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15 years since the Hyogoken Nambu (Kobe) Earthquake: purpose of the session

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15 years have passed since the Hyogoken Nambu (Kobe) Earthquake which killed more than 6400 persons. The impact of the earthquake dramatically changed the image of earthquakes and those disasters. Before the earthquake, existence of active faults was not so commonly known, and a misunderstanding that Kansan area was safe for earthquake disaster was believed. The earthquake, however, let us know the existence of active faults, even at the urban area, around all over Japan, and the collapsed houses changed our image of the ground motion at large earthquakes.

Government police was also changed. The Headquarter of Earthquake Research Promotion, founded on the basis of the Special Measure Law on Earthquake Disaster Prevention, has strongly promoted the observation and research of earthquakes. Investigation of major 98 active faults and the prediction of strong ground motion have been conducted, and those results were compiled and published as National Seismic Hazard map of Japan. Establishment of earthquake observation network, survey of active faults and research of strong ground motion have been promoted. Since then, some inland earthquakes occurred in Japan, such as the 2004 Mid Niigata earthquakes and the 2008 Iwate Miyagi Nairiku Earthquake. How have we made use of the lesson of the Hyogoken Nambu (Kobe) Earthquake for the inland earthquakes? What are new tasks to be solve? And how do we solve them? Based on the background, this session, "15 years since the Hyogoken Nambu (Kobe) Earthquake" is proposed from strong ground motion committee of Japan Seismological Society and Japanese Society for active faults studies.

On following issues, invited lectures are planned; how has national government promoted the investigation and research? What is current situation of research of active faults ?, strong ground motion?, earthquake information?, earthquake observation network?, and kinematics of faults? And activity of outreach will be also reviewed.

In this session, we will discuss on the lesson from the earthquake, development of researches of recent 15 years, and future prospects.

Keywords: Hyogoken Nambu Earthquake, Kobe Earthquake, 15years, active faults, strong ground motion, outreach