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Linear Array Seismic Observation in Kii Peninsula and Receiver Function Imaging

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Philippine Sea Plate is subducting beneath the southwest Japan arc from the Nankai Trough. This causes megathrust earthquakes in the subduction zone. The latest events along the Nankai Trough are Showa Tonankai Earthquake (M7.9) in 1944 and Showa Nankai Earthquake (M8.0) in 1946. The next event is predicted to occur in 2030 - 2036 (Earthquake Research Committee, 2001). It is thought that the surrounding area of the southern edge of Kii Peninsula is most likely to be a rupture starting point of the megathrust events as it was in the Showa events. At the same time, the Kii Peninsula is a region through which hazardous seismic waves propagate from the megaquakes to large cities such as Osaka, Kyoto and Nara. The purpose of this study is to estimate structure of seismic velocity discontinuities, especially



Figure 1. Distribution of linear array seismic stations (+). Blue crosses indicate the stations at which the observation have already completed. Red crosses denote the stations which were deployed in 2009 and will be carried on for two years. Green crosses are permanent stations.

slab configurations beneath the Kii Peninsula. This is very important to upgrade the ways of predicting megaquake generations and strong motions caused by the events.

We have carried out linear array seismic observations in the Kii Peninsula since 2004. We deploy temporary seismic stations in the vicinity of profile lines with an average spacing of ~5 km and a length greater than 80 km (Fig. 1). We obtain images of seismic velocity discontinuities beneath the Kii Peninsula by using a receiver function analysis with teleseismic waveforms, and estimate structure of the subducting slab and the surrounding regions in detail. We have completed the observations and analyses for three profiles in the subduction direction (Shiono Cape - Tajiri Line AA', Shingu - Kawachi-nagano Line BB', Owase - Kyotango Line CC') so far. As a result, the upper surface of the low velocity oceanic crust (the upper surface of the Philippine Sea slab), the oceanic Moho in the slab and the continental Moho in the arc side were clearly imaged. Furthermore, strong low velocity anomalies were found in the vicinity of the slab in the generating area of the deep low frequency events and widely in the mantle wedge in the arc side. We redeployed temporary stations along two new profile lines in March 2009. One is Minami-ise - Shigaraki Line DD' in the subduction direction and the other is Matsuzaka - Shirahama Line EE' in the perpendicular direction.

In this presentation we will introduce the linear array seismic observation in the Kii Peninsula and the estimated features of the Philippine Sea slab configuration and the mantle wedge structure in the result.

Keywords: Kii Peninsula, crustal structure, receiver function, linear array seimic observation, Philippine Sea slab, mantle wedge