

Comparison of western Taiwan with the Nankai trough region in southwest Japan - similarity and difference

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Western Taiwan is characterized by the geologic structure with a depositional basin, frontal thrust and its eastward bend or branching. This structure is correlative with a mirror image of the structure characterizing the source areas of great earthquakes along the Nankai trough. This fact indicates that the two regions are controlled by the same tectonics, low-angle oblique subduction, and their mirror-image relation reflects a left oblique subduction (western Taiwan) and a right oblique one (Nankai trough). E-W trending faults or folds representing segment boundaries of west Taiwan are not so prominent as equivalent ones along the Nankai trough. Therefore the maturity of the segmentation of west Taiwan is considered to be low as compared with that of the Nankai trough region.