Information of Miyakejima Island

Regular Events
Every year on Miyakejima Island, a number of events are held for the enjoyment of both residents and visitors in honor of the island's nature and landscape, and to pass on Miyakejima Island's culture.

January 2
Boat Festival
A festival of prayer for a year of bountiful catches and safe voyages in the local waters. Fishermen, sailors, and others come together to pray for safety against the risks of their boat and pass Mikan oranges to the ocean standing on the docks. The fishing port is filled with festive music and dancing at sea as young and old pick up the fruit.

January 8
Ogasawara Shrine Grand Festival
Sakai Kagura music and dancing accompanied by Take drumming courtesies of the head priest, Oka. The Kagura stage features dancing with making swords and nijyuu-ji wooden figures called "Chin no Hudas." The origin of the dance is to the story of how the peaceful early Ariake people in Miyake, Target is put on clothes as he went to battle a giant snake on Miyakejima Island.

Early June
Bicycle Road-Race
Bicycle races were held on Miyakejima Island until the severe volcanic eruptions in 2000. But after the disaster, they started again in 2001 as part of the recovery efforts. The races take part in a variety of races including mountain and city races.

Third Sunday in October
Gozu Tenno Festival
The festival continues the 11th Period, 14th shrine of Okushuku Shrine in the Kamitokyo District. The festival parade combines three traditional elements: Take Drumming, the offering of portable Mikan shrines, and Miyake singing in support of a good harvest, generous catches, domestic stability, and enhanced health.

Inquiries
Tourism Promotion Team, Reconstruction Policy Office TEL: 0498-45-0864

The Year 2000
Record of Disastrous Eruptions on Miyakejima Island/Overview

Volcanic Eruptions on Miyakejima Island in 2000
Living with Volcanoes

February, 2008 Miyake Village, Tokyo

Miyakejima Nature Information Postings
Miyake Econet

Miyake Econet opened in July 2005 with the aim of promoting the recovered Miyakejima Island. It is a web portal helping to invigorate the community and tourism, at the same time introducing the island's nature with a mixture of photography and videos. The Wild Bird Society of Japan is the principal operator, with co-operation/systems provided by NTT Data and sponsorship from Miyake Village. On Miyake Econet, islanders and fans of Miyakejima Island's nature can join up and post their pictures of its magnificent natural scenes and seasonal information in a blog format. Miyake Econet's homepage is fully bursting with information on the natural world of Miyakejima Island.
General Information on Miyakejima Island

We would like to express our gratitude for your help and support.

Upon the publication of this booklet

Time goes quickly, and it is now three years since we came back to Miyakejima Island.

Starting with the announcement of “threat of eruptions, caution necessary” on the evening of June 28, 2000, volcanic eruptions on Miyakejima Island forced all residents to leave the island, and ended up being an unprecedented disaster in the island’s history. In particular, the large volume of volcanic gas prohibited islanders from returning home for as long as four years and five months, and gas emissions still threaten us even after more than seven years have passed.

In order to prevent the memory of this disastrous calamity from fading away, and to hand down valuable records and source materials about the eruptions to succeeding generations, we, the people of Miyake Village, began this booklet’s editing in 2004 and have finally reached its publication.

When making this booklet, we asked some residents of Miyakejima Island, who had personally suffered from the disastrous eruptions, to serve as writers and editors, while limiting the role of the village government to a minimum, such as providing records and confirming facts. In the islanders’ view, they have successfully compiled a wonderful book that will continue to remind us of our deep appreciation for our supporters, as well as pass on the memories of our experiences to the children who will conserve the island in the future, while reminding both the younger and older generations of the hardships endured.

Again, at this publication, we wish to express our heartfelt gratitude, not only for the cooperation of the residents of Miyakejima Island, the editorial staff and working group members of the Tokyo Metropolitan Miyake Branch Office, but the government of Japan, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government; local residents at evacuation locations and people throughout Japan for supporting us both practically and emotionally.

February 1, 2008
Sueyasu Hirano
Miyake Village Mayor,
Miyakejima Island, Tokyo

Geographic and Topographic Features
Miyakejima is an island located about 180 kilometers offshore to the south of Tokyo. It has an area of 55.5 square kilometers, measuring about 8 kilometers in diameter and 38 kilometers in circumference. Mount Oyama, at the height of 775 meters, is at the center of the island.

The climate is warm and rainy. With an average annual precipitation of 2,900 millimeters and an average temperature of 17.5 Celsius, it has a typical oceanic climate.

The island is grouped into five communities: Kamiizumi, Eru, Izuga, Atose, and Yatsunotaki.

Industry
Abundant nature has been the support of industry of the island. Before the eruption, residents were actively engaged in the greenhouse horticulture of flowers and ornamental plants, tourism, such as diving and fishing, and so on. However, many businesses were facing problems due to aging or the shortage of successors.

Agriculture and Fishery
Taking advantage of the mild oceanic climate, snow peas and “Ashitaba,” or Angelica keiskei, have been produced for many years. In addition to Ashitaba, flowers and ornamental plants such as leather fern, cultivation of which began after the eruption of 1993, are the major products of the village.

Major fishery output of the island before the eruption included yellow striped butterflyfish, bonito, many kinds of tuna, and sardines, aquatic animals such as spiny lobsters and Japanese shrimps, and algae, such as cyarlon moss and red algae. There were 187 registered fishing boats at the end of 2000, and 55 of them were less than 1 ton.

Business and Tourism
About 340 businesses were supporting the economy of the island. The lush vegetation has made Miyakejima Island a famous wild bird reservoir, while the surrounding sea is sprinkled with spots for diving and fishing. Making the most of these gifts of nature, tourism-related businesses in particular flourished. Prior to the eruption, there were many tourist trips on the island, and approximately 60,000 tourists per year were welcomed.
We would like to express our gratitude for your help and support.

Upon the publication of this booklet

Time goes quickly, and it is now three years since we came back to Miyakejima Island.

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Sukeyasu Hirano
Miyake Village Mayor, Miyakejima Island, Tokyo

General Information on Miyakejima Island

General Information on Miyakejima Island

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The island is grouped into five communities: Kamitsuki, Izu, Igaya, Ako, and Yobota.

Industry

Abundant nature has been the support of industry of the island. Before the eruption, residents were actively engaged in the greenhouse horticulture of flowers and ornamental plants, tourism, such as diving and fishing, and so on. However, many businesses were facing problems due to aging or the shortage of successors.

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Taking advantage of the mild oceanic climate, snow pear and “Ashitaba,” or Angelica keiske, have been produced for many years. In addition to Ashitaba, flowers and ornamental plants such as leather fern, cultivation of which began after the eruption of 1993, are the major products of the village.

Major fishery output of the island before the eruption included yellow striped butterfish, bonito, many kinds of tuna, and allomone, aquatic animals, such as spiny lobsters and Japanese abalone, and algae, such as asperina moss and red algae. There were 167 registered fishing boats at the end of 2000, and 53 of them were less than 1 ton.

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About 340 businesses were supporting the economy of the island. The lush vegetation has made Miyakejima Island a famous wild bird reservoir, while the surrounding sea is sprinkled with spots for diving and fishing. Making the most of these gifts of nature, tourism-related businesses in particular flourished. Prior to the eruption, there were many tourist visas on the island, and approximately 80,000 tourists per year were welcomed.
Volcanic Eruptions on Miyakejima Island in 2000

Overview of Volcanic Eruptions

Volcanic Eruption in 1940

Flames eruptions occurred on the side of the volcano on the northeastern section of the island at approximately 7:30 p.m. on July 12, 1940. Lava flowed from numerous (volcanic) explosions covering Aka-beya. Submarine eruptions in the bay led to the formation of a hill called "Hoyosuyama." Although the fissure eruptions from the volcanic flank had mostly ceased by July 13, summit eruptions started on July 14. This caused large amounts of volcanic ash and bombs to continue spewing from the summit until about August 8. The number of casualties resulting from this eruption rose to 11 dead.

Volcanic Eruption in 1962

Following a series of earthquakes beginning in May, 1962, fissure eruptions from the northeastern flank of the volcano started shortly after 11:00 p.m. on August 24. Many craters emerged and the outflow of lava reached the coastline. Volcanic cinder from this eruption formed the hill called "Sandan-cho." The eruption itself ceased after 50 hours, but the earthquakes continued. On August 30, earthquakes in the Izu area, located in the northern part of the island, resulted more than 2,000. Therefore safety measures, including child evacuation, were taken. There were no human injuries due to this eruption.

Volcanic Eruption in 1983

Flames eruptions from the southwestern flank of the volcano started at approximately 1:23 p.m. on October 3, 1983. The lava flowed toward the south-southwest and reached the ocean. Phenomenal explosions occurred around Shino-ike Pond in the southern part of the island and around the coastlines of Kippaka, and large amounts of volcanic ash and rock fragments fell over the southeastern part of the island. The lava flow toward the west burned down and swallowed up houses in the Aka area until it stopped near the coast. Eruptions and explosions continued until just before dawn, and the lava flow had almost subsided by early morning of the next day, October 4. Approximately 400 houses were burned or buried, but there were no casualties.

History of Volcanic Eruption

Miyakejima Island is a volcano that is 15 kilometers in diameter and 1,200 meters in height, including its underwater section. Many crater chains from fissure eruptions have been formed from the summit to the coastline. When magma explosively make contact with groundwater, phreatic explosions occurred around the coast areas where some craters extended, and created more large-scale craters such as Taio-ike Pond and Shino-ike Pond. The island has two calderas. The Hakone-ike Caldera is believed to have been formed as the result of volcanic eruptions around the summit approximately 2,000 years ago. On the other hand, the majority of the latest 14 eruptions recorded were fissure eruptions occurring on the flanks of the volcano. During the last 100 years, fissure eruptions have repeatedly occurred every 21-22 years.

