

## Change in the scheme of interplate coupling in the Tokai region in recent years

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Remarkable crustal deformation was observed in the Kanto and Tokai regions at the time of the 2000 volcano-seismic event in the northern Izu islands. Further, it is seen that spatial pattern of the crustal deformation in the Tokai region has changed noticeably after the event. Although many researchers have been concentrating their attention to a slow-slip event that has begun on the plate boundary beneath near Lake Hamana in early 2001 and is still going on, it seems that it is only a part of changes that occurred in a much broader region after the 2000 volcano-seismic event. For example, it is to be noted that a significant change in the trend of deformation was observed in an extended area from the Izu Peninsula to Ise Bay. We would like to point out that changes in the pattern of crustal deformation have occurred several times since the 2000 Izu event, i.e., in the falls of 2000 and 2001, and in the early summer of 2002. It is interesting to note that almost coincidentally with those changes, increase or decrease of seismic activity in the slab in the Tokai region have been observed. We think all these features indicate that the scheme of interaction between the Philippine Sea plate, the Izu microplate and the Eurasian plate, or mechanical condition between these plates, has changed after the 2000 volcano-seismic event.