

## Seismology vs earthquake and tsunami disaster mitigation

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Earthquakes and tsunamis are natural hazards. Seismology as a means to study these hazards is therefore not a pure science, and those who investigate them, such as seismologists, are closely related to society, whether they like it or not. We should look back, for example, to see whether earthquakes and tsunamis are just used as data to construct physical models, whether our research products are really useful for disaster mitigation, or whether "disaster prevention" is only exploited to ensure research budgets. As for disaster prevention, more effort should be directed to understand the effects of the possible largest earthquakes and tsunamis in each area, rather than publish the probability of occurrence of an earthquake. Furthermore, in order to make a better contribution to society, it would be important to learn from the ideas and methods of historical science and earthquake engineering. Here, we are going to discuss how seismological knowledge can contribute to society. We will present the summary of discussions held at the Special Session of the Seismological Society of Japan in November 2011 in Shizuoka. We will also introduce the contents of papers dealing with the future direction of seismology to be published in a topical volume of the Society.

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