

New high-school compulsory subject “General Geography” and related cooperation of geographers and earth scientists for human resource development

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In Japanese senior high schools, a new subject “General Geography” will be compulsory from the 2022 fiscal year. Although this subject belongs to a section of social sciences under the official education system, it puts emphasis on some physical sides of geosciences such as natural hazards, global environmental problems, and applications of digital data using GIS. Therefore, the new subject will contribute to education and human resource development in not only geography but also broader geosciences. To facilitate this, geographers and geoscientists belonging to the Japan Geoscience Union as well as some committees and subcommittees of Science Council of Japan should cooperate, as is the case with a recently established SCJ subcommittee for high-school education in geosciences and geography.

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