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Geophysical Risk and Vulnerability: The Population-Hazard Interaction
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Genpatsu-Shinsai:

Catastrophic Multiple Disaster of Earthquake and Quake-induced Nuclear Accident Anticipated in the Japanese Islands

Katsuhiko ISHIBASHI

Dept. Earth & Planet. Sci., Kobe Univ., Japan

Genpatsu-Shinsai

Japanese new word
coined by Ishibashi (1997)

Nuclear power plant Earthquake disaster

原子力発電所 地震災害

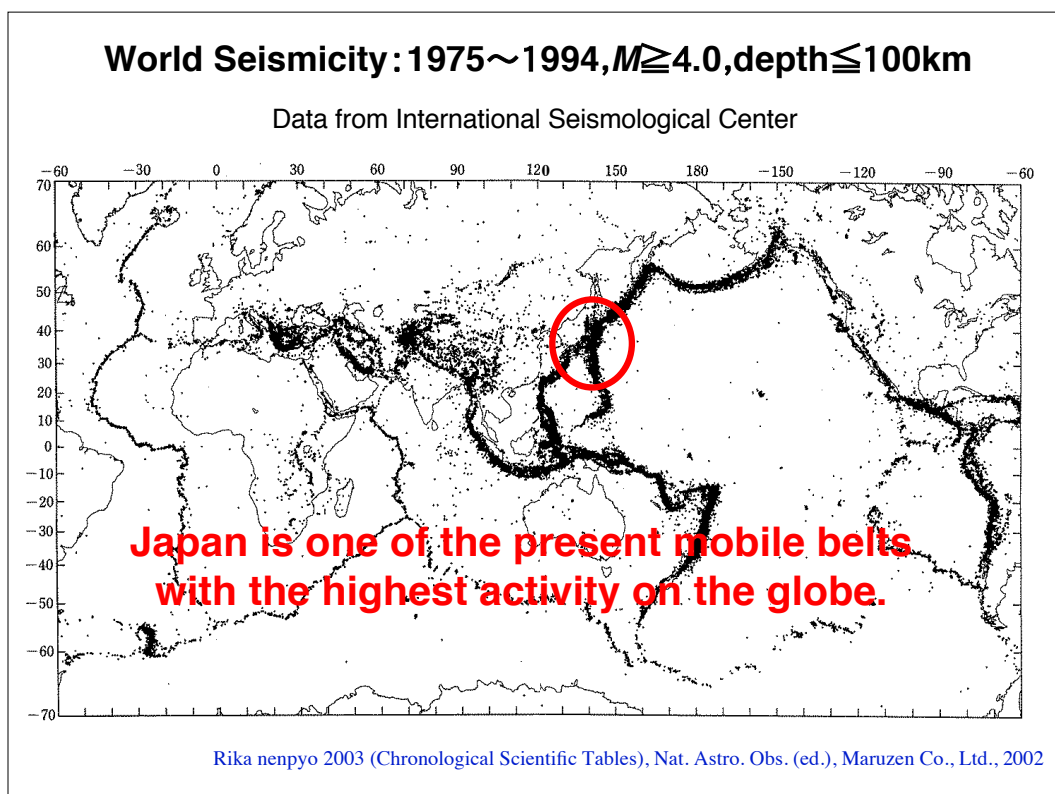
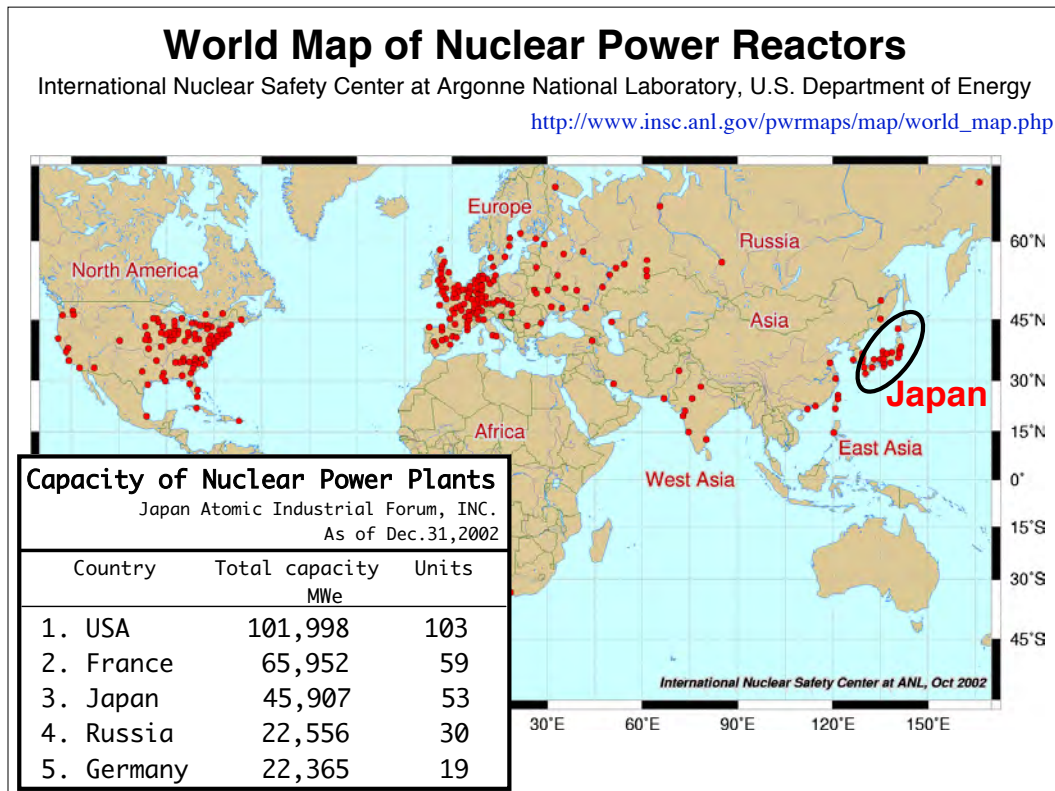
**Complex of an earthquake disaster and radioactive disaster
due to a severe accident of a nuclear power plant
caused by the earthquake**

