

## Unusual conditions of crustal movements clarified in the central part of Kinki district

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The crustal movement records obtained at plural observatories distributed in the central part of Kinki district show that from the beginning of 2003 the contraction rate in the direction of north and south is increasing. An anomalous change of an underground water level was observed simultaneously. Moreover, at the Osakayama observatory sudden changes in the underground water level were recorded on September 23 2004 and on January 29 2005. In the past, most cases of such water level changes preceded earthquakes occurred in the vicinity of the Osakayama observatory. We consider that these unusual phenomena may be a precursor of an earthquake.