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## **Encountering the May 29, 2015 eruption of Kuchinoerabujima volcano, southern Kyushu Japan**

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Kuchinoerabujima, a volcanic island located at southern Kyushu, Japan erupted on 29 May 2015. The eruption was witnessed at Maeda district, 2.4km to the NW of the active cone Shindake. A dark ash-laden plume was vigorously ejected from the summit crater and a pyroclastic flow passed right in front of JMA observation team toward the coast of Mukae-hama. The pyroclastic deposit that was accumulated at Maeda was dry, fine-grained ash with ordinary temperature. The volcano had gradually increased its activity since 1999. After several inflation episodes with a slight increase in SO<sub>2</sub> emission, the volcano erupted on 3 August 2014 after 24 years dormancy. The precursor was only a rapid summit inflation that began at about one hour before the eruption. A tiltmeter installed near the summit by Kyoto University detected the signal. JMA dispatched observation team to the volcano in late-March 2015. As a magnitude 2.3 earthquake hit the island on 23 May 2015, JMA team explained the residents in the evening about the critical status of the volcano where an eruption might be imminent. Subsequently, the quantity of plume was decreasing day by day. JMA team explained the residents who also noticed the decrease that it may be another precursor for impending eruption. Consequently, the human damage due to the May 29 eruption was limited to one resident who got burned at Mukae-hama where the center of the pyroclastic flow passed. The lessons we learned from these eruptions are as follows: (1) The observation near the active crater is extremely important and indispensable to detect subtle precursory signals. (2) The role of dispatched team is not only executing in-situ observation but also making face to face communication with local residents through the support of local authorities.