Attachment 5

**Comments on the survey results for Nishinoshima Island (from Professor Setsuya Nakada, Earthquake Research Institute, The University of Tokyo)**

As a result of the decrease in new lava flowing into the ocean, the land area is believed to have decreased since the amount of erosion caused by waves was greater than the land area created by the new lava.

The increase of volume above sea level is believed to be the result of the increased thickness of lava etc., due to the rise in viscosity caused by the lava's decreasing effusion rate, and the lava did not flow down to the shores through lava tubes (hardened lava surfaces inside of which lava flows for long distances and becomes hollow after activity stops), but flowed only on the ground surfaces.

It is believed that the elevation of the highest point dropped due to the widening of the crater opening, as eruptions became more explosive as a result of the rise in viscosity.

According to satellite infrared image analysis at the Earthquake Research Institute of the University of Tokyo, calorific values have been gradually decreasing since the end of September, and were nearly close to the values of the background at the beginning of December. This matches the surveying results (decrease in exit velocity) of the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan (GSI).

As well, Professor Setsuya Nakada serves as the Leader of The Nishinoshima General Observation Team, Coordinating Committee for the Prediction of Volcanic Eruption, the Japan Meteorological Agency.