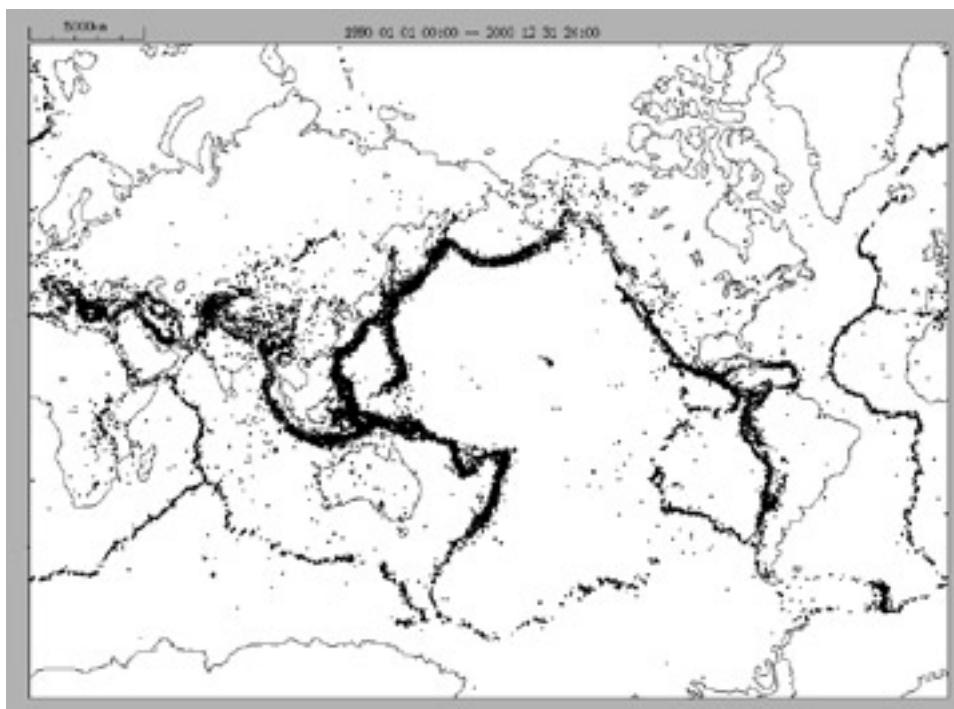


○Outbreaks of disasters, accidents, terrorism and so on

Some East Asian countries/regions are prone and vulnerable to natural disasters. Maritime accidents, oil spills, terrorism and piracy are not rare in East Asian countries/regions.

<Map of earthquakes (1990-2000)>



Note: The chart shows the distribution of the epicenters of earthquakes with a magnitude of 4.0 or more on the Richter scale and a focal depth of less than 50 kilometers.

Source: Japan Meteorological Agency

[Actions toward closer relationships between Japan and East Asian countries/regions]

Sustainable development of both Japan and East Asian countries/regions may not be possible without frameworks in which countries in the region promote exchange and partnerships. ASEAN and APEC are traditional examples of such frameworks.

On the multilateral front, it has recently been agreed to hold an East Asian Summit, and Japan presents some proposals such as Japan-ASEAN Comprehensive Economic Partnership (CEP). On the bilateral front, East Asia is quickly moving toward concluding Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) and Free Trade Agreements (FTAs). Japan is also actively working on such efforts; it has already concluded an EPA/FTA with Singapore and is in negotiation with other countries for such agreements, including Philippines and Rep. Korea.