

Reviewing Muroto High School Evacuation Management Manual –Investigation on Natural Environment around the Evacuation Site–

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This research examines whether school facilities can work appropriately as an evacuation shelter expected by the “Evacuation Management Manual” developed by Kochi Prefectural Muroto High School.

Muroto High School has a North Building with mainly regular classrooms, South Building with specific classrooms, and the gym/field on its campus. According to the Manual, when an earthquake occurs, most of the classrooms and school facilities will be open for evacuees and a headquarter for disaster control. However, several cracks on the wall have been already found in some classrooms. The area would experience several aftershocks even after the main earthquake. It is not sure whether the school building can survive the shakes.

The Manual decides on an expected capacity for each classroom but it does not include desks and chairs in the class. It moreover does not say that those classroom items can be stored or not.

Geological and geographical environment surrounding the school would be a problem. A hazard map made by Kochi Prefecture says that the location of the school is labeled as a “liquefiable site.” The hazard map also published by the prefecture warns of landslide disasters behind the gym which was appointed as the first evacuation place for school students. We should also consider the river flooding affecting the school evacuation management.

It is not realistic for this research to conclude that “Muroto High School is not suitable for the evacuation shelter” because of the above geological/geographical environment. Kochi prefecture, Muroto City, and Muroto High School have worked together to make an evacuation management. This research, therefore, investigates which school facilities can be used as evacuation shelter safely, and what measures should be taken for safety evacuation management cooperated with Muroto City Disaster Reduction Division and Muroto Geopark Promotion Committee.

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