Avalanche Education Based on the Information-Sharing Concept at Japan Avalanche Network

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Japan Avalanche Network (JAN) is a non-profit organization founded in 2000 for the purpose of avalanche education and information sharing. In Japan, unlike in Europe and North America, there is no public avalanche information and no avalanche forecaster. And the standards of the mountain guiding and ski patrols, who are supposed to have specialized skills and knowledge, lag behind those in North America due to the problems with the education system. In these situations, JAN has been seeking the way how to educate mountain guides and recreational users engaged in backcountry activities, to share mountain snowpack information and to develop a system helpful for those guides and users. We report JAN's eight-year efforts.