Gorely volcano (Southern Kamchatka) - petrochemical characteristics of magmatic evolutional series

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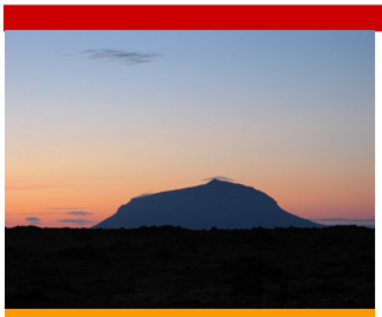
Gorely volcano is the largest eruptive center in Southern Kamchatka. It's comprised of three structural units: Pra-Gorely volcano; thick ignimbrite complex, associated with caldera forming eruption; modern edifice named 'Young Gorely'. Geochemical studies have been conducted on all structural units of the Gorely volcanic edifice to determine their genetic conditions.

After geochemical analysis two evolution series were found. First, Pra-Gorely volcano is represented by suite of compositions ranging from basalt to rhyolite. Second, Young Gorely edifice is composed of only basalt, andesite and dacite. The reconstruction of chemical evolution trends shows that both volcanic series of Gorely volcano share the same genetic history with similar evolutionary stages. We suggest fractionation of an upper mantle peridotite as common means to produce both volcanic series as a result of which the evolution of all rocks was generated.

The magmatic series of Pra-Gorely and Young Gorely volcanoes were formed under different geodynamic conditions. Between these two series was a powerful stage of caldera formation, during which 100 km^3 of ignimbrites were emplaced. The 12-km diameter caldera collapse was the catalyst for large-scale reorganization of the volcanic feeding system. Nevertheless following caldera collapse, Young Gorely volcano was formed by activity inside the caldera and shows very similar evolutionary trends to that of Pra-Gorely volcano. It can be confidently stated that crustal components are practically absent in the evolution of the series, and the compositional range is attributed directly to the evolution of the magmatic melts of Gorely volcano.

Microprobe analyses conducted on olivine and pyroxene phenocrysts of Gorely volcano lavas, show that there were at least two stages of crystallization during the evolution of magmatic melt. The two-stage character of initial magmatic melt evolution is confirmed by computer simulation results. The first stage is characterized by comparatively high pressures, which corresponds to formation at depth and low rates of oxygen fugacity. In contrast, the magmatic evolution of the second stage occurred in near-surface conditions with high rates of oxygen fugacity. The existing of this stage of crystallization testifies to shallow magmatic chamber presence which is responsible for generation of caldera and thick ignimbrite complex.



17 - 22 August 2008

UNDERSTANDING VOLCANOES

IAVCEI 2008

International Association of Volcanology and Chemistry of the Earth´s Interior

General Assembly

Reykjavík, Iceland

Abstracts: Oral Presentations: THURSDAY