The Seismic Velocity and Attenuation Structure beneath the Tatun Volcanic area, Taiwan

Strong Wen¹*, Yi-Zen Chang¹, Chau-Huei Chen², Yue-Gau Chen³, Ta-Liang Teng⁴

¹National Center for Research on Earthquake Engineering, Taiwan, ²Institute of Seismology, National Chung Cheng University, Taiwan, ³Institute of Geology Science, National Taiwan University, Taiwan, ⁴Dept. of Earth Sciences, Univ. of Southern California, U.S.A.

We have investigated the structure beneath the Tatun volcanic zone north of Taipei metropolitan area of Taiwan, area of five million people. We used the data collected from a seismic network deployed for 5 years over the volcanic zone. This plus another data from Taiwan regional networks allow us to carry out tomographic inversions for Vp, Vp/Vs and Qp structures beneath the Tatun volcanic zone. Based on our results and other geological, tectonic, and seismic findings, we reconstruct the structural evolution of the crust in the Tatun volcanic zone, and discuss the implication to the surrounding faults, fractured zones, and discuss potential future volcanic activities. From the tomographic results, there appear to exist a tube-shaped, highly fractured ancient magma passage with high seismic velocities that parallel to the Chinshan fault, and magma passage extends to the southeast at the depth about 20 km. This structure suggests plutonic intrusion passage beneath the Tatun volcano group that may have been associated with the earlier subduction of the Philippine Sea plate, melting of the subducted plate at depth has generated the magma intrusion that has brought about the Tatun volcanic activities. The high seismicity today also implies a highly fractured crust due to the hydrothermal activities and induced crustal stress. The hydrothermal fluid-rich upper crust as indicated by the low Vp/Vs ratio may have important bearing on the potential hazards associated with the two active faults cutting through both the Taipei Basin as well as the Tatun volcanic groups.

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