

Geological Evolution of the Canary Islands

Hans-Ulrich Schmincke – Mari Sumita
Geological Evolution of the Canary Islands
A Young Volcanic Archipelago Adjacent to the Old African Continent
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Hans-Ulrich Schmincke has been working on the Canary Islands since 1965. He supervised some 15 PhD and several MA students working mainly on Gran Canaria but also La Palma and Tenerife and on the seismic structure and morphology of the sea floor. Schmincke led two FS METEOR research cruises to the Canary Islands in 1993 and 1998 and a drilling campaign into the volcanic apron of Gran Canaria in 1994 (ODP Leg 157) following his move to Geomar Marine Research center (Kiel University) in 1990 where he built up and headed the department of Volcanology and Petrology until his retirement in 2003. He is the author of several books including Pyroclastic Rocks (with RV Fisher) (1984) and Volcanism (2004). He continues research and also supervises students.

Mari Sumita received her PhD on the evolution of Kutcharo Caldera (Hokkaido) at Nihon University (Tokyo) (1990) and worked on several active volcanoes in Japan including Unzen (1991). She moved permanently to IFM-GEOMAR Research Center for Marine Sciences in 1993 and participated in research cruises of FS METEOR and ODP Leg 157. Recently she has worked on historic and Pleistocene volcanism in Mexico and eastern Anatolia apart from continuing work on the ignimbrites from Gran Canaria and Leg 157 cores. She translated the book Volcanism (2004) into Japanese (with Y Nishimura). Geological Evolution of the Canary Islands

This book provides a brief summary of the volcanic evolution of the Canary Islands with emphasis on Gran Canaria. The Canary Islands are one of the major and geologically most diverse and fascinating chains of oceanic islands. Towering Pico de Teide (3718 m asl) is the third highest volcano in the oceans. Major highlights include the impressive sector collapses that have left huge scars in the flanks especially of the younger islands Tenerife, El Hierro and La Palma. Huge debris avalanche deposits of collapse origin dominate the highlands of Gran Canaria including Roque Nublo monolith, the morphological landmark of the island. Deposits of pyroclastic flows mantle the southern flank of Tenerife and make up the colorful coast of Gran Canaria, both areas surrounding major tourist centers and thus easily accessible.