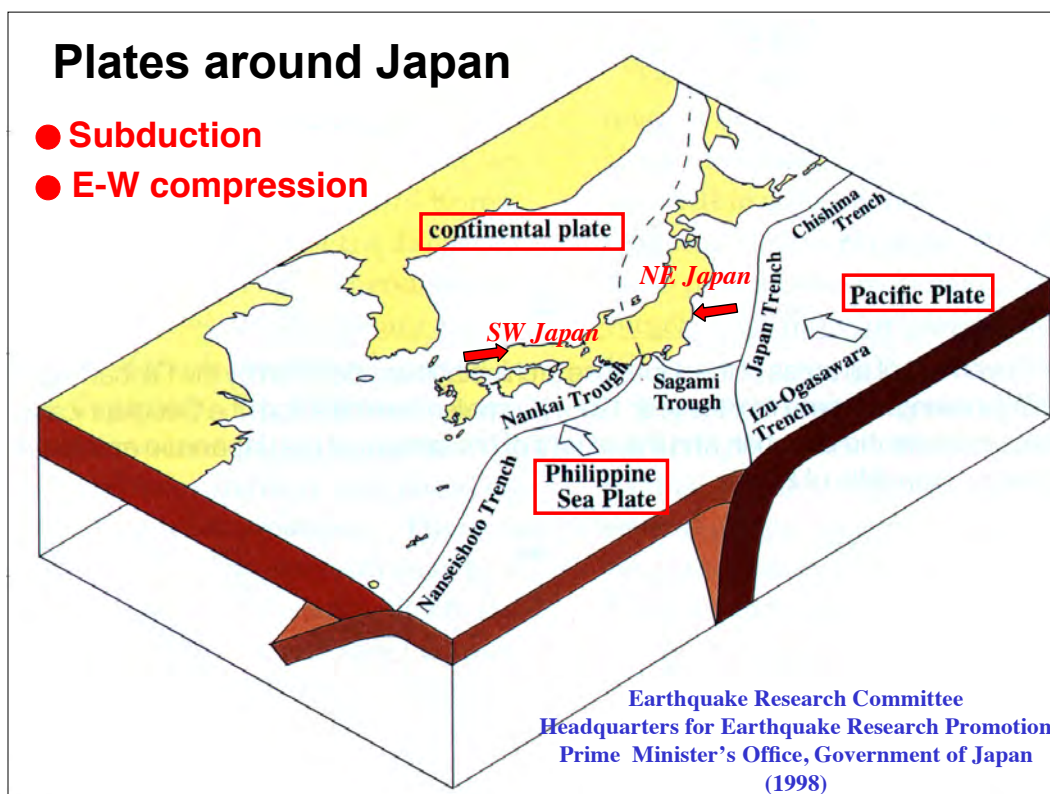
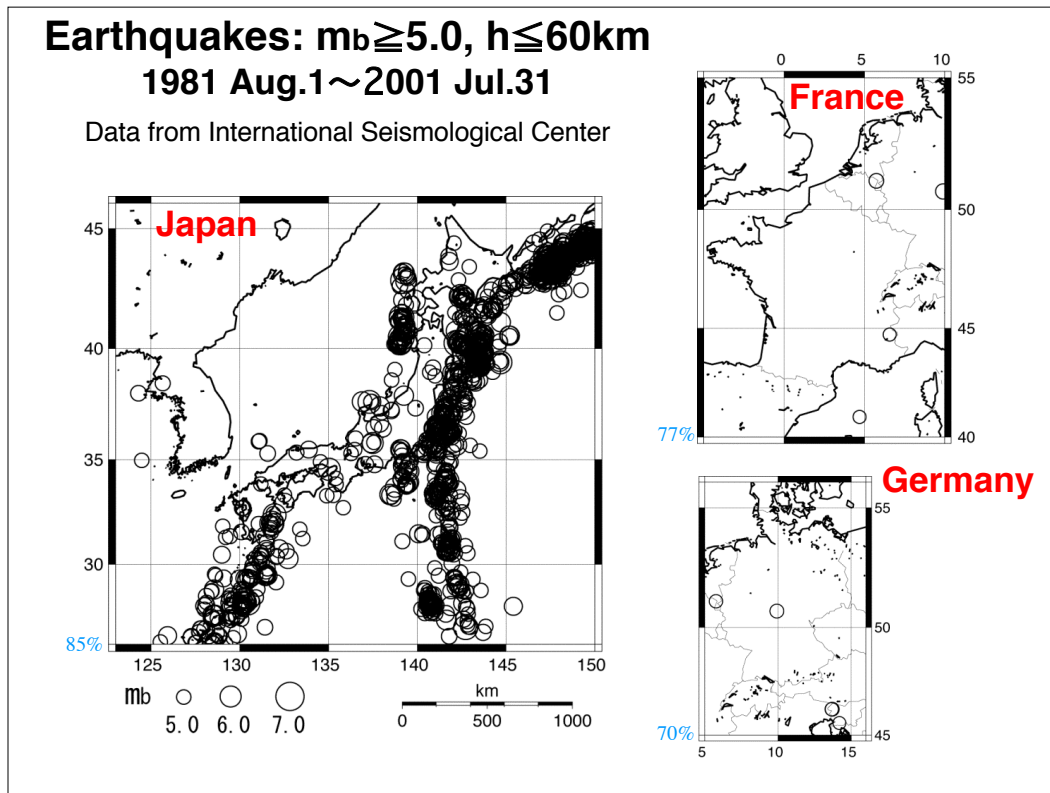
- Quake-induced nuke accident magnifies quake disaster.
- Earthquake damage magnifies radioactive disaster.

