



**Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation**

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2011/EPWG/WKSP3/002

## **Seismotectonics, Earthquake Hazard, and Schools in the APEC Region**

Submitted by: Indiana University (IU)



**Workshop on School Earthquake and  
Tsunami Safety in APEC Economies:  
Reducing Risk and Improving  
Preparedness  
Taipei, Chinese Taipei  
17-19 October 2011**

An aerial photograph showing a concrete bridge that has collapsed into a river. The bridge's concrete structure is broken and partially submerged. In the background, a large dam with water cascading over it is visible. The river is turbulent with white water rapids. The sky is overcast and grey.

*Seismotectonics,  
Earthquake Hazard, and  
Schools in the APEC Region*

*Michael Hamburger*

*Workshop on School Earthquake & Tsunami Safety  
in APEC Economies*

*Taipei, October 17, 2011*

Photo: 921 Earthquake Museum



# Sumatra, Indonesia December 2004





# Sichuan, China May, 2008





# Port-au-Prince, Haiti January 2010



<http://haitigps.wordpress.com/>



# Maule, Chile, February 2010





# Christchurch, NZ, February 2011



<http://boston.com>



# Tohoku, Japan, March 2011



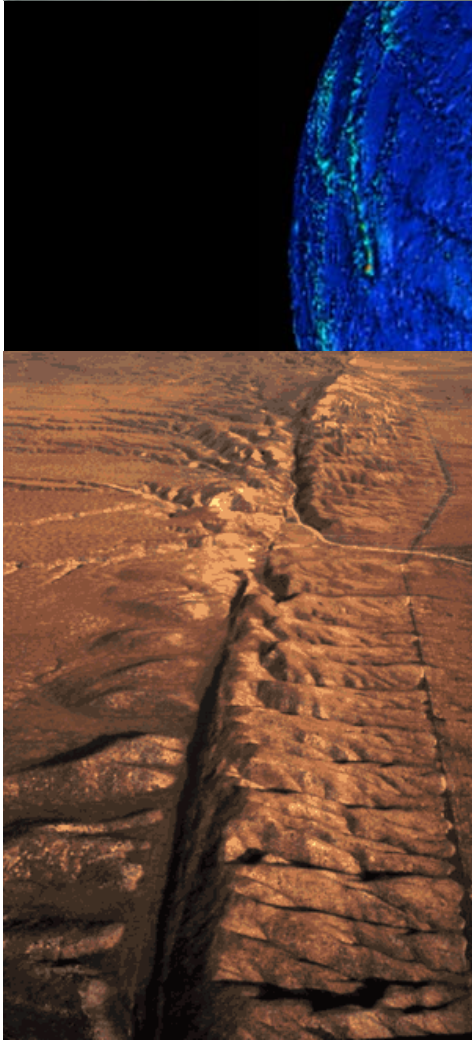




# Misconception #1:

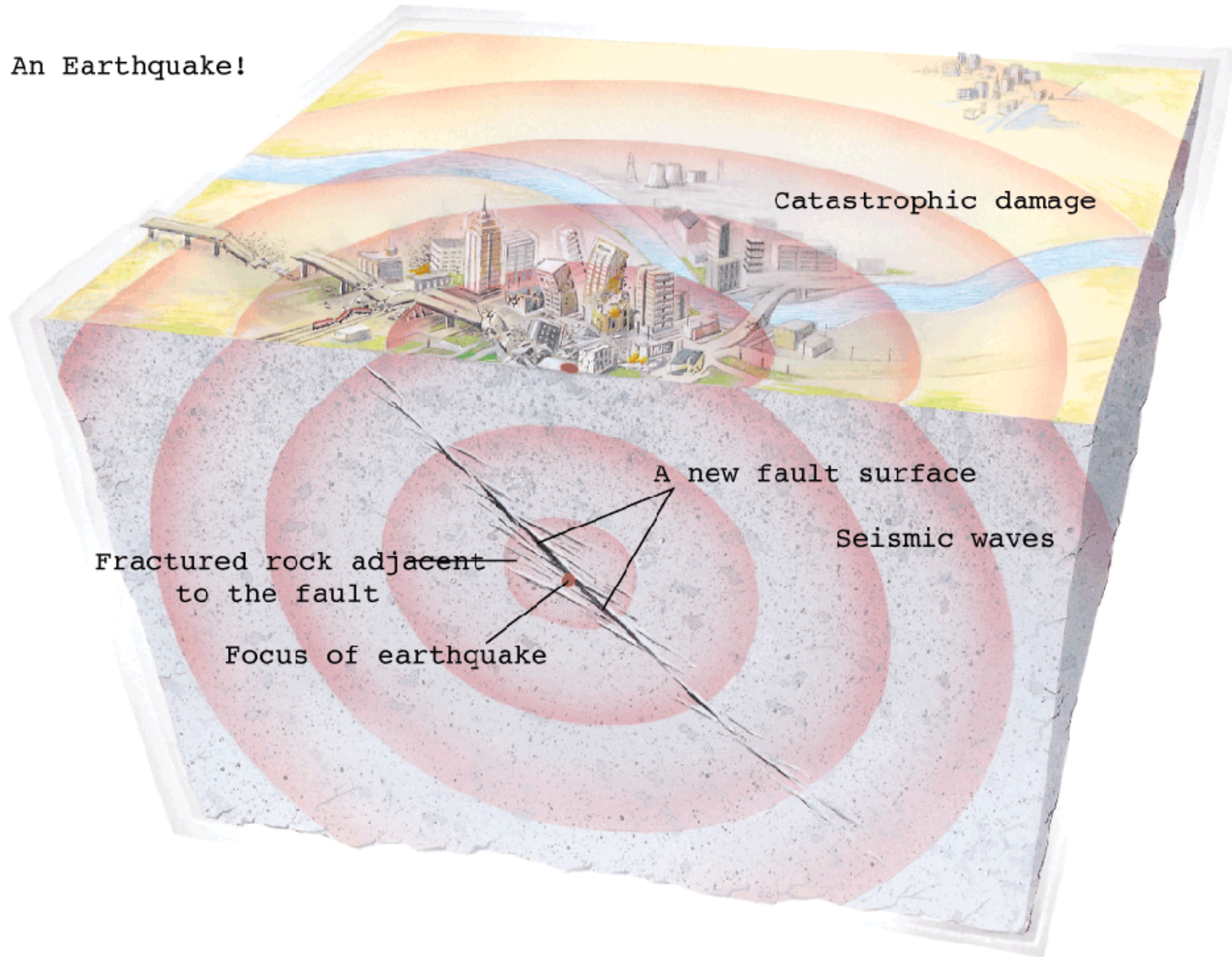
Earthquakes represent random,  
incomprehensible acts of nature's  
violence.







An Earthquake!



Catastrophic damage

A new fault surface

Seismic waves

Fractured rock adjacent to the fault

Focus of earthquake





*G.K. Gilbert (1906)*



