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Recent seismic activity and crustal movement in the Tokai area

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Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) regularly holds the meeting composed of members of " Earthquake Assessment Committee for Areas under Intensified Measures against Earthquake Disasters" and evaluates the current seismic activity and crustal movement every month. We report the recent crustal activity in the Tokai area, mainly using conference material of JMA. The followings are as of January 2010.

The seismic activity (M>1.1, by declustered data) in the crust of the Eurasian plate beneath the Midwestern Shizuoka Prefecture were "active" until the middle of 2000, were "quiescent" until the middle of 2005 and after that, were "active" again. The "quiescent" period corresponded to the period of the long-term slow slip event around Lake Hamanako. Moreover, the recent active area was the upper wall of the western land area of the assumed source region of the future Tokai earthquake. In the small cluster including the M4.3 event occurred 1 June 2007 and in another small cluster including the M4.2 event occurred 27 January 2008, JMA did not observe any earthquakes before the seismic activities. Furthermore, the seismic activity (M>1.1, by declustered data) in the Philippine Sea slab around Lake Hamanako were recently "quiescent". In the other areas, the seismic activities were normal.

References: JMA Home Page (http://www.jma.go.jp/jma/press/hantei.html).

Keywords: Tokai earthquake, seismic activity, crustal movement, Earthquake Assessment Committee