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A discussion on the regional migration of plutonism during Cretaceous to Paleogene in the Chugoku district, SW Japan

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Previous field studies revealed that the Hiroshima granite intruded mostly along S to SW dipping low-angle thrust faults, and the older Ryoke granite also thrust up partly on the Hiroshima granite from the south. Field occurrences of the granitic rocks in the central San-in belt also suggest that they intruded mostly along sinistral shear faults or thrust faults. The field evidence above indicates that their intrusive structure was basically formed under N-S to NE-SW compressional stress fields. The compressional stress fields would be caused by not plate subduction but back-arc spreading such as the activity of the Gyeongsang system of the SE Korean peninsula. The thick Shimanto accretionary complex formed concurrently with the granitic rocks would act a role of a back stop for the crust of the inner zone, and faulting regions moved gradually from the vicinity of the back stop to the back-arc side, resulting in the regional migration of plutonism.