

Evolution history of the Philippine Sea - Results of Continental Shelf Survey Program of JHD -

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The Hydrographic Department of Japan has conducted the geological and geophysical survey of the Philippine Sea since 1983. We here compile the bathymetry and magnetic anomalies and focus on the structure and the evolution process of the marginal basins in the area. Shikoku and Parece Vela Basins were developed as one backarc system in the later phase of their formation, but the significant difference are recognized near the extinct spreading centers. The steep Oki-Daito Escarpment located in the northern West Philippine Basin is mapped for the first time. The N-S trending spreading fabric north of the escarpment is in striking contrast to the NW-SE to E-W lineament in the south. The data reveal more complicated history of the western Philippine Sea than that proposed by previous studies.