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Seismic and volcanic activity in Korea and recent tectonics of China-Korea-Japan

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Present volcanic and seismic activity in Korea seems low. Historically, however, intense seismic activity occurred from 15 to 18 including some strong earthquakes that caused significant damage. Also, the last remarkable volcanism in Jeju island took place at around AD1000 and in Mt.Baugdoo at around AD1700. Recent heat flow observation has revealed significantly high value regions as high as about 100 mW per square meters in central and south-east Korea. In the latter region, Quaternary fault activity is conspicuous as well as active faults. From these features, we postulate that mantle activity of Korea is high and this region shows hot region or rift type tectonics, which might be related to the mantle upwelling expected at the western part of Kyushu.