

Activities of Subcommittee on Social Contribution to Earth and Planetary Science

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As issues related to the relationship between the Earth and human society, such as the environment, resources, energy, and natural disasters, have become increasingly apparent and global in scale, the Subcommittee on Social Contribution to Earth and Planetary Science has been established under the Earth and Planetary Science Committee. In its 25th term, the Subcommittee issued an Advisory Opinion "Proposals from Academia for More Resilient Nuclear Disaster Countermeasures - It is Time to Promote Effective Use of Prediction of Radioactive Material Dispersion". This opinion urges the government and the Nuclear Regulation Authority (NRA) to utilize numerical simulations in addition to monitoring data as protective measures against the spread of radioactive materials, to revise the "Guidelines for Nuclear Emergency Preparedness" to meet the needs of local governments, and for the NRA to make full use of the capabilities of scientists and experts, and that the national government, local governments, scientists, and citizens should cooperate with each other. In addition, this subcommittee, together with the subcommittees on IRDR (Integrated Research on Disaster Reduction) and on Advanced Infrastructure, both under Committee on Civil Engineering and Architecture, jointly issued the recommendation, "Transforming Society to Become Resilience and Sustainable beyond Catastrophic Disasters". Regarding this proposal, an international conference on science and technology for a sustainable society was also held in September 2023.

In the 26th period, we will engage in overarching discussions with committee members from other fields on the above-mentioned views on radioactive material diffusion forecasting, and explore measures to lead to joint symposiums and expression of will. In addition, we will discuss what kind of information Earth and planetary science should disseminate to society in times of crisis, such as nuclear disasters and volcanic eruptions, and summarize specific measures in the form of opinions and other documents. For this purpose, about one-third of the 30 members of the subcommittee are from other fields such as engineering, sociology, and medicine.

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