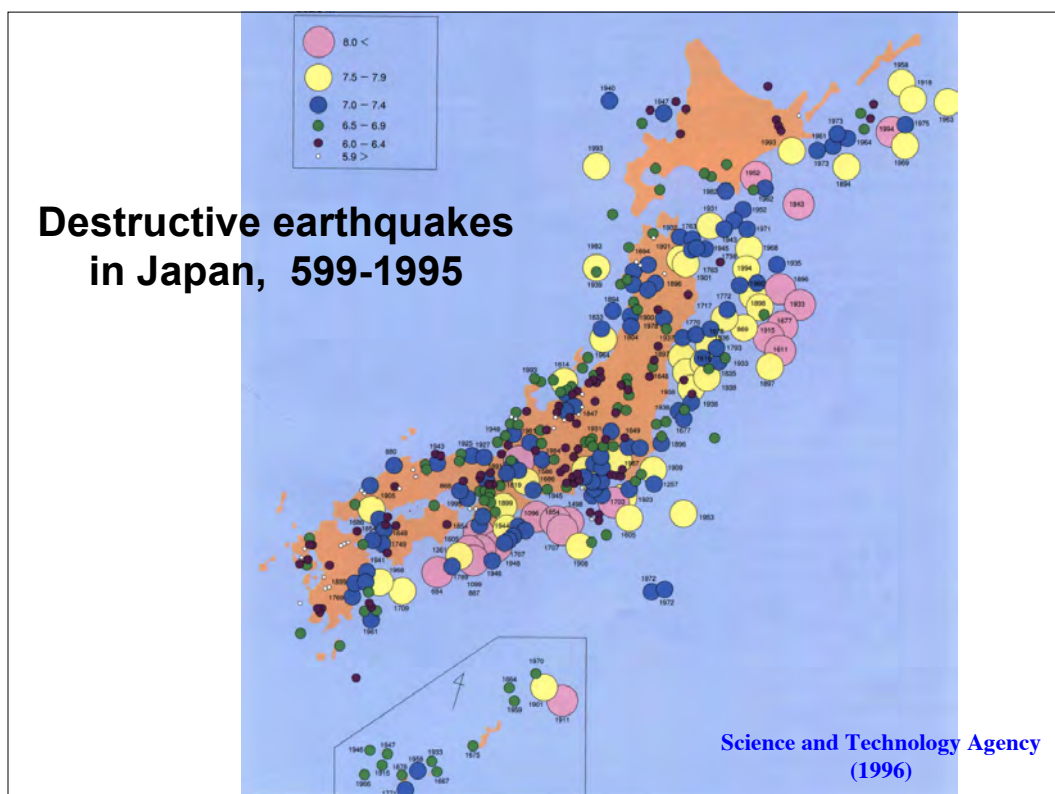
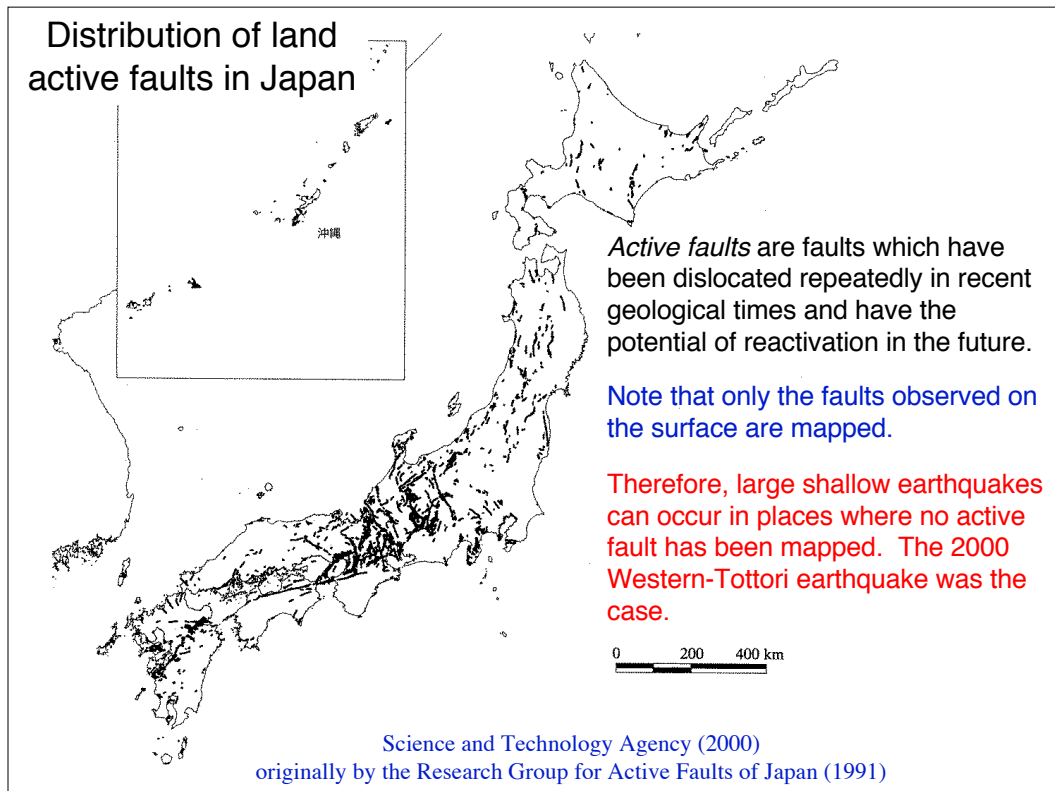
**Entirely new type of natural + manmade disaster
that the human beings have never encountered**

