

Seismic quiescence occurring in the anticipated focal region of the Tokai earthquake

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Seismic activity has decreased remarkably in the anticipated focal region of the Tokai earthquake since last summer. The decrease of seismicity is recognized for small earthquakes with magnitude 2 or less. Conspicuous seismic quiescence was observed during the period 1988-89 in the Tokai region. The on-going quiescence seems, however, to differ from that in the points that it is observed for smaller earthquakes and it is most distinct in the region around Omaezaki Point. We think it is necessary to take into consideration seismicity change in longer time periods and in wider areas to understand the tectonic meaning of the quiescence.