

Geothermal Energy Information Research Center

Japan is located in one of the world's major volcanic zones. There are many volcanoes throughout the country and therefore considerable geothermal energy potential below the surface. While the reserves of these geothermal energy resources vary from region to region, it is expected that this sustainable and stable source of energy can be harnessed through development and utilization that is adapted to the specific locality.

Geothermal energy is utilized not only for electricity generation using steam generators, but also for general heating and cooling, hot water supply, greenhouse horticulture, the melting of snow, and hothouse cultivation using the excess steam or hot water from electric power plants and hot springs. Recently, making use of the fact that the underground temperatures near the surface are relatively stable all year round, in summer the hot air from the interior of houses is discharged to the underground mass while in winter the warm underground mass can be used for cooling or heating houses and schools or for melting snow in snowy regions. In future, geothermal energy is expected to contribute to improvements in the lives and welfare of local residents and to the development of local industries as well as to protection of the global environment through the expansion of geothermal electric power generation as well as the direct use of hot water and the use of the heat of the rock below the surface in order to meet the electricity and heat demands of the locality.

The Geothermal Energy Information Research Center carries out the following activities in order to promote the development and utilization of environment-friendly geothermal energy.

Compilation of a Geothermal Energy Database

In order to promote the use of geothermal energy, a basic database has been developed concerning geothermal electric power generation as well as the direct use of geothermal heat and underground heat within a certain depth. This basic database has primarily been compiled based on the results of questionnaire surveys and other means and will therefore continue to be supplemented and maintained. The utilization of the database is monitored and analyzed so that the users and others concerned can make better use of the records.

Organization of Lecture Meetings (Seminar)

In order to contribute to the nurturing of those involved in the development and utilization of geothermal energy and for the improvement of their abilities, lecture meetings (Seminar) are organized for both general users and experts.

Information Provision through Publications

Information is provided to those concerned through various guidebooks on the development and utilization of geothermal technologies and the publication of promotional pamphlets on trends in the development and use of geothermal energy.



Tohoku-Electric Power Co., Inc. Sumikawa Geothermal Power Plant (50MW)

Multipurpose utilization of geothermal energy

