Concerning new land formation/expansion due to eruption in open sea around Nishinoshima Island

(6th report)

On November 20th, 2013, new island formation was confirmed on the sea approximately 500m southeast from Nishinoshima Island, and subsequently eruption continued, with the new island connecting to Nishinoshima Island and island expansion continuing.

Topographic interpretation maps were created by interpreting aerial photographs taken on December 10th by "Kunikaze III". Facts established by means of topographic interpretation are as follows.

1. Expansion of island area

Island area has expanded mainly from lava flow in north and northeast directions, with most of the former island covered by this new lava flow. The scale of the lava flow to the north is particularly large.

2. Growth of pyroclastic cone

As of July 4th, of the two pyroclastic cones, the pyroclastic cone on the north side was growing both in terms of height and size, and while the pyroclastic cone on the south side was becoming buried.

3. Erosion of front edge of lava flow and formation of reef

The lava flowing into the sea is being eroded by waves, and lava pieces, etc. are being deposited in indentations, forming sandbar.

4. Formation of lava dome

It has been interpreted that a very small lava dome (Attachment 5-1: [1]) has formed in the eastern part of pyroclastic cone (around the area shown as "East side crater" in Japan Coast Guard press release (dated August 27th, 2014)). In Attachment 5-1, this is shown as "Crater/lava eruption opening".