Development of Disaster

From the volcanic eruptions in 2000, four years and five months passed before the full-scale evacuation order was lifted and even now, the islanders who safely returned to their homes are fighting daily with volcanic gas and the hardships of recovery. The unprecedentedly long-term disaster can be roughly classified into the following periods based on changes in the situation and people’s consciousness:

Period 1 - Occurrence of the Disaster
(June, August, 2000)

This was the period 0-3 days before the decision to leave the island was made. Volcanic eruptions of Mount Oyama, starting on June 28, seemed to end ones, but became active again in July and the islanders experienced eruptions at the mountain top before any. The eruption on August 16 especially shocked the residents. Following that, the large-scale eruption on August 29 resulted in the decision on September 1 to order all residents to leave the island.

Period 2 - Beginning of Prolonged Life as Evacuees
(September, 2000 - August, 2001)

After leaving the island, the residents of Miyakejima Island started their new life in public housing and many other evacuation locations off the island. At first, many islanders thought they would soon return home. So, they spent days of uncertainty about getting their new life on track as they were expecting to go back to the island quickly. However, they were eventually forced to resolve themselves for a prolonged evacuation life as emissions of volcanic gas still continued.

Period 3 - Settling Into Evacuation Locations
(September, 2001 - March, 2003)

More than one year after the evacuation, one dream of the islanders came true: short visits to Miyakejima Island were finally allowed. In a situation where no sign of permanent return to their home could be seen, residents temporarily visited the island to carry out their household items and start house maintenance. On the other hand, by directly viewing the devastated state, some finally came to believe that their life as evacuees would be longer than expected.

Period 4 - Extended Temporary Stays
(April, 2003 - June, 2004)

The completion of Clean Houses made it possible for residents to stay longer on the island, and residents take real steps to maintain and restore their houses. At the same time, the government of Japan, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government and the government of Miyake Village started to make a plan for returning to the island, based on reports from the Exploratory Committee of Volcanic Gas Safety.

Period 5 - Preparatory Period for Return
(July, 2004 - January, 2005)

On July 20, 2004, the government of Miyake Village announced the policy for resuming, and the evacuate plan for return to the island was presented in September. This accelerated the preparations by the government at the national, Tokyo and Miyakawa Village levels. The residents of Miyakejima Island were forced to make final decisions about living along with volcanic gas. The word “self-responsibility” lay heavily on their minds.

Period 6 - Start of Recovery
(February, 2005 - )

The long-awaited lift of the evacuation order was finally realized on February 1, 2005. Approximately 70% of the residents who had left the island came back to Miyakejima Island, and recovery work, such as reclamation of agricultural lands, began.
Volcanic Eruptions on Miyakejima Island in 2000

1 Overview of Volcanic Eruptions

Volcanic Eruption in 1940

Fluorescent eruptions occurred on the side of the volcano on the northeast section of the island at approximately 7:30 p.m. on July 12, 1940. Lava flowed from numerous volcanic craters covering Aka Bay. Submarine eruptions in the bay led to the formation of a hill called "Hystarazima." Although the first eruptions from the volcano flank had mostly ceased by July 13, summit eruptions started on July 14. This caused large amounts of volcanic ash and bombs to continue spewing from the summit until about August 8. The number of casualties resulting from this eruption rose to 11 dead.

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Following a series of earthquakes beginning in May, 1962, fluoscent eruptions from the northeastern flank of the volcano started shortly after 11:00 p.m. on August 24. Many craters emerged and the outflow of lava reached the coastline. Volcanic cicadas from this eruption formed the hill called "Sanatsutsumiyama."

The eruption itself ceased after 50 hours, but the earthquakes continued. On August 30, earthquakes in the inner area, located in the northern part of the island, reached more than 2,000. Therefore, safety measures including child evacuation, were taken. There were no human injuries due to this eruption.

Volcanic Eruption in 1983

Fluorescent eruptions from the southwestern flank of the volcano started at approximately 1:23 p.m. on October 1, 1983. The lava flow traveled to the south-southwest and reached the sea. Phreatic eruptions occurred around Koishibara Pond in the southern part of the island and around the coastline of Fuduka, and large amounts of volcanic ash and rock fragments fell over the southeastern part of the island.

The lava flow toward the west burned down and swallowed up houses in the Aka area until it stopped near the coast. Eruptions and explosions continued until just before dawn, and the lava flow had almost ended by early morning of the next day, October 4. Approximately 400 houses were burned or buried, but there were no casualties.

Ako Elementary School was burned by the lava flow from Volcanic Eruptions in 1983.

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From the volcanic eruptions in 2000, four years and five months passed before the full-scale evacuation order was lifted and even now, the islanders who safely returned to their homes are fighting daily with volcanic gas and the hardships of recovery. The unprecedented long-term disaster can be roughly divided into the following periods based on changes in the situation and people's consciousness.

Period 1 - Occurrence of the Disaster (June - August, 2000)

This was the initial period before the decision to leave the island was made. Volcanic eruptions of Mount Oyama, starting on June 26, seemed to end once, but became active again in July and the islanders experienced eruptions at the mountain top unlike any before. The eruption on August 18 especially shook the residents. Following that, the large-scale eruption on August 21 resulted in the decision on September 1 to order all residents to leave the island.

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The long-awaited lift of the evacuation order was finally realized on February 1, 2005. Approximately 70% of the residents who had left the island came back to Miyakejima Island, and recovery work, such as reclamation of agricultural lands, began.
**Outline of Eruptions**

Approximately 17 years after the previous eruption, the volcano again became active and erupted intensive activity at the end of June in 2000. Although these were not large amounts of ejecta, this volcanic activity resulted in the creation of a large collapse crater. In addition, an extremely large amount of volcanic gas has been released over a long period of time, and it is still being emitted.

**Submarine Eruption**

Following a series of earthquakes occurring just under Miyakejima Island shortly after 6:00 p.m. on June 26, 2000, the volcano rapidly intensified its activity, and the eruption gradually moved northward. On the next day, June 27, there was a change in the color of the seawater 1 km off the west coast of the island, which is a sign of a submarine eruption. Later on, the eruption moved to the west, and the volcanic activity on Miyakejima Island seemed to subside.

**Summit Eruptions Leading to Collapse**

The frequency of earthquakes started to increase on July 4. Then, suddenly, small eruptions occurred at the volcano summit a little after 8:00 p.m. on July 4, creating a large collapse around the summit. The collapse continued over July through August, and developed into a collapse crater (caldera) 1.6 km in diameter and around 500 meters in depth.

This same mechanism of volcanic gas emission led to the creation of a caldera on Miyakejima Island approximately 2500 years ago, and it is a very rare type of eruption on Miyakejima Island, occurring once in several millennia.

**Volcanic Eruptions**

The summit eruptions continued at intervals after July 8. Eruptions occurred repeatedly from July 14 and 15, and large amounts of ash fell north-eastward. It was on August 18 that the biggest eruption occurred; volcanic smoke reached approximately 14,000 meters up in the air, and large quantities of volcanic ash and lapilli, or volcanic cinders, were expelled and fell over a widespread area of the island. Eruptions producing pyroclastic flows occurred on August 29, and the flow reached the coastline.

**Volcanic Gases**

The volcanic gas emission started in the middle of August 2000, and the Japan Meteorological Agency began observation of the emission volume of sulfur dioxide, the toxic component of the gas, on August 26.

At its maximum, the sulfur dioxide emission hit a peak of over 70,000 tons per day in November 2000.

Even seven years after the eruption, gas emissions continue to be observed.

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**Outline of Damage**

**Various Causes & Types**

The damage occurrence in volcanic eruptions is diverse due to their reasons and types. The main causes can be categorized by the type of damage they cause; in this case, direct damage, effects from long-term evacuation, and damage due to volcanic gas. The specific causes of house collapses are described in the diagram below.

**Unpredictable Damages**

Damage change their form over time and measures for recovery and reconstruction come into effect. Thus, complete determination of the damage, in which stage and what's considered to be damage, is difficult to categorically assess. The official numbers and total damage from this volcanic hazard have not been finalized, as it is characteristic of a long-term volcanic disaster.

According to research done on the houses which a damage qualification was applied for, 180 out of 324 houses, approximately 55%, collapsed or had heavy damage.

Emergency precautions taken by islanders who returned to the island short-term, and the Ministerial association's first-aid measures for the homes prevented the damage from escalating.

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**Outline of Volcanic Eruptions**

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Outline of Eruptions

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Emergency precautions taken by islanders who returned to the island short-term, and the island’s administrative association’s first-aid measures for the houses presented the damage from escalating.
Volcanic Eruptions on Miyakejima Island in 2000

Living with Volcanoes

2 By the Time of Full Island Evacuation

June 26, 2000: 1st Emergency Volcanic Alert

When the Japan Meteorological Agency observed a volcanic tremor at 7:35 p.m. on June 26, it issued its 1st emergency volcanic alert warning that "strong precursors need to be taken for possibility of eruption" without hesitation. A disaster risk management office was established at Miyake Village, and the office ordered evacuations to areas such as Ako, Tsubeta, Mlke, and Iyya. Evacuation centers were set up at Miyake Elementary School and Miyake Junior High School, and as many as 1,857 people evacuated there. Later, the earthquake center moved west, further away from Miyakejima Island, so the danger of eruption seemed as if it were subsiding.

However, seismic activity increased in July, and on July 8, a small-scale eruption accompanied by volcanic ash occurred at the top of Mount Oyama. Eruptions occurred again on the July 14 and 15, and massive amounts of ash fell on the Kamisima Area in the northern part of the island. On July 16, mudslides occurred due to heavy rain. On July 30, earthquakes measuring 5 and 6 on the Japanese intensity scale occurred frequently, and eruption concerns rapidly grew. Eruptions occurred successively as a small-scale eruption accompanied by massive volcanic ash occurred on August 10, followed by another small-scale eruption on the August 14.

Volcanic Ash Removal

The largest eruption occurred at 5:02 p.m. on August 14, and the volcanic smoke raised by this eruption reached a height of 14,000 meters. Fortunately, there were no casualties, but several large volcanic cinders caused damage to the roads and broke the windows of many cars in the southern part of the island. Volcanic cinders and ashes from this eruption fell islandwide, which heightened the sense of crisis within the island's residents. From this day, the number of residents independently evacuating the island increased.

