

Variation of snow in the Japanese Alps

*Keisuke Suzuki¹

1. Research Center for Mountain Environment, Shinshu University

The Japanese Alps experience exceptionally heavy snowfall, extreme even by global standards, and in spring and summer the melting snow becomes a valuable water resource. The snow effectively acts as a natural dam when it accumulates in watersheds during winter. However, there have been no observations of the amount of snow in high-altitude regions of Japan. Therefore, we cannot discuss the effect of global warming on the change in the amount of snow in these regions based on direct observation data. A network of meteorological observatories has been developed by Shinshu University in the Japanese Alps, which have already started recording observations. In this study, we will discuss the temporal and spatial variability of the snow depth in the Japanese Alps.

Keywords: alpine region, snow fall, snow depth