

Aims and Scope for Collecting Historical Records of Rare Natural Phenomena

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The disastrous earthquake with huge tsunamis that took place on December 26, 2004 near Sumatra made us recognize that Asian countries facing the Pacific coast are inevitably connected each other through geophysical processes. Since such a tragic earthquake as this time is very rare, occurring probably less frequently than once every century, it is hard to study it with efforts by a single generation or a single country. In order to clarify the essential nature of those rare events, we have to collect and catalog historical records of such kinds covering a long period of time over relating multiple counties. Therefore, there are good reasons to compile inventories of those historical records under organized collaborations.

Researches of hazardous phenomena like earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, droughts, and typhoons are crucial from viewpoints of both sciences and the social security. However, studies of non-hazardous rare phenomena, such as astronomical and meteorological ones, auroras, ocean currents, and phonological events are also equally important in understanding the overall long-term cosmo-geodynamic behavior of the Pan-pacific and Asian areas as a complex system. With those background and aims in mind, we will also discuss, in this introductory talk, the scope of this proposed project, and a strategic guideline for archiving such historical materials.