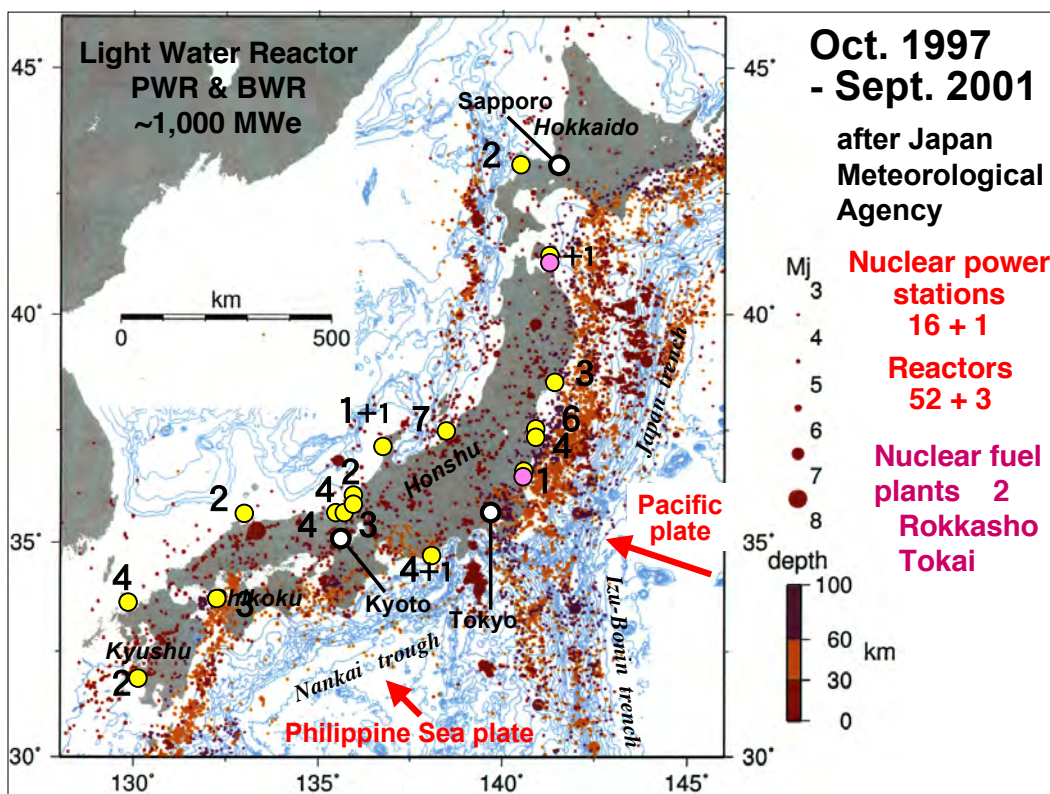
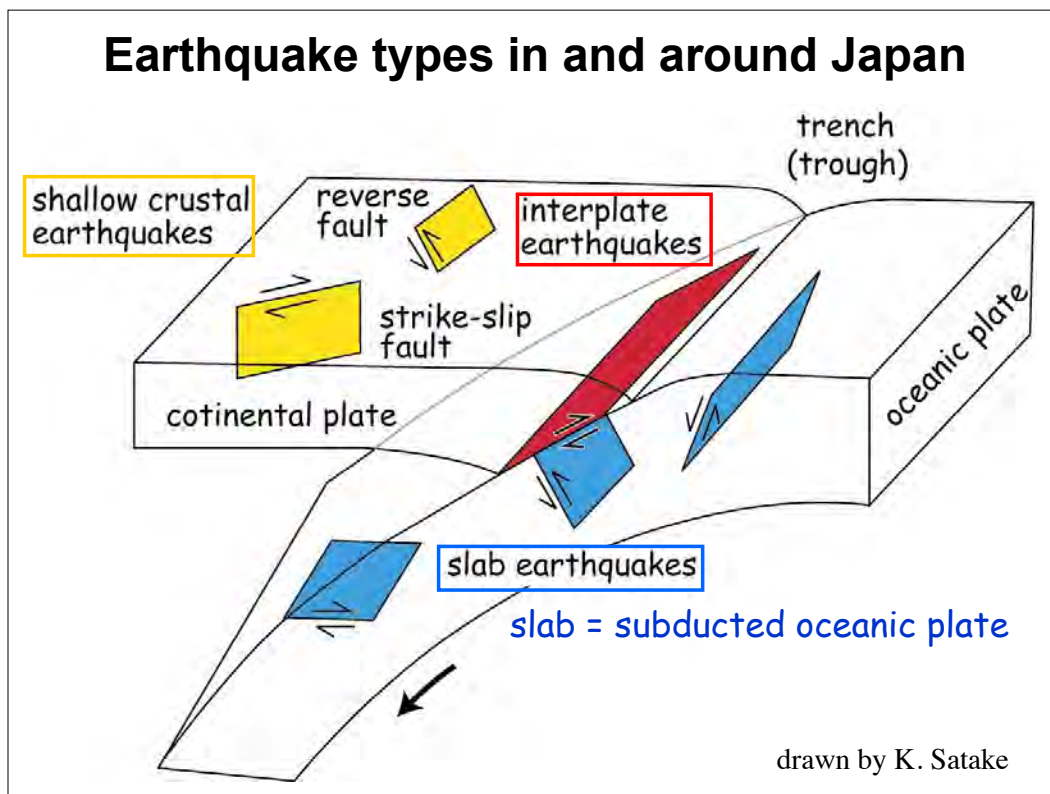
**Japan may well cause Genpatsu-Shinsai
ruining itself and changing the world.**

