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A preliminary test for the probabilities of major interplate earthquake forecasted by ERCJ

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The Earthquake Research Committee of Japan (ERCJ) started in 1996 to evaluate the seismic potentials on active faults and on plate boundaries in subduction zone near Japan. I performed a preliminary statistical test for the 34 probabilities of major earthquake in subduction zone, comparing with a seismic catalog. The forecast period of ten years has been over for two earthquakes, but not for others for which the probability was re-calculated with the method used by ERCJ. Expectation of events until the end of 2010 was 4.2 and three earthquakes regarded as forecasted event have occurred. The number test (N-test), the likelihood test (L-test) and the test of Brier score (BS-test) were applied for those probabilities, and these consistency tests statistically accepted the probabilities by ERCJ for major interplate earthquake.

Keywords: earthquake forecast, probabilistic forecast, test, major interplate earthquake, Earthquake Research Committee, forecast verification