

**Historical earthquakes in and around the Hokkaido-special reference to the Ainu oral traditions and historical records-**

# Tadafumi Niizato[1]; Kiyoyuki Shigeno[2]; Yasuhiro Takashimizu[3]

[1] JAEA; [2] Meiji C; [3] Dep. Env. Geol., Geol. Sur. Hokkaido

<http://www.jaea.go.jp>

Ainu oral traditions and historical records on earthquake events in the Ainu Cultural period were investigated, and the reliability of occurrence of the past earthquake events in Hokkaido was examined. As a result of investigation, 28 oral traditions and historical records were collected from the Ainu-related literatures. Based on the examination, we interpreted 23 traditions and records as results of past earthquakes, and the others were not related to earthquakes. It is inferred that earthquakes hit Hokkaido were mainly distributed around the Pacific coastal area during the Ainu Cultural period and the previous period. Those areas are adjacent to the seismically active area at present in and around the Hokkaido.

Given that the Ainu Cultural period is 12th to the late 19th centuries, it is reasonable to suppose that there's been no change in the seismically active area during the past 700 years. Thus, it may be presumed that distribution of earthquakes in the future 700 years is same as that of present-day earthquakes based on the extrapolation method.