Recent activities of the Earthquake Research Committee, the Headquarters for Earthquake Research Promotion, Japan (HERP)

Naoshi Hirata
Earthquake Research Institute, the University of Tokyo
Chairman of Earthquake Research Committee, the Headquarters for Earthquake Research Promotion
hirata@eri.u-tokyo.ac.jp

It is more than 20 years since the Headquarters for Earthquake Research Promotion (HERP), Japan, was established after the 1995 Hyogoken-nanbu earthquake, which is internationally known as the Kobe earthquake. The Headquarters consists of two committees; Policy Committee and Earthquake Research Committee.

The Policy Committee formulated and the HERP released its earthquake research policy every 10 years. The first policy was published in 1999. The committee formulated the current policy, which was titled as New Promotion of Earthquake Research - Comprehensive Basic Policies for the Promotion of Seismic Research through the Observation, Measurement, and Survey -. This policy is a guideline of earthquake research for the next 10 years. The current version was released in 2009, and revised in September 2012 to enhance researches related to tsunami hazards according to the 2011 Tohoku-oki earthquake, which brought severer damages in Japanese society particularly by extraordinary tsunami. According to the revision of the policy, National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Resilience (*NIED*) installed the Seafloor Observation Networks for Earthquakes and Tsunamis along the Japan Trench (*S-net*). The new policy from 2020 is now under discussion and will be published in 2019.

The Earthquake Research Committee holds regular meetings once every month and classifies and analyzes all available researches and observation results, as well as study outcomes done by individual institutions including JMA, GSI, and universities. It does this in order to evaluate seismic activity in a comprehensive manner and to publish evaluation results. In addition, special meetings are held in response to damaging earthquakes or marked seismic activity.

Immediately after the 2016 Kumamoto earthquake, we had two special meetings, one on April 15th, next day of the largest foreshock, M6.5, and the other on April 17th, the next day of the main shock, M7.3. In 2018 we held two special meetings right after the Osaka-fu hokubu earthquake (M6.1) and the Hokkaido-Iburi-tobu earthquake (M6.7). The those events were associated with a strong ground motion

A national probabilistic seismic hazard map has been published by the Earthquake Research Committee and is revised every year. The affected areas by those large earthquakes have high probabilities, but unfortunately not well understood by local

governments and residences. We need further researches how those hazards to be correctly communicated to society.