グローバルCOE地球惑星科学 フロンティアセミナー

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Along-arc variation in subduction processes, related to slab seismicity, New Zealand

講義内容:

We analyze seismicity in the subducted slab of the Hikurangi subduction zone, along the 600-km length of the North Island, New Zealand, in order to evaluate dehydration patterns. The volcanic character changes along strike with extremely productive rhyolitic volcanism in the central Taupo zone to non- volcanic subduction in the southernmost Hikurangi zone. Along-arc variation in slab seismicity appears to be a fundamental characteristic, with patches of abundant seismicity separated by low seismicity zones. The largest most numerous patch, at 150-220 km depth, underlies the pronounced low Qp zone in the mantle wedge, under the Taupo silicic volcanic zone. This suggests a feedback cycle such that the more fluid-rich slab zone brings released fluid rapidly away from the slab, and so promotes more rapid and extensive dehydration. The southwestern slab seismicity is bounded by an unusually narrow zone with 110-km depth extent, which is inferred to be a dehydration front related to a slab edge.