

Characteristics of seismicity change seen by earthquakes with M5 or larger in and around the Japanese islands since 1926

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We investigated change in seismicity in and around the Japanese islands during the period from 1926 through 2000. The cumulative curve for earthquakes with M5 or larger shows a constant rate of the occurrence concerning the whole region. The cumulative curve in each district, however, indicates that the activity has not been constant during the period. We especially note the change in seismicity in mid 1950s in the Kanto region and the general trend of the activity to decrease in the off-Sanriku region. We think it is important to consider its tectonic background for each respective region, when we find change of seismic activity.