People in Need of Nursing and Elementary and Junior High Students Evacuated

Continuous eruptions and mudslides made supplying care service difficult, so the decision to evacuate people in need of home nursing off the island was made on August 23. The next day, elementary and junior high students were ordered to evacuate the island as well.

August 29: Eruption and Low-temperature Pyroclastic Flow

At 4:35 p.m. on August 29, an eruption with volcanic smoke rising up to 5,000 meters occurred. The occurrence of a low-temperature pyroclastic flow was also confirmed by a picture taken by a local resident.

Following the eruption, the disaster risk management office that had set up by the national and Tokyo Metropolitan Government then dismantled at the end of June, was reestablished. As well, the evacuation of elementary and junior high students which was planned for the following day was moved forward and quickly implemented.

On the August 31, the Volcanic Eruption Prediction Liaison Team issued the comment that "the occurrence of eruptions and pyroclastic flows larger than the ones that occurred on the 18th and 25th of August is possible."

At this time, approximately 70% of the islanders had already evacuated the island.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>In Residence</th>
<th>Evacuated</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>759</td>
<td>About 40%</td>
<td>1,176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>About 20%</td>
<td>1,559</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Evacuation Status on August 31

Chart of Noticeable Earthquakes and Eruptions

Low-temperature Pyroclastic Flow Occurred Due to the Eruption on August 29
Volcanic Eruptions on Miyakejima Island in 2000

Living with Volcanoes

2 By the Time of Full Island Evacuation

Residents of Miyakejima Island awoke at dawn.

June 26, 2000: 1st Emergency Volcanic Alert

When the Japan Meteorological Agency observed a volcanic tremor at 7:35 p.m. on June 26, it issued its 1st emergency volcanic alert warning that "strong precursors need to be taken for possibility of eruption" without hesitation. A disaster risk management office was established at Miyake Village, and the office ordered evacuations to areas such as Ako, Shiteta, Mike, and Isaya. Evacuation centers were set up at Miyake Elementary School and Miyake Junior High School, and as many as 1,857 people evacuated there. Later, the earthquake center moved west, further away from Miyakejima Island, so the danger of eruption seemed as if it were subsiding.

However, seismic activity increased in July, and on July 8, a small-scale eruption accompanied by volcanic ash occurred at the top of Mount Oyama. Eruptions occurred again on the July 14 and 15, and massive amounts of ash fell on the Kaminori Area in the northern part of the island. On July 28, mudslides occurred due to heavy rain. On July 30, earthquakes measuring 5 and 6 on the Japanese intensity scale occurred frequently, and eruption concerns rapidly grew. Eruptions occurred successively as a small-scale eruption accompanied by massive volcanic ash occurred on August 10, followed by another small-scale eruption on the August 14.

Never feel any danger regardless of eruptions or disasters in the island to the people. Do not remember the weather or disaster regardless of the eruption. From August 15, sea water temperature falls off. From August 19, the eruption is observed. From August 21, the eruption is observed.

| Charts of Noticeable Earthquakes and Ashfall |

Volcanic Ash Removal

The largest eruption occurred at 5:02 p.m. on August 14, and the volcanic ash raised by this eruption reached a height of 14,000 meters. Fortunately, there were no casualties, but several large volcanic cinders caused damage to the roads and broke the windows of many cars in the southern part of the island. Volcanic cinders and ashes from this eruption fell island-wide, which heightened the sense of crisis within the island's residents. From this day, the number of residents independently evacuating the island increased.

Peole in Need of Nursing and Elementary and Junior High Students Evacuated

Continuous eruptions and mudslides made supplying care service difficult, so the decision to evacuate people in need of home nursing off the island was made on August 23. The next day, elementary and junior high students were ordered to evacuate the island as well.

August 29: Eruption and Low-temperature Pyroclastic Flow

At 4:35 a.m. on August 29, an eruption with volcanic smoke rising up to 5,000 meters occurred. The occurrence of a low-temperature pyroclastic flow was also confirmed by a picture taken by a local resident.

Following the eruption, the disaster risk management office that had been set up by the national and Tokyo Metropolitan Governments then dismantled at the end of June, was reestablished. As well, the evacuation of elementary and junior high school students who was planned for the following day was moved forward and quickly implemented.

On the August 31, the Volcanic Eruption Prediction Liaison Team issued the comment that "the occurrence of eruptions and pyroclastic flows larger than the ones that occurred on the 18th and 25th of August is possible."

At this time, approximately 70% of the islanders had already evacuated the island.

| Table of Population, Evacuation, and Total |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>In Residence</th>
<th>Evacuated</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>759</td>
<td>1,175</td>
<td>1,934</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>268</td>
<td>1,553</td>
<td>1,821</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,027</td>
<td>2,718</td>
<td>3,745</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Evacuation Status on August 31

Low-temperature Pyroclastic Flow Occurred Due to the Eruption on August 20
Volcanic Eruptions on Miyakejima Island in 2000

September 2, 2000, 7:09 am
Notification from Miyake Village Disaster Management Headquarters

Miyake Village Disaster Management Headquarters announced an evacuation order effective from 7:00 am today, September 2, that all villagers except those involved in disaster prevention and the maintenance personnel must leave the island.

The "Sotorechumman" liner will be used to carry out the evacuation for three days starting today. Municipally-owned buses have been arranged for transport to the departure point, not to use personal vehicles for transportation, please be on the lookout for damage to the roads. The schedule is as follows: There are 3 routes, Route 1 departs from Miyakejima to the line at 11:00 am, and continues to Mount Banku, Kamisakai, and Mount Banku. Route 2 departs at 11:00 am, from Miyakejima Local Welfare Center and continues to Mount Banku auburn.

If you will be taking your dog or cat with you, you deliver them to the port by 9:30 am. Please strictly observe the following precautions: Make sure that the doors are fastened, turn off the breaker, turn off the gas and water at the mains. Please pull the garbage out at the collection point. Please bring your lunch on the evacuation day.

Evacuation Order Announcement

Full island evacuation decided

September 1, 2000
On September 1, it was decided to evacuate the entire island. At the same time, measures were also taken to allow the villagers of Miyakejima Island who evacuated to return temporarily from September 2 to 4, even after the announcement of the evacuation order.

September 4 - Evacuation of Entire Island Completed

The Islanders' Idea
At this time, many islanders believed they would be able to return home within three months. Therefore, many people evacuated without many extra clothes or other things.

Disaster Prevention Personnel
Approximately 600 people remained on the island. Their purpose included the following:
1. Implement emergency mud flow measures and to maintain the function of roads, traffic and lifeline because the island could perhaps resume their lives after returning to the island.
2. Continue observation of volcanic activity.
3. Be aware of the state of the island in order to accurately inform the islanders, now living off the island, about the situation there.

The authorized disaster prevention personnel, business people involved in transportation, garbage-disposal, fuel, auto repair, photography, etc. also remained on the island as disaster prevention personnel.

Evacuation Destination

No Emergency Temporary Housing
At first, public housing was temporarily provided not only by Tokyo Metropolitan Housing, but also by municipally-owned housing and Urban Development Corporation. As of October 24, 2000, 2,416 people were provided with public housing. Instead of public housing, over 889 evacuees relied on their relatives for housing. Another 305 people moved into company housing, and 70 people moved into medical or welfare institutions. In this disaster, there was no emergency temporary housing which is usually built for a large-scale disaster. Instead, unoccupied public housing was utilized as the main evacuation facilities.

Dispersed Evacuation Destinations
The authorities secured temporary residences for the victims with rapid dispatch, however, the islanders were dispersed throughout Tokyo and neighboring prefectures with no exchange of information regarding the various evacuation destinations. As of October 24, 2000, about 90 percent of the evacuees were dispersed throughout Tokyo in 23 wards, 28 cities and 3 towns. The rest were dispersed over 20 prefectures, extending from Hokkaido to Okinawa Prefectures. This divided community resulted in difficulties in later support of the victims.

The Widest Village in Japan?

Information Service for Islanders in Need
The village's first worry was not knowing the islanders' whereabouts, as they were dispersed across the country. Through the media, the village urged islanders to inform them of their location as soon as their evacuation place was decided. Succeeding results were achieved with this method, and two months later 95% of the islanders' evacuation locations had been confirmed. After that, information was carefully sent by mail twice a week.

As many islanders put forward a request to be informed of the state of restoration of the island and the prospects of volcanic gas, explanatory meetings were held. The meetings were held 7 times until returning to the island. Due to the dispersion of the islanders, the meetings were held at 2 to 3 locations each time.

Evacuation Locations of Miyakejima Island Residents
As of April 1, 2002

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
<th>Questions/Requests</th>
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<tr>
<td>November 1</td>
<td>Tokyo, Chiba, Saitama, Kanagawa</td>
<td>Current situation of Miyakejima Island (video showing)</td>
<td>&quot;We are now a support center in this area. Request for information about fishermen, &quot;</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3. Current situation of Miyakejima Island (video showing)</td>
<td>&quot;The fishing problems in the area. &quot;</td>
</tr>
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<td>May 12, 13</td>
<td>Tokyo, Chiba, Saitama, Kanagawa</td>
<td>Local public, discussion through the media.</td>
<td>&quot;We want to keep in touch with those who are left on the island. &quot;</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>1. Local public, discussion through the media.</td>
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<td>March 7</td>
<td>Tokyo, Chiba, Saitama, Kanagawa</td>
<td>Current situation of Miyakejima Island (video showing)</td>
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<td>April 29</td>
<td>Tokyo, Chiba, Saitama, Kanagawa</td>
<td>Current situation of Miyakejima Island (video showing)</td>
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<td>September 15</td>
<td>Tokyo, Chiba, Saitama, Kanagawa</td>
<td>Current situation of Miyakejima Island (video showing)</td>
<td>&quot;We are now a support center in this area. Request for information about fishermen, &quot;</td>
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</table>

Support for islanders who have been affected by the disaster.

Evacuation Locations Displayed Across Japan

Outline of Exploratory Meetings for Residents

- "We are now a support center in this area. Request for information about fishermen, "
- "Your request for information about fishermen, "
- "The fishing problems in the area. "
Volcanic Eruptions on Miyakejima Island in 2000

Living with Volcanoes

Full Island Evacuation Decided
September 1, 2000
On September 1st, it was decided to evacuate the entire island.

