored, in cooperation with other scientists from all over Japan, to eliminate and reduce all types of disaster through observation, counseling and advising the local governments for making the evacuation plan. It is worthwhile to note that Shimabara Earthquake and Volcano Observatory, founded by Professor H. Matsushita of Kyushu University in 1959, played a major role in this endeavor.

The volcano is still active, growing dacite lava domes at high rates. Therefore, it is certainly very timely to publish such contributions to various aspects of Unzen Volcano as compiled in this book by our colleagues at Kyushu University. Any piece of information in the book will surely be useful for the sake of minimizing volcanic disasters in the world.

1 August, 1992



Ryohei Takahashi

Former President of Kyushu University