This grave problem is not restricted in Japan.









Safety of NPPs from earthquakes

According to the Agency for Natural Resources and Energy (1999)

For NPPs, sufficient earthquake countermeasures are made from construction till operation.

1. Avoiding active faults in site selection.

Actually, many plants have active faults very close to them.

Large earthquakes can occur even if active faults haven't been observed.

2. Construction of reactor buildings directly on solid rock beds.

Actually, many plants are situated on young soft rocks.

3. Seismic design assuming violent earthquakes.

Actually, in most cases largest earthquakes are not considered.

4. Safety confirmed by computing earthquake behaviors.

Unknown factors of earthquake phenomena can't be covered by computer programs.

5. Emergency shutdown system for strong earthquake motions.

There remains possibility of failing in shutdown.

Moreover, shutdown is not enough to prevent severe accident.

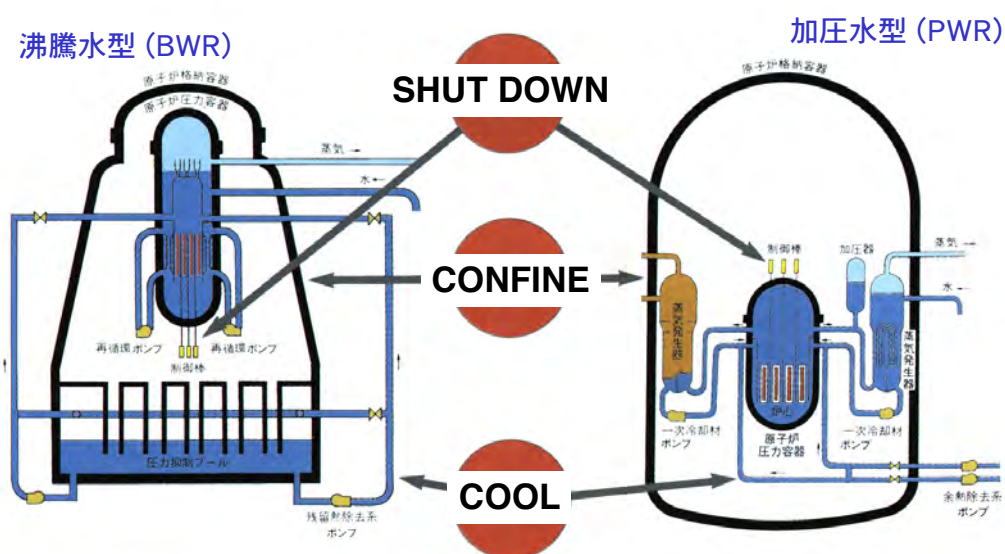
6. Actual proof by a large-scale shaking table experiment.

Full-size shaking test of aged plant system as a whole has not been performed.

7. Countermeasures against tsunamis.

We don't know completely all possible tsunamis.