September 4 - Evacuation of Entire Island Completed
The Islanders' Idea
At this time, many islanders believed they would be able to return home within three months. Therefore, many people evacuated without many extra clothes or other things.

Disaster Prevention Personnel
Approximately 600 people remained on the island. Their purpose included doing the following:
1. Implement emergency mud flow measures and to maintain the function of roads, traffic, and lifelines so the island could promptly resume their lives after returning to the island.
2. Continue observation of volcanic activity.
3. Be aware of the state of the island in order to accurately inform the islanders, now living off the island, about the situation there.
4. Assist the authorized disaster prevention personnel, businesses involved in transportation, garbage-disposal, fuel, auto repair, photography, etc. also remained on the island as disaster prevention personnel.

Evacuation Destination
No Emergency Temporary Housing
At first, public housing was temporarily provided not only by Tokyo Metropolitan Housing, but also through municipally-owned housing and Urban Development Corporation. As of October 24, 2000, 2,412 people were provided with public housing. Instead of public housing, over 880 evacuated people relied on their relatives for housing. Another 307 people moved into company housing, and 70 people moved into medical or welfare institutions. In this disaster, there was no emergency temporary housing which is usually built for a large scale disaster. Instead, unoccupied public housing was utilized as the main evacuation facilities.

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The authorities scattered temporary residences for the victims with rapid dispatch; however, the islanders were dispersed throughout Tokyo and neighboring prefectures with no exchange of information regarding the various evacuation destinations. As of October 24, 2000, about 90 percent of the evacuees were dispersed throughout Tokyo in 23 wards, 26 cities, and 3 towns. The rest were dispersed over 26 prefectures, extending from Hokkaido to Okinawa Prefectures. This divided community resulted in difficulties in later support of the victims.

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Evacuation Locations of Miyakejima Island Residents
As of April 1, 2002

Evacuation Locations Dispersed Across Japan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
<th>Questions/Requests</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov 30, 2000</td>
<td>1. Current situation of Miyakejima Island (video showing)</td>
<td>- Urban design support for beauty of the island&lt;br&gt; - Psychological counseling for children&lt;br&gt; - Equipment for housing and health promotion&lt;br&gt; - Mapping of disaster management&lt;br&gt; - Support for people in need of housing&lt;br&gt; - Construction of new townhouses&lt;br&gt; - Establishment of a support project for residents' survival assistance&lt;br&gt; - Distribution of funds to families whose homes were damaged by mud flow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 21, 2001</td>
<td>2. Temporary shelter to the island for discussion with the government</td>
<td>- Temporary shelter to the island for discussion with the government&lt;br&gt; - Support for people affected by the disaster in temporary shelter homes&lt;br&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 29, 2001</td>
<td>3. Explanation of volcanic activity</td>
<td>- Temporary shelter to the island for discussion with the government&lt;br&gt; - Support for people affected by the disaster in temporary shelter homes&lt;br&gt; - Construction of new townhouses&lt;br&gt; - Establishment of a support project for residents' survival assistance&lt;br&gt; - Distribution of funds to families whose homes were damaged by mud flow&lt;br&gt; - Need more information to make a decision&lt;br&gt; - Support measures for people who cannot return home, at once&lt;br&gt; - How to move to temporary housing&lt;br&gt; - Construction of temporary housing&lt;br&gt; - Support for the elderly and high-sensitive people&lt;br&gt; - Need more information to make a decision&lt;br&gt; - Support measures for people who cannot return home, at once&lt;br&gt; - How to move to temporary housing&lt;br&gt; - Construction of temporary housing&lt;br&gt; - Support for the elderly and high-sensitive people&lt;br&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 14, 2002</td>
<td>4. Explanation of volcanic activity</td>
<td>- Temporary shelter to the island for discussion with the government&lt;br&gt; - Support for people affected by the disaster in temporary shelter homes&lt;br&gt; - Construction of new townhouses&lt;br&gt; - Establishment of a support project for residents' survival assistance&lt;br&gt; - Distribution of funds to families whose homes were damaged by mud flow&lt;br&gt; - Need more information to make a decision&lt;br&gt; - Support measures for people who cannot return home, at once&lt;br&gt; - How to move to temporary housing&lt;br&gt; - Construction of temporary housing&lt;br&gt; - Support for the elderly and high-sensitive people&lt;br&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 10, 2004</td>
<td>1. Village council opinion about returning homes</td>
<td>- Temporary shelter to the island for discussion with the government&lt;br&gt; - Support for people affected by the disaster in temporary shelter homes&lt;br&gt; - Construction of new townhouses&lt;br&gt; - Establishment of a support project for residents' survival assistance&lt;br&gt; - Distribution of funds to families whose homes were damaged by mud flow&lt;br&gt; - Need more information to make a decision&lt;br&gt; - Support measures for people who cannot return home, at once&lt;br&gt; - How to move to temporary housing&lt;br&gt; - Construction of temporary housing&lt;br&gt; - Support for the elderly and high-sensitive people&lt;br&gt;</td>
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<td>Jul 16, 2004</td>
<td>2. Temporary shelter to the island for discussion with the government</td>
<td>- Temporary shelter to the island for discussion with the government&lt;br&gt; - Support for people affected by the disaster in temporary shelter homes&lt;br&gt; - Construction of new townhouses&lt;br&gt; - Establishment of a support project for residents' survival assistance&lt;br&gt; - Distribution of funds to families whose homes were damaged by mud flow&lt;br&gt; - Need more information to make a decision&lt;br&gt; - Support measures for people who cannot return home, at once&lt;br&gt; - How to move to temporary housing&lt;br&gt; - Construction of temporary housing&lt;br&gt; - Support for the elderly and high-sensitive people&lt;br&gt;</td>
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<td>Nov 24, 2004</td>
<td>3. Temporary shelter to the island for discussion with the government</td>
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<td>4. Temporary shelter to the island for discussion with the government</td>
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Evacuation of Children

After the massive eruption on August 18, sheltering children off the island was considered. As it was believed the children wouldn’t have enough time to stay in the shelter for long, it was decided that they could choose either to commute to a school near their shelter or to board in a dormitory utilizing Akikawa High School’s facility. After the massive eruption of August 29, it was suddenly decided that the children were to evacuate the island.

Communication between the Time of Evacuation and the Time of Return

![Graph showing the number of students at Akikawa High School and an elementary school over time.]

Support Children Received

The children received a lot of support and encouragement from all over the country. They were comforted and cheered up by the many events planned and initiated by others. The children of Miyakejima Island received a lot of support not only at Akikawa, but also at other schools where they were sheltered.

Additionally, volunteers organized a children’s support center which dealt with communications and the great amount of relief supplies received.

SHELTERING AWAY FROM HOME

Boarding Life at Akikawa High School

When communal boarding life separated from the family home began, it was believed that this would be only for a short time. As it turned out to be longer than expected, it became more difficult, especially for children in the lower grades of elementary school. As they had to be away from their parents, some children became emotionally unstable, while others became physically unwell or started craving physical contact.

Meal Preparation at the Dormitory

Evacuation of the Elderly

August 24: Evacuation of the Elderly Requiring Assistance Commenced

Before the eruption of 2000, there were 40 people using home visiting services by caregivers and 40 people who lived in a special care nursing home. As the eruptions continued, it became more and more difficult for staff members at the special care nursing home and the Council of Social Welfare to provide care for them. The staff members requested the local government and the prefectoral government to assist these elderly people to evacuate the island. Between August 24, when evacuation of the elderly requiring assistance commenced, and September 1, 70 elderly people and 1 disabled person evacuated the island and were immediately taken to shelters in various facilities throughout the Tokyo Metropolitan area.

Aged People at a Loss in City Life

Many of the evacuated elderly people were not familiar with the neighborhood and were perplexed with how to use public transport systems. Additionally, the completely different city situation from the island situation of living in large, open apartments, complex city noise and relationships with neighbors all contributed to great anxiety among them.

Problems Faced

- Unfamiliarity with public transportation in the city: 146 (20%)
- Difficulty getting around due to age or handicaps: 112 (16%)
- Lack of knowledge about the location of shops, hospitals and other public places: 65 (9%)
- Lack of knowledge about where to get medical assistance or how to connect with others: 24 (3%)

Senior Support Center

"Senior Support Center" was established in order to provide a place for the islanders to gather, and for isolated and worried elderly people to receive advice and consultation about general living. There were a number of opportunities for the islanders to gather and communicate with one another. Quite a few senior people lead modest love (supporting lives).

Although They Were Active on the Island

No Jobs for Them in the City

While even those in their late 60s and 70s had actively been taking part in local industry on the island, it wasn’t easy for the aged to find jobs in the city. Not only the financial reasons, but also the lack of physical activities negatively influenced them both mentally and physically. There was a sudden increase in the number of elderly people admitted to nursing homes or registered as people requiring assisted living around the time of evacuation, which shows that both the aged and their families were hardly affected mentally and physically by the evacuation.
Evacuation of Only Children

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Additionally, volunteers organized a child and school support center which dealt with donations and the great amount of relief supplies received.

Sheltering Away from Home

One teacher, who was responsible for first grade students, observed, “The children seemed sad at night, or wanted me to sleep beside them. I realized that no matter how much care and affection we teachers give the children, we can’t take the place of their parents.” As the length of time in shelters was prolonged, there were gradual changes in the children’s mentality. This process of mental improvement was initiated by the communal boarding life began to influence their health and behavior.

There were cases where parents had no choice but to leave their children at the dormitory due to the environment at their residence.

Aged People at a Loss in City Life

Many of the evacuated aged people were not familiar with the neighborhood and were perplexed with how to use public transport systems. Additionally, the completely different environment of the island influenced the elderly by serving multiple purposes.

