

# Seismic and crustal deformation observations in Japan after the 1995 Southern Hyogo earthquake

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The 1995 M7.2 Southern Hyogo earthquake affected the structure for nationwide seismic and crustal deformation observations in Japan. In the wake of this earthquake, the Headquarters for Earthquake Research Promotion was established under the Prime Minister's Office. Its establishment was based on the Special Measure Law on Earthquake Disaster Prevention, which was implemented on July 18, 1995. Under this legislation, Fundamental Seismic Survey and Observation Plan was formed in 1996, and the Fundamental Seismic and GPS Observation Networks were constructed on a nation wide scale. Now the number of stations in the whole Japan amounts to 1253 high-sensitive seismographs, 112 broadband seismographs, 2406 strong motion seismographs, and 1456 GPS continuous observation facilities. For the advancement of the earthquake prediction research, it is essential to understand the whole processes in the Earth's crust leading to large earthquakes; the Fundamental Observation Networks have been playing a significant role in this purpose and also in monitoring crustal movements and earthquakes. The intensive seismic survey and observation in the areas with a high possibility of large earthquakes is proceeding now, and monitoring of crustal movements and earthquakes is expected to play an increasingly important role.