In order to prevent a severe accident with large-scale release of fission products outside, **three functions are essential.**



According to the Agency for Natural Resources and Energy (1999)

Existing Procedure of Seismic Design of NPPs

“Shut Down, Cool, Confine” Functions Should Be Kept
For a Much Severe Earthquake than the Biggest One in the Past

Seismic Classification of Importance (As, A, B, C)

1. Assumption of Two Kinds of Earthquakes (Underground Sources)

Maximum design earthquake

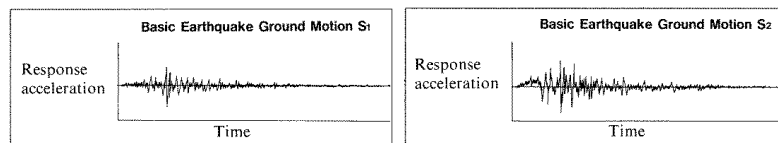
The biggest earthquake assumed based on past large earthquakes around the site
and expected earthquakes originated from nearby active faults

Extreme design earthquake

A stronger earthquake than maximum one (M6.5 nearby earthquake included)

2. Determination of Basic Earthquake Ground Motion S1 & S2

Artificial seismic
waves for S1 & S2



3. Structure Seismic Analysis & Ground Stability Analysis by Computer

“Guidelines for Examining Seismic Design of Nuclear Power Plants”

Drawn up in 1978, Revised in 1981

Important Points

Construction of NPPs was started before the birth and spread of
fault model of earthquakes and **plate tectonics**.

Almost the whole Japanese Islands are expected to enter the seismically active period.

Large earthquakes in APEMMB, M8 Tokai & Nankai earthquakes, etc.

Large/great slab earthquakes are very difficult to tell where and when.

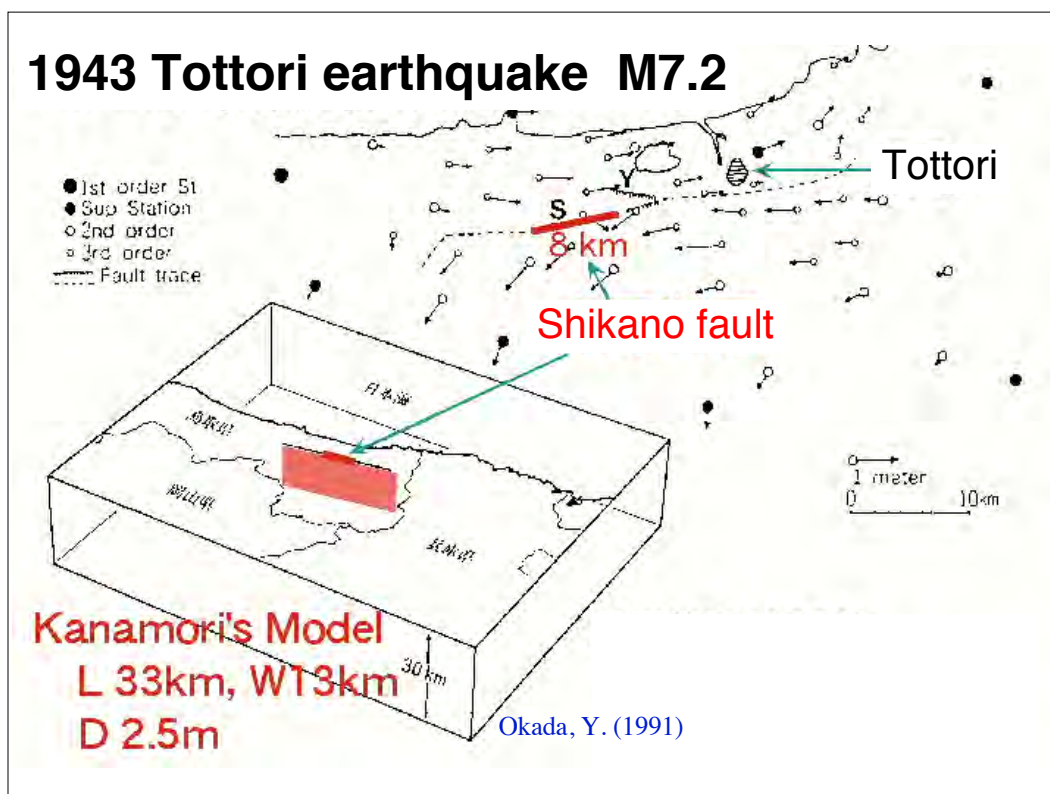
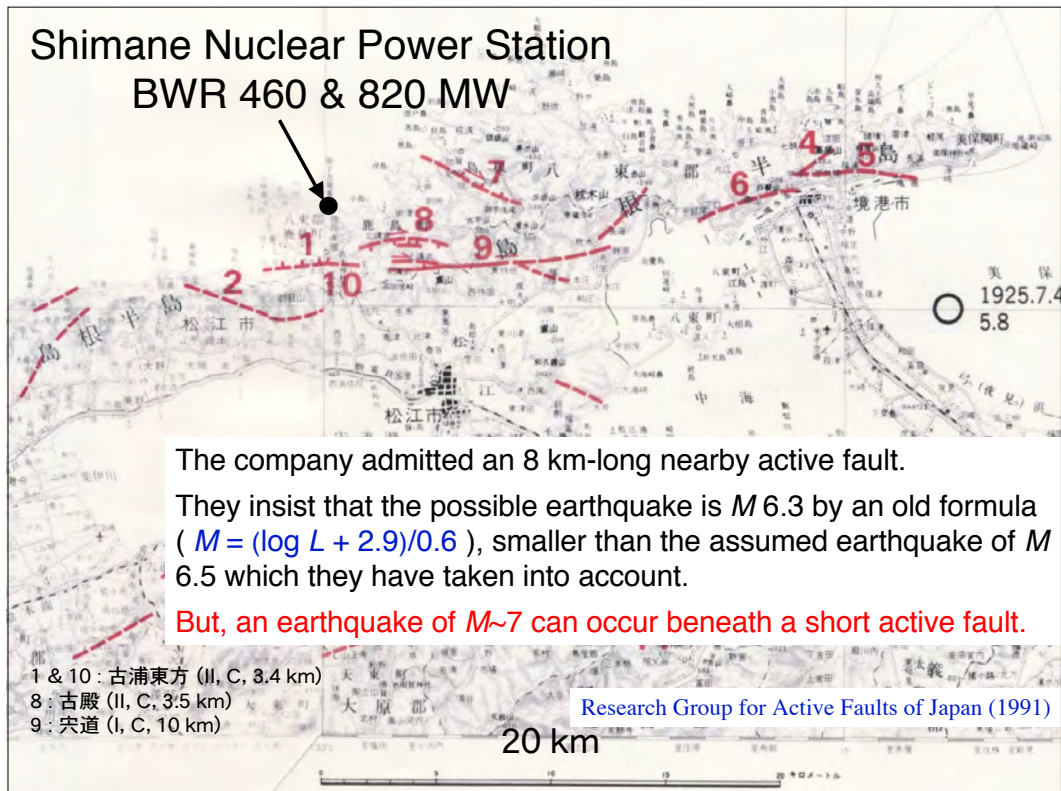
Serious mistakes in assuming earthquakes