Mental Health Issues, a Complex Issue

Although They Were Active on the Island

No Jobs for Them in the City

While even those in their late 60s and 70s had actively been taking part in local industry on the island, it wasn’t easy for the aged to find jobs in the city. Not only the physical reasons, but also the lack of physical abilities negatively influenced them both mentally and physically. There was a sudden increase in the number of elderly people admitted to nursing homes or registered as people requiring assistance living around the time of evacuation, which shows that both the aged and their families were heavily affected mentally and physically by the evacuation.

Senior Support Center

“Senior Support Center” was established in order to provide a place for the islanders to gather, and for isolated and worried elderly people to receive advice and consultation about general living. There were a number of opportunities for the islanders to gather and communicate with one another. Quite a few senior people lead modest lives loving support给予了。
Volcanic Eruptions on Miyakejima Island in 2000

Living with Volcanoes

On the island

Ship Hotel

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Disaster-relief Work

The relief operation directed from the offshore base was, however, limited due to the arrival of the season of many typhoons and the heavy ocean swell. So at the beginning of October, the headquarters was moved from Miyakejima Island to Kornahama Island, located 40 kilometers northwest.

At first, the only mode of transportation to Miyakejima Island was a few fishing boats. Until helicopters were prepared and large vessels could start service, fishing boats which had escaped to Shimoda Harbor played a helpful role in taking the relief crews to the island. The trip was one hour each way, crossing over the ocean which was often running high.

Desulphurization Equipment

It was difficult to maintain mudflow management, the roads and lifelines and stop up restoration operations, because the rate of boat and vessel service from Kornahama Island to Miyakejima Island, which started in October, 2000, stayed at approximately 60% for about six months. The Tokyo Metropolitan Government decided to install desulphurization equipment and establish clean houses on the island to enhance the operation. The first clean house established was the Tokyo Metropolitan Miyake Branch Office.

After its safety was confirmed through a two-month trial stay from May to July, 2001, actual overnight stays started.

From that point, prefabs lodged with desulphurization equipment installed were built, but the construction couldn't keep up with the increasing number of relief crews. The lodgings were soon filled beyond capacity. Therefore, with the cooperation of private Japanese-style hotels and guest houses, desulphurization equipment was installed and the accommodation situation of reconstruction workers was greatly improved.

What is volcanic gas?

Volcanic Gas

When the concentration of volcanic gas becomes high, it appears as a bluish “frog” floating. The active emission of gas from the volcano’s collapse crater began in the middle of August. The gas contained vapor, carbon dioxide (CO2) and sulfur dioxide (SO2) etc. Sulfur dioxide, in particular, is harmful to humans. It is colorless with a pungent odor, and irritates the eyes and the throat. Inhaled high concentrations of sulfur dioxide can provoke difficulty breathing. Even at low concentrations, people with asthma can have asthma attacks and suffer severe symptoms in some cases. Workers involved in reconstruction operations on the island were instructed to carry a gas mask when the concentration was less than 2 ppm, and wear it to work when the concentration was over 2 ppm (up to 20 ppm).

Volcanic Gas Study Commission

Though volcanic gas tends to decrease in the long term, this one did not show signs of a declining trend. Thus the Cabinet Office and the Tokyo Metropolitan Government created a Miyakejima Island volcanic gas study commission on September 30, 2002 in order to scientifically study under what gas conditions the residents could be allowed to return to the island without jeopardizing their health and safety. In March, 2003, the commission reported the study results and presented what effects volcanic gas has on the human body, classifying them into two categories: long-term and short-term effects.

The critical gas concentration based on the risk of health problems, such as coughing and phlegm, was indicated in preventive measures to prevent short-term effects, which would be provided by reducing high levels of sulfur dioxide instantaneously or over a short time.

The decision of when to allow the residents to return to the island was based not only on the attainment of an acceptable gas concentration related to long-term effects and when the emission situation would generate short-term effects, but also on the progress of safety-enhancing measures to minimize the effects on health.

Furthermore, upon return to the island, an ordinance prohibition living in two districts determined to be “high density areas,” because gas concentrations were above the acceptable level in consideration of long-term effects.

Safety Measures to Minimize Effects on Health

[Residents’ Preparation]

- Obtain accurate information about volcanic gases
- Everyday health care
- Carry a gas mask
- Voluntary evacuation
- Mutual cooperation with neighbors

[Measures to Ensure Safety]

- Monitoring and observation of volcanic gas behavior
- Monitoring of sulfur dioxide concentration
- Establishment of evacuation system
- Ensure health care and medical care system
- Dissemination of knowledge and education on volcanic gases (Gas communication)

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<th>Critical Gas Concentration to Prevent Long-term Effects</th>
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<td>Average annual density should be 0.04 ppm or lower</td>
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<td>Annual number of times the hourly value concentration</td>
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<td>- Concentration that necessitates people to pay careful attention to those requiring support,</td>
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<td>- Concentration that requires a general alert to be given to all people</td>
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<td>- Concentration that will start seriously affecting all people</td>
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On the island

Ship Hotel

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The decision of when to allow the residents to return to the island was based not only on the attainment of an acceptable gas concentration related to long-term effects and when the emission situation would generate short-term effects, but also on the progress of safety-assuring measures to minimize the effects on health.

Furthermore, upon return to the island, an ordinance prohibiting living in two districts determined to be “high density areas,” because gas concentrations were above the acceptable level in consideration of long-term effects.
Harsh Economic Conditions

A survey about current living conditions conducted by Miyake Village showed that more than half of the Miyakejima islanders lost their livelihood or had increase in income.

Exchange

Miyakejima islanders' Telephone Directory

Maintaining the sense of community and providing mutual aid was a key issue for islanders while they took shelter at separate locations. To achieve this, the development of a telephone directory to enable evacuees to keep in touch with one another was of great importance. The development of the telephone directory was supported by the Miyakejima Natural Disaster/Tokyo Volunteer Support Center consisting of the Tokyo Volunteer Network for Disaster Relief, Tokyo Volunteer Action Center, the Tokyo Handicap Network and Miyakejima Council of Social Welfare.

Gratitude

Natural Disaster Victims Relief Fund and Monetary Donations

The Japanese government decided to apply the preferential measure of the Natural Disaster Victims Relief Law to long suffering households from the natural disaster. The Tokyo Metropolitan Government provided similar aid for households not covered by the preferential measure. Relief money donated to the Miyakejima islanders reached 2,720 billion yen in February 2005.

Unprecedented bailout – Interest Rate Subsidy

Especially due to the island-wide evacuation, the majority of Miyakejima-based business corporations continue to have few prospects for sales or income from most of their business locations. According to a questionnaire conducted by the Miyake Village Chamber of Commerce and Industry, about 90 percent of these business corporations remained inactive. In addition, 60 percent of the businesses entities have outstanding loans which were taken out before the eruption, and half of them continues to repay their loan. The Miyake Village Chamber of Commerce and Industry reported these facts in symposiums and written petitions. Their efforts resulted in an unprecedented bailout plan. Three parties, the Japanese Government, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government and the Miyake Village local government, worked together to provide an interest rate subsidy for the loans which business corporations had taken out before the disaster happened.

Unprecedented aid – Natural Disaster Assistance Projects

Surveys showed that the livelihood of those in elderly households especially worsened remarkably after the evacuation. In April 2002, the Tokyo Government conducted a door-to-door survey of low-income households, of which the householder was 50 years old or older. According to the results of the survey, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government estimated that about 800 households had an income lower than the standard for welfare recipients.

The Tokyo Government has supported evacuees applying for welfare by sending caseworkers to visit them. In addition, it decided to implement the “Miyake Village Special Aid Plan” as its unique bailout program in February 2003.

Under the plan, the Tokyo Government provides economic aid equivalent to the welfare benefits of households which have bank deposits of five million yen or less and did not qualify to receive welfare. Tokyo continued to this assistance until February 2005 when it lifted the evacuation directives. At its peak, 84 households were paid an average of 80,000 yen per month. The subsidy provided support during the harsh conditions of their evacuation lifestyle.

Voluntarily Assembled Islanders Association and Liaison Team

Miyakejima islanders strongly believed that islanders had to support each other while at evacuee shelters. Centering on the apartment blocks where a relatively large number of villagers was located, they began to develop a place for communication with each other. In this way, Miyakejima Islander associations naturally developed at individual shelters. In April 2002, the representatives of the associations in each region gathered and organized a liaison team.

We’re Happy Just to See Each Other

Miyakejima Islanders Exchange Gathering

The Miyakejima Tomim Fureai Shukai was held as a cooperative effort to promote friendship between Miyakejima islanders who took shelter at separate locations and volunteers who supported the evacuees, by Miyake Village and the volunteer groups. Gatherings were held nine times at Shikaura Public Elementary School in Minato Ward, Tokyo. It was one of the events that islanders enjoyed very much, and had 1,000 participants or more every time.
Volcanic Eruptions on Miyakejima Island in 2000

Living with Volcanoes

Harsh Economic Conditions

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
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From the first (March 2003) to second (December 2003), current living conditions survey of evacuees.

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Especially due to the island-wide evacuation, the majority of Miyake Village-based business corporations continued to have few prospects for sales or income from most of their business locations. According to a questionnaire conducted by the Miyake Village Chamber of Commerce and Industry, about 90 percent of these business corporations remained inactive. In addition, 60 percent of the business entities have outstanding loans which were taken out before the eruption, and half of them continue to repay their loans. The Miyake Village Chamber of Commerce and Industry reported these facts in symposiums and written petitions. Their efforts resulted in an unprecedented bailout plan. These parties, the Japanese Government, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government and the Miyake Village local government, worked together to provide an interest rate subsidy for the loans which business corporations had taken out before the disaster happened.

