

New high school compulsory subjects "Chiri-sougou (Comprehensive geography)" : Possibility to promote disaster education

*Shintaro Hayashi¹

1. Akita University Graduate School of Education

A new subject "Comprehensive geography (Chiri-sougou)" is implemented in high school from 2022. "Comprehensive geography" may be a powerful tailwind for promotion of disaster education. Because

- 1) "Comprehensive geography" is a compulsory course to be taken by most high school students.
- 2) Learning about disasters is a big part.

Disaster-related officials, such as related organizations and departments of the country and the prefecture, researchers involved in disaster prevention education, NPO corporations, Geopark, etc., need to make sufficient preparations, such as contacting the high school side and discussing. If you do so, there is a possibility that you can greatly contribute to the dissemination of disaster prevention education by taking advantage of this new subject.

"Comprehensive geography" is a compulsory subject: High school "Geography comprehensive" is a compulsory subject to be implemented from 2022. It is indicated in the curriculum guidelines published by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology in 2018, and the textbook preparation work is ongoing. Almost all high school students will be taking classes from 2022.

Since the 1970's, geography subjects have been taken as non-compulsory courses. The revision of this time has resulted in a great increase in the weight of geography subjects.

Learning about disasters is the main contents of "Comprehensive geography": contents of "Comprehensive geography" can be roughly divided into three - "contemporary world thought in maps and geographical information systems" "international understanding and international cooperation" "sustainable regional creation".

"Sustainable community development" is further divided into "natural environment and disaster prevention", "research on living area and regional perspective". "Natural environment and disaster prevention" is to acquire knowledge about preparation and response to natural disasters, to undertake task exploration activities, and to acquire skills to read hazard maps and topographic maps.

However, the high school does not have enough resources to conduct the lesson of the natural disaster part of the new subject "Comprehensive geography". In high school there is a shortage of teaching materials and lessons for compulsory conversion of "Comprehensive geography". Educational materials necessary for implementation of "Comprehensive geography" are knowledge of various disasters, knowledge about disasters in the area, learning materials such as hazard maps, and so on. In addition, disaster prevention personnel can also be involved in "Comprehensive geography" as a lesson. Both materials can be provided to the high school side by disaster prevention related institutions.

Teaching Materials Required for "Comprehensive geography" Implementation: "Comprehensive geography" requires two kinds of teaching materials.

- 1) Materials concerning disasters in the region: Natural disasters occurred in the area in the past and materials on preparation for disaster are necessary. Materials on historical disasters are particularly important. Also, hazard maps and topographic maps are essential learning materials. Also, in "comprehensive geography", high school students will learn about either earthquakes, tsunami, weather disasters, or volcanic disasters.
- 2) Exploratory learning on disasters is based on "Regarding disaster prevention based on regional

characteristics, pay attention to relationships with nature and social conditions, common points and differences in areas, creating a sustainable community, It is multifaceted and multilateral consideration and expression for preparation and response to natural disasters (literal translation) ". Disaster prevention related organizations can provide materials for exploration. Disaster prevention related institutions themselves are also materials of explorative learning.

In this way, the new subject "Comprehensive geography" opened in high school from 2022 is highly likely to be a powerful tailwind for promoting disaster education education, People involved in disaster prevention need to participate in "comprehensive geography" classes.

Keywords: Comprehensive geography, Disaster education, Curriculum guidelines published by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology in 2018