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Estimation of stress field in the Niigata-Kobe Tectonic Zone by a marine and land seismic network

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The Niigata-Kobe Tectonic Zone (NKTZ) (Sagiya et al., 2000) is placed in the eastern margin of the Japan Sea, many large earthquakes occurred within NKTZ. To understand the generation mechanism of these earthquakes and a formation of the NKTZ, it is important to obtain detailed hypocenter distribution around the NKTZ and to estimate stress field around the region. From focal mechanisms of aftershocks of the 2004 Chuetsu earthquake and the 2007 Chuetsu-oki earthquake, the stress fields around the source regions were estimated (Imanishi et al., 2006; Imanishi and Kuwahara, 2009). It is difficult to estimate stress fields in the marine region around Niigata prefecture precisely, because it is difficult to locate precise hypocenters in offshore regions only land seismic stations. Precise hypocenter locations determined by using oceanic bottom seismometers enable us to estimate precise stress fields in marine area. Shinbo et al. (2010) determined hypocenters by using 10 long-term ocean bottom seismometers off Joetsu, Niigata prefecture and land seismic stations from Dec., 2008 to Oct., 2009 and estimated 340 focal mechanism solutions. In this study, we examine the focal solutions of the microearthquakes in detail and estimate stress field in the study region from the focal solutions.