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We’re Happy Just to See Each Other

Miyakejima islanders’ interchange gathering

The Miyakejima Tomin Purais Shikai was held as a cooperative effort to promote friendship between Miyakejima islanders who took shelter at separate locations and volunteers who supported the evacuees, by Miyake Village and the volunteer groups. Gatherings were held nine times at Shikara Public Elementary School in Minato Ward, Tokyo. It was one of the events that islanders enjoyed very much, and had 1,000 participants or more every time.
Volcanic Eruptions on Miyakejima Island in 2000

Living with Volcanoes

Desire to Protect Our Homes

Request for Temporary Visits

After one year had passed since the evacuation, evacuees had become accustomed to living in housing away from home. What concerned them most was the actual condition of their own houses on the Miyakejima Island. Any house might have been damaged by volcanic gas, falling ash and mudflow. Many islanders left home in a hurry when the evacuation order was issued. Nobody expected to live away home for so long a period and most of the families could not bring valuable, ancestral tablets, albums and so forth from their houses. The houses on the island already required frequent care as the glaring iron roofs were easily corroded by sea breezes. Additionally, typhoons often hit the island. The former inhabitants wanted to do many things for their houses to limit the extent of the damage and avoid any further harm.

Mudflow Victims’ Temporary Visit Home

Of course, the central and the Tokyo Metropolitan Governments, as well as Miyakejima Island local government, were not just sitting back doing nothing, but the public administrations had to make full safety preparations to meet the islanders’ request. It was July 13, 2001, when the strong wish of the mudflow victims, who had been informed of the damage to their houses, came true, and about 70 representatives whose houses were completely or partially destroyed landed on the island. Through safety measures were formulated by disaster prevention related organizations, and that first group of 73 members, accompanied by about 180 guards and security staff, paid a half-day visit home from early morning to noon.

House Damage Revealed for the First Time

In September, 2001, more than one year after the evacuation, families other than the mudflow victims were able to visit the island to check their houses. The village set up a “Temporary Visit Home for Every Household Project Team” to handle the great amount of necessary preparations, such as chartering passenger boats, leasing and transporting 10 large-sized buses, preparing gas masks and helmets, offering food, lining up vehicles, and providing information to the islanders through a telephone service.

The visit home project was successfully held with the participation of 1,608 people from every household. Afterwards, the village surveyed project participants on house damage. The survey provided an overview for the first time of the damage to the houses which had been left alone over a long period of time. While some houses suffered damage from rainwater due to the roof having been harmed and others were due to waves and rats, quite a few houses were not greatly damaged. Thus, the first round of the temporary visit home project finished with mingled feelings of joy and sorrow.

We Want to Protect Our Houses/Helpful Activities of the Workmanship Association

After the first round of a day visit completed from September to October 2001, numerous requests to repair roofs were made by the residents who had checked house damage caused by rainwater. On November 15, 2001, workers from the island, including carpenters and sheet metal workers, gathered to organize the Miyakejima Island Workmanship Association. The skilled members who had been repairing the houses on the island couldn’t bear to leave the damaged houses unattended. The newly launched association started with 13 members. The house repairing operation progressed with the cooperation of the Koshima Island Workmanship Association and the number of the repaired houses finally reached 1,300 in total.

Overview of House Damage

(Results of questionnaires which were sent out after the temporary visit)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09/15</td>
<td>Decision of departure</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>09/19</td>
<td>Start of evacuation</td>
<td>Miyakejima-Tokyo Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>09/30</td>
<td>End of evacuation</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10/01</td>
<td>Start of building</td>
<td>Temporary shelter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/03</td>
<td>End of building</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/13</td>
<td>Departure from shelter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/01</td>
<td>Temporary visit period</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/07</td>
<td>Departure for residents</td>
<td>(10 hours for residents)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/09</td>
<td>Temporary visit period</td>
<td>Temporary shelter: 9 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/10</td>
<td>Arrivai for shelter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/12</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/13</td>
<td>Return to shelter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

By Shigeru under Construction

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Expected Izu Shelter, Visit home to stay

The one-day visit project continued even after every household could make a temporary return to their home. However, as two years had passed, the house damage was becoming more severe. It was essential to take measures to curb the expansion of the damage. One-day visits, which allowed the islanders to care for the houses for only about four hours, limited their ability to take necessary actions. Since July 2001, recovery workers stayed over-night on the island. Facilities called “Clean Houses” were specifically built for the disaster prevention personnel and recovery operations staff, so the islanders were not allowed to stay there at night. Therefore, they needed to wait for the completion of such a new clean house, called “Izu Shelter, where they could stay overnight. The facility was built, based on the Special Measures Law on Active Volcanoes, with the village government as the project implementing body. Construction was completed at the end of March, 2003, at a cost of about 1.5 billion yen.

We Want Our Children to See Our Home Island

Children’s Temporary Visit to the Island

In August, 2002, students of elementary, junior high and senior high schools paid a one-day visit to the island, accompanied by their parents and teachers. In the following year, children again visited their schools and their own homes as “experiencing our hometown.” In February, 2004, 366 students of Miyakejima High School visited their alma mater as a commemorative graduation event. It was the return of the children, bearers of the island’s future.
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We Want to Protect Our Houses/Helpful Activities of the Workmanship Association

Overview of House Damage (Results of questionnaires which were sent out after the temporary visit)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Damage</th>
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<td>23:00</td>
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</table>

Temporary Visit Schedule

- Temporary Visit for Homes in August, 2003
- Visitors are expected to be able to visit their homes for the first time.

Students’ Temporary Visit Home in August, 2003

Living with Volcanoes

September to October 2001, numerous requests to repair roofs were made by the residents who had checked house damage caused by rainwater. On November 15, 2001, workmen from the island, including carpenters and sheet metal workers, gathered to organize the Miyakejima Island Workmanship Association. The skilled members who had been repairing the houses on the island couldn’t bear to leave the damaged houses untreated. The newly launched association started with 15 members. The house repairing operation progressed with the cooperation by the Koshimizu Island Workmanship Association and the number of the repaired houses finally reached 1,300 in total.

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Preparation for Islanders’ Return

Guidelines for Islanders’ Return

New Mayor Elected on Commitment of Return before Year End

In October 2003, an islanders’ return program preparatory commission was established by three authorities, the Cabinet Office, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, and the Miyake Village government. The commission held discussions on various matters, seeking out problems with return preparations and recovery support activities after the return and proper response to each islander’s response to the requests from Tokyo and Miyake Village. In February 2004, just before the commission concluded its report, a mayoral election was conducted in the wake of the resignation of the previous mayor (the late Mr. K. Hasegawa) due to health concerns. With the pledge of “early return, early reconstruction, and early restoration,” Mr. S. Hayano was elected mayor. Both the newly elected mayor and the commission report finalized in March made the islanders’ return increasingly possible.

Guidelines for Islanders’ Return Program

Rapid Communication

The volume of volcanic gas emissions was estimated to be the same level as for a while. In light of the volcanic gas situation and the survey results, as well as the opinions from meeting with experts, the Miyake Village government, Mayor Hayano concluded that local people could return to the island at their own risk. He based the principle of “living in an environment with volcanic gas” even though gas concentration had not stopped. He formally made the request to the Tokyo Governor asking that the evacuation order be lifted before the end of February 2005, and the guidelines for islanders’ return be announced.

Acceptance of volcanic gas risk

Residents can live safely in an environment with volcanic gas.

Safety measures

- Regular checkups, including exposure to health assessments
- Introduction of emergency plans and instructions

Living with Volcanic Gas

Guidelines for Islanders’ Return

- Acceptance of volcanic gas risk
- Safety measures

Schedules for Islanders’ Return

Medical Checkups Prior to Return

The medical checkups before returning were carried out during September and October. The purpose of these checkups was for the residents to understand their own sensitivity to volcanic gas, and to be able to make an informed decision about returning based on the results. About 500 residents were isolated due to having high sensitivity to the gas.

At that point, every one of islanders was worried about their final decision to return to the island or not. There were not just a few people who had the checkup results to a resigned decision not to return.
Volcanic Eruptions on Miyakejima Island in 2000

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Guidelines for Islanders’ Return Program

Risk Communication

Thorough discussion between the administration and the local people was believed necessary for living in an environment with volcanic gas in order that the residents accurately understand health effects caused by the gas. This understanding risk through dialogue was called “risk communication.” Miyakejima held about 60 risk communication meetings within half a year, supported by members of the Miyakejima Island Volcanic Gas Research Panel with necessary documentation, explanations, and instructions. Through this, the total 1,400 participants were able to more deeply understand the nature of volcanic gases.

Return or Not? Questionnaire Difficult to Answer

The village held public meetings for residents in April 2004 to inform them of the findings and considerations by the national, metropolitan, and village governments. Mayor Hirano indicated that they wanted to start going back to the island and settle into places where volcanic gases were still being emitted. Saying “It seems that the gas emission on the island will continue. Still, we would like to go back there as soon as possible, taking every possible safety measure.” In May after the public meetings, the village implemented a survey asking the residents whether they wanted to go back or not; it was not easy for them to answer as concrete plans were presented to them regarding safety, housing, employment, and other issues. In spite of the delicate situation, about 60 percent of the islanders answered the questionnaire. In addition, 984 out of 1,388 households, or 67.7 percent of the total respondents, answered that they would return to the island, fully understanding the fact that they had to face risks from volcanic gas. This was a tough decision for them to make in the midst of such anxieties.

Guidelines for Islanders’ Return Program

A period of preparation for return, the actual return period after the lifting of the evacuation order, and the return to normal life on the island. In the first preparation phase, the frontline headquarters for the return program was set up at the evacuation facility. Following this, the next steps were taken, including conducting a detailed survey of local households, holding public meetings for the residents to explain about the return program and the guidelines on how to return to the island and restart normal life (the manual for local islanders’ return), opening a general information desk and running medical checkups before returning. At the same time, there were quick developments on the island, including the arrangement of village-owned housing, examination of safety measures, and maintenance of public facilities such as elementary and junior high schools.

Excelling Island Headquarters on July 27, 2004

The “Return Program Plan” and “Guidebook for Returning to the Island and Resuming Normal Life”
7 Return to Miyakejima Island and Afterwards

Lifting of the Evacuation Order

On February 1, 2005 Village Mayor Hirano lifted the evacuation order for four years and five months. The three-month period from this day to the end of April was considered the main time to return to Miyakejima Island according to the actual return project. People who lived in public housing were granted a moratorium on rental fees during this period, and families in exceptional circumstances were given an extension to July.