- Ignorance of large/great slab earthquakes: Only interplate earthquakes and active faults have been considered.
- Possibility of large earthquakes in places without active faults has been ignored: Maximum nearby earthquake is only M6.5.
- Evaluation of active faults is inadequate: Ignorance of active fault system and grouping; underestimation of M.
- Ignorance of the concept of seismic gap: Danger of places where historical earthquakes are unknown has been ignored.

**Determination method of basic earthquake ground motion is very old
in view of modern earthquake science and strong motion seismology:**

Tendency of underestimation of S1 & S2.

Effect of large aftershocks is not taken into account.



What happen?

Any of Japanese NPPs and NFPs could be attacked
by an unexpected large earthquakes nearby.
Probably the strong ground motion exceeds S2 at each plant.

Many devices and piping systems get in trouble all at once.
Multiple defense systems lose their function simultaneously.

Aging and defects in construction and maintenance are severe background problem.

Successive large aftershocks are also serious.

Violent shaking may affect operators physically and mentally.

Loss of AC power, fail in control rods inserting, runaway
Pipe rupture accidents, loss of coolant, fail in ECCS, meltdown
Steam explosion, hydrogen explosion, nuclear explosion

Release of huge amount of fission products outside the reactor

Due to the severe earthquake damage, management of the nuke accident and
evacuation of inhabitants from radioactivity become extremely difficult,
The nuke accident would be left to expand to the maximum scale.

Strong radioactivity prohibit rescue works in the earthquake disaster area,
and cause evacuation of numerous people in a very wide area.

Victims of radiation exposure and ordinary quake disaster becomes uncountable.

The final result is global as well as a fatal blow to Japan,
and affect deeply future generations.