Moving

Confusion in terms of expenses and data was expected when residents started the move back to Miyakejima Island. With the cooperation of several firms such as delivery companies, Miyake Village set up a "relocation project" and prepared and distributed a specific instruction manual for moving, including surrender procedures for municipally-owned houses, etc., to execute the relocation plan smoothly. Moves back to the island peaked between mid-March and early-April. Statistics from a survey conducted by the village related to the relocation as of August 31, six months after the}

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Returned Households</th>
<th>Returned People</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,067 households</td>
<td>2,158 people</td>
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<tr>
<td>330 households</td>
<td>364 people</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2,502 people</td>
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Number of Returned Households and People

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>0-9</th>
<th>10-19</th>
<th>20-39</th>
<th>40-59</th>
<th>60-79</th>
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<td>25%</td>
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<td>18%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>18%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Population's Age Composition on Miyakejima Island (5 months after evacuation order was lifted)

Disposal of the massive amount of waste was a major concern for people who returned to Miyakejima Island. After the full evacuation from the island, a large amount of waste was generated. The eruption and volcanic gas caused irreparable damage to cars and houses, and most electrical appliances became unusable. More than 2,500 cars and 1,600 refrigerators were scrapped.

Waste Disposal

Special Measures of the Relief Law to Assist Long-term Evacuees

In March 2004, the Natural Disaster Victims Relief Law was revised, and the "Stable Housing Supporting System" was established. Provisions were made to supply long-term evacuees with up to 700,000 yen per family for moving expenses and the purchase of daily necessities, on condition that the total aid received from the relief law was within 3 million yen. The prolonged evacuation of Miyakejima Island residents triggered the foundation of this financial aid "Special measure to help long-term evacuees."

Starting with Home Repairs

Support System for Repair or Reconstruction of Houses

The Tokyo Metropolitan Government financially supported the relocation of residents by providing funds to repair or reconstruct their housing (maximum 1.5 million yen). This system was established because the Natural Disaster Victims Relief Law did not support the victims in terms of repairing homes. A significant number of islanders used this system to repair or rebuild their home.

Living Environment

Surroundings

Commercial & industrial enterprises and financial institutions made a head start back to the island and started preparation for re-opening. This was because they were regarded as "disaster-preventing officials" for their imperative role in daily living. While there were concerns about a decreasing population, etc., they made the courageous decision to reopen for the good of the island. Compared to the period just before evacuation, 26 out of 89 hotels/guest houses, 4 out of 22 eating places, and 7 out of 21 stores, such as supermarkets, were open at the time the evacuation order was lifted.
Lifting of the Evacuation Order

On February 1, 2005, Village Mayor Hiroko lifted the evacuation order for the April 2005 eruption. This lifted the evacuation order for four years and five months. The three-month period from this day to the end of April was considered the time to return Miyakejima Island according to the return project. People who lived in public housing were granted a moratorium on rent fees during this period, and families in exceptional circumstances were given an extension to July.

Moving

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The Amount of Waste and Return (Disaster waste management 2004-2005; Initial 7,289 million yen)
Coexisting with Volcanic Gas

Safety Ordinance Concerning Volcanic Gas
Upon lifting of the evacuation directive, "Safety Ordinance Concerning Volcanic Gas," was automatically put into effect. Set forth in the regulations are the necessity for each resident to be fully aware of the dangers of volcanic gas, the obligation to fully observe rules for safety, and the necessary measures for ensuring safety against the volcanic gas. Based on the regulations, the village implemented the following measures:

- Set regulations and measures necessary for ensuring safety of residents and others
- Monitored and observed sulfur dioxide concentration, issued advisories and warnings, and improved evacuation systems
- Created a manual and other publications for ensuring safety, distributed them to residents and others, and conducted drills
- Promoted communication with residents and raised risk awareness
- Disseminated knowledge and provided education concerning sulfur dioxide

The "Miyake Village security measures expert council" was also established according to the regulations. The council reviewed the appropriateness of regulations and analyzed results of residents' medical examinations after returning to the island. The results of the analysis obtained by the council confirmed "Standards for sulfur dioxide concentration from the perspective of health effects (Reports from the Miyakejima Island Volcanic Gas Research Panel, March 2003)," and indicated an increase of chronic bronchitis (cough and phlegm that persist for more than 3 months).

First-ever Disaster Measures

Repeated Warnings and Difficulties of Volcanic Gas Measures
Public advisories were issued three times, and advisories and warnings for highly susceptible people were issued nine times within 24 hours after the lifting of the evacuation directive. Since advisories and warnings of the volcanic gas were frequently issued over the community wireless system, residents, who returned to the island, complained that they "could not sleep." Furthermore, few residents actually wore gas masks even when the volcanic gas concentration exceeded the standard level, so the difficulties of the volcanic gas measures were highlighted.

Living with Gas Masks

The village set a regulation stipulating that people should carry gas masks at all times. This regulation is also applied to tourists. Miyakejima Tourism Association and Tokaikei steamship line encourage people to wear gas masks, and also sell or lend them. Other effects concerning gas masks included designing gas masks for children that differ from the type for adults, and putting them into practical use.

High Concentration Areas

High Concentration Areas Suddenly Designated
Living in the high concentration areas had to be restricted in order to lift the evacuation directive. The designation of high concentration areas was made while consulting the experts' meeting on Miyake Village safety measures and comprehensively evaluating Miyake Village gas concentration measurements, landscape, vegetation and other points. An explanatory meeting for local residents was held on December 23, 2004. At this point, details of the regulations were revealed, for example, residents are permitted to enter the high concentration areas for a maximum of 4 hours only for maintenance of houses and farmland, so they cannot operate businesses or cultivate farmland there. In the meeting, there were some residents who were bewildered and expressed their anger, saying, "For what purpose have we maintained houses and stores during the temporary return and stay home project?"

Our Disaster Still Continues

Regulation Details
The administration had no experience dealing with the high concentration areas, which brought up many difficult issues. Especially, the designation of restricted districts in urban areas on the grounds of volcanic gas was accompanied by an unprecedented, strict curtailment of rights. In this sense, people formerly residing in the high concentration areas are still experiencing the disaster even though the evacuation directive has been lifted. The village is also aware of this problem and continues to support those residents, who have faced such great restrictions. Consequently, the following supportive measures were taken for them.
**Volcanic Eruptions on Miyakejima Island in 2000**

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**High Concentration Areas**

High Concentration Areas Suddenly Designated

Living in the high concentration areas had to be restricted in order to lift the evacuation directive. The designation of high concentration areas was made while consulting the experts' meeting on Miyakejima village safety measures and comprehensively evaluating Miyakejima volcanic gas concentration measurements, landscape, vegetation, and other points. An explanatory meeting for local residents was held on December 23, 2004. At this point, details of the regulations were revealed, for example, residents are permitted to enter the high concentration areas for a maximum of 6 hours only for maintenance of houses and farmland, as they cannot operate businesses or cultivate farmland there. In the meeting, there were some residents who were bewildered and expressed their anger, saying, "For what purpose have we maintained houses and stores during the temporary return and stay home project?"

**Our Disaster Still Continues**

Regulation Details

The administration had no experience dealing with the high concentration areas, which brought up many difficult issues. Especially, the designation of restricted districts in urban areas on the grounds of volcanic gas was accompanied by unprecedented, strict curtailment of rights. In this sense, people formerly residing in the high concentration areas are still experiencing the disaster even though the evacuation directive has been lifted. The village is also aware of this problem and continues to support those residents, who have faced such great restrictions. Consequently, the following supportive measures were taken for them:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of High Concentration Area</th>
<th>Expected Population</th>
<th>Characteristics of the Designated Areas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tsugaru High Concentration Area</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. 2 High Concentration Area</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### State of High Concentration Areas

- (Households and population, as of December 2004)
  - Households: 142
  - Population: 453

### Unsurvivable

- The Frequency of Reference of those designated as the undesignated areas after the evacuation directive

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Details of Regulations in High Concentration Areas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Living</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Designated House Maintenance Support Subsidies</td>
<td>Expenditures for repair, deactivation, or total reconstruction of the house</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priority for rehousing to residents in Miyakejima</td>
<td>For residents in Miyakejima who cannot afford to move to the high concentration area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Support for Residents Who Lived in the High Concentration Areas</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distribution of Homes</td>
<td>A predetermined number of homes was distributed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Damaged Houses Maintenance Support Subsidies</td>
<td>Expenditures for repair, deactivation, or total reconstruction of the house</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- After the evacuation directive was lifted, the destroyed damaged houses were removed by the damaged houses and restored with new ones. Support was also given to the residents who were not able to return to the damaged houses and restored were unable to return to their original homes.
**Toward Reconstruction**

**State of Vast Reconstruction**

- **Housing**
  - A total of 216 houses were torn down by the village, including 80 new houses, 54 reconstructed houses, and 72 vacant houses, compelling. People have already moved into the houses.
  - Permanent residents stayed in their rooms until 16 April.

- **Road Construction**
  - The road was partially opened on 4 April, 2007.

- **Schools**
  - The primary school opened on 1 April, 2007.
  - The secondary school opened on 1 April, 2007.

- **Utilities**
  - Power was restored on 1 April, 2007.
  - Water supply was restored on 1 April, 2007.

**State of Visited Reconstruction**

- **Housing**
  - Permanent residents stayed in their rooms until 16 April.

- **Road Construction**
  - The road was partially opened on 4 April, 2007.

- **Schools**
  - The primary school opened on 1 April, 2007.
  - The secondary school opened on 1 April, 2007.

- **Utilities**
  - Power was restored on 1 April, 2007.
  - Water supply was restored on 1 April, 2007.

**State of Established Reconstruction**

- **Housing**
  - Permanent residents stayed in their rooms until 16 April.

- **Road Construction**
  - The road was partially opened on 4 April, 2007.

- **Schools**
  - The primary school opened on 1 April, 2007.
  - The secondary school opened on 1 April, 2007.

- **Utilities**
  - Power was restored on 1 April, 2007.
  - Water supply was restored on 1 April, 2007.

**Entering Full-scale Reconstruction Phase**

Taking Advantage of Blessings of the Volcano

The reconstruction of the island has just begun. The wisdom of many people both on and off the island, and a lot of time are necessary in order to compensate for the four years and five months of the evacuation period to reconstruct the island. The biggest problem is that the population of the island has significantly decreased. Especially, the sharp decrease in young people has had an adverse effect on commercial, and there is a lack of successors in various industries on the island. It is necessary to take advantage of the blessings of the volcano while seeking a way to live with the volcanic gas, which is an unprecedented experience in Japan.

**Hospitality with Thankfulness**

A variety of tourism facilities, such as hot spring facilities, were extensively damaged by the disaster. Although there were 80 accommodations before the disaster, only about half of them have been reopened, and the entire lodging industry has been weakened. In these adverse conditions, reopening the cycling road, "Marine Route 117" and the hot spring, and the success of the motorcycle festival were substantial achievements. It is necessary to engage in tourism with even more hospitality with thankfulness.

**Reopening Air Route**

The air route is essential for tourism and islanders’ lives. Centering on the study group for Miyakojima air and sea routes, which was already founded before the disaster, the islands and village ran a signature campaign and collected about 100,000 signatures from all over the country. Fortunately, the air route is expected to reopen in spring 2008, the third anniversary after their return to the island.

**Conclusion**

Residents on Miyakojima Island have encountered large-scale eruptions, which were entirely different from previous eruptions, and unprecedented woes. We have thought that passing down those valuable lessons is our duty, as we have been supported by many people, and as a consolation to our comrades who died before achieving their goals. Thus we compiled this record of the eruption and disaster. Our editorial policy has been to give (i) a summary indicating the seven years (eruption evacuation return to the island reconstruction) and focus on (ii) activities of the village office, (iii) descriptions of islanders’ thoughts and feelings, and (iv) descriptions of scientific data. We formed the compilation committee, asked for cooperation from the project team of the Tokyo Metropolitan Miyake Branch Office and Research Institute for Social Safety, and completed this record in this year, the 3rd anniversary of returning to the island. There might be inadequate descriptions, but we hope this record will be of help to people. Experiencing this disaster, we have received much support, starting from the national and Tokyo Metropolitan Governments, and spreading across the country. With this aid, we could begin the reconstruction of Miyakojima Island. We sincerely appreciate the support.

Nozomi Kibuidera
Chairperson of the compilation committee

[Image of Miyakojima Island with balloons and people]

[Reference]

- Photo credits: In memory of those who lost their lives in the eruptions.
- The Miyakojima Island Tourism Revitalization Movement
- The Miyake Village Commemoration of the 3rd Anniversary of Returning to the Island
- The Miyakojima Island Tourism Promotion Office
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- The Miyakojima Island Tourism Promotion Office

[Present States of the Island as of April 2007]

- State of Forbidding (Before reconstruction)
- State of Farming (After reconstruction)

[Improvements on Returning to the Island]

- Establishment of the Miyakojima Island Tourism Promotion Office
- Conducted a questionnaire survey for islanders who had returned to the island.
- In April 2007, two years after they returned home from evacuation.

[Photo]

- "Achishima Boys" logo unveiled at the fountain for the first anniversary of returning to the island.
### Toward Reconstruction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>State of Operational Restoration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td><em>A total of 259 houses are being used by the village, including 80 new houses, 54 reconstructed houses and 123 temporary houses. People have moved into the houses.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welfare</td>
<td><em>The fire service, police, and medical care services have been restored.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td><em>A junior high school opened on April 1, 2001, with 25 students attending (as of April 1, 2001).</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entertainment</td>
<td><em>A bowling alley opened on April 1, 2001.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td><em>A fish market has been opened.</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Entering Full-scale Reconstruction Phase

**Taking Advantage of Blessings of the Volcano**

The reconstruction of the island has begun. The wisdom of many people, both on and off the island, has been necessary in order to compensate for the four years and five months of the evacuation period to reconstruct the island. The biggest problem is that the population of the island has significantly decreased. Especially, the sharp decrease in young people has been a severe adverse effect on commercial activities and there is a lack of successors in various industries on the island. It is necessary to take advantage of the blessings of the volcano while seeking a way to live with the volcanic gas, which is an unprecedented phenomenon in Japan.

**Hospitality with Thankfulness**

A variety of tourist facilities, such as hot spring facilities, were extensively damaged by the disaster. Although there were 80 accommodations before the disaster, only about half of them have been reopened, and the entire lodging industry has been weakened. In these adverse conditions, reopening the cycling road race, "Marine Route 21" and festival and hot springs, and the success of the motorcycle festival were substantial achievements. It is necessary to engage in tourism with even more hospitality with thankfulness.

### Conclusion

Residents of Miyakejima Island have encountered large-scale eruptions, which were entirely different from previous eruptions, and unprecedented-scale. We have thought that passing down those valuable lessons is our duty, as we have been supported by many people, and as a consolation to our comrades who died before achieving their goals. Thus, we compiled this record of the eruption and disaster. Our editorial policy has been to give 1) a straightforward indication of 6 years (eruption - evacuation - return to the island - reconstruction) and focus on 2) activities of the village office, 3) descriptions of villagers' thoughts and feelings, and 4) descriptions of scientific data. We formed the compilation committee, asked for cooperation from the project team of the Tokyo Metropolitan Miyake Branch Office and Research Institute for Social Safety, and completed this record in this year, 3rd anniversary of returning to the island. There might be inadequate descriptions, but we hope this record will be of help to people. Experiencing this disaster, we have received much support, starting from the national and Tokyo Metropolitan Governments, and spreading across the country. With this aid, we could begin the reconstruction of Miyakejima Island. We sincerely appreciate the support.

Noboru Kihosaka
Chairperson of the compilation committee

Photo credits: In memory of victims (left) and Chairperson Noboru Kihosaka (right)
### Disaster Chronology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 2000</td>
<td>Volcanic eruption, lava flow damaged houses and infrastructure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 2000</td>
<td>Increase in earthquake activity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 2000</td>
<td>Mudslides triggered by heavy rainfall.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 2000</td>
<td>Volcano observed to be increasing in activity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2000</td>
<td>Further eruptions and evacuations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 2000</td>
<td>Continuous observation and monitoring.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 2000</td>
<td>Continued eruption and lava flow destruction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 2000</td>
<td>Major eruption, thousands evacuated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 2000</td>
<td>Earthquake activity decreases, but continues on smaller scale.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 2000</td>
<td>Mudslides and lahars continue to threaten communities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 2000</td>
<td>Eruption subsides, but monitoring continues.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 2000</td>
<td>Return to normal activity, but community continues to rebuild.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Living with Volcanoes

- **Proactive Measures**
  - Monitoring and early warning systems
  - Evacuation plans and drills
  - Construction of structures withstand volcanic hazards
- **Adaptation Strategies**
  - Traditional knowledge and practices to mitigate risks
  - Community involvement in disaster management
  - Diversification of livelihoods to reduce vulnerability
- **Resilience Building**
  - Education on volcanic hazards
  - Psychological support and community mobilization
- **Institutional Support**
  - Government agencies and NGOs involved in relief and reconstruction
  - International cooperation for technical assistance

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For detailed information on each event, please refer to the full report available online.
Map of Miyakejima Island

Living on a volcanic island

In the violent eruption of 1983, a lava flow hit the largest village of Ako District, and 600 people lost their homes.

Shinmo-ike Pond was created from an eruption in 1783, which had water in the eruptive crater. However, in 1983, the volcano erupted again. At the same time, there was a phreatomagmatic explosion which blew the pond away instantly. (Right photograph)
Map of Miyakejima Island
Living on a volcanic island

In the violent eruption of 1983, a lava flow hit the largest village of Ako District, and scores of approximately 40 residents.

Shinmyoike Pond was created from an eruption in 1763, which had water in the eruptive crater. However, in 1983, the volcano erupted again. At the same time, there was a phreatomagmatic explosion which blew the pond away instantly. (Right photograph)
Information of Miyakejima Island

Regular Events

Every year on Miyakejima Island, a number of events are held for the enjoyment of both residents and visitors in honor of the island’s nature and landscape, and to pass on Miyakejima Island’s culture.

January 2
Boat Festival

A festival of prayer for a year of bountiful catches and safe voyages in the coastal waters of Miyakejima Island. Fishermen prepare and offer food to the sea gods, as dancers dressed as sea gods and goddesses perform as part of the ceremony. The festival ends with a boat race between two groups of fishermen, and is followed by a traditional dance and singing performance.

January 8
Goai Shrine Grand Festival

Sacred Kagura music and dancing accompanied by a drum played in front of the sea. The Kagura uses dancers dancing with masks and wooden masks played by the “Ohm no Tokei,” the spirits of the town. The dance is held to pray for a bountiful harvest and clean sea.

Early June
Bicycle Race

Bicycle races were held on Miyakejima Island until the seven volcanic eruptions in 2000, but after the disaster, they started again in 2007. As part of the festival events, bicyclists will be able to take part in a variety of races including road and category races.

October-November
Gozu Tenno Festival

The festival, consisting of the Gokoku Festival, is the festival of the Onshu Shrine in the Kamigou District. The festival parade is composed of thirteen traditional elements, such as dancing, drumming, and traditional dances. The festival is celebrated to pray for a bountiful harvest, good fortune, and the health of the community.

November
Motorcycle Festival

The Motorcycle Festival was first held in 2007 on Miyakejima Island. It is a fun and exciting event for all Motorcycle enthusiasts.

The Year 2000
Record of Disastrous Eruptions on Miyakejima Island/Overview

Volcanic Eruptions on Miyakejima Island in 2000

Living with Volcanoes

The festival is celebrated throughout the island every other year. The Toga Shrine Grand Festival is considered to be one of the most important festivals in Japan, attracting visitors from all over the world.

Toga Shrine Grand Festival

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Surf Fishing Festival

A big fishing event attracting keen anglers from the island itself and further afield. Competition is divided into four age groups: (1) inexperienced or novice, (2) intermediate, (3) advanced, and (4) expert. The highest placing anglers in each group are commended in a ceremony at a venue near the island.

February, 2008 Miyakejima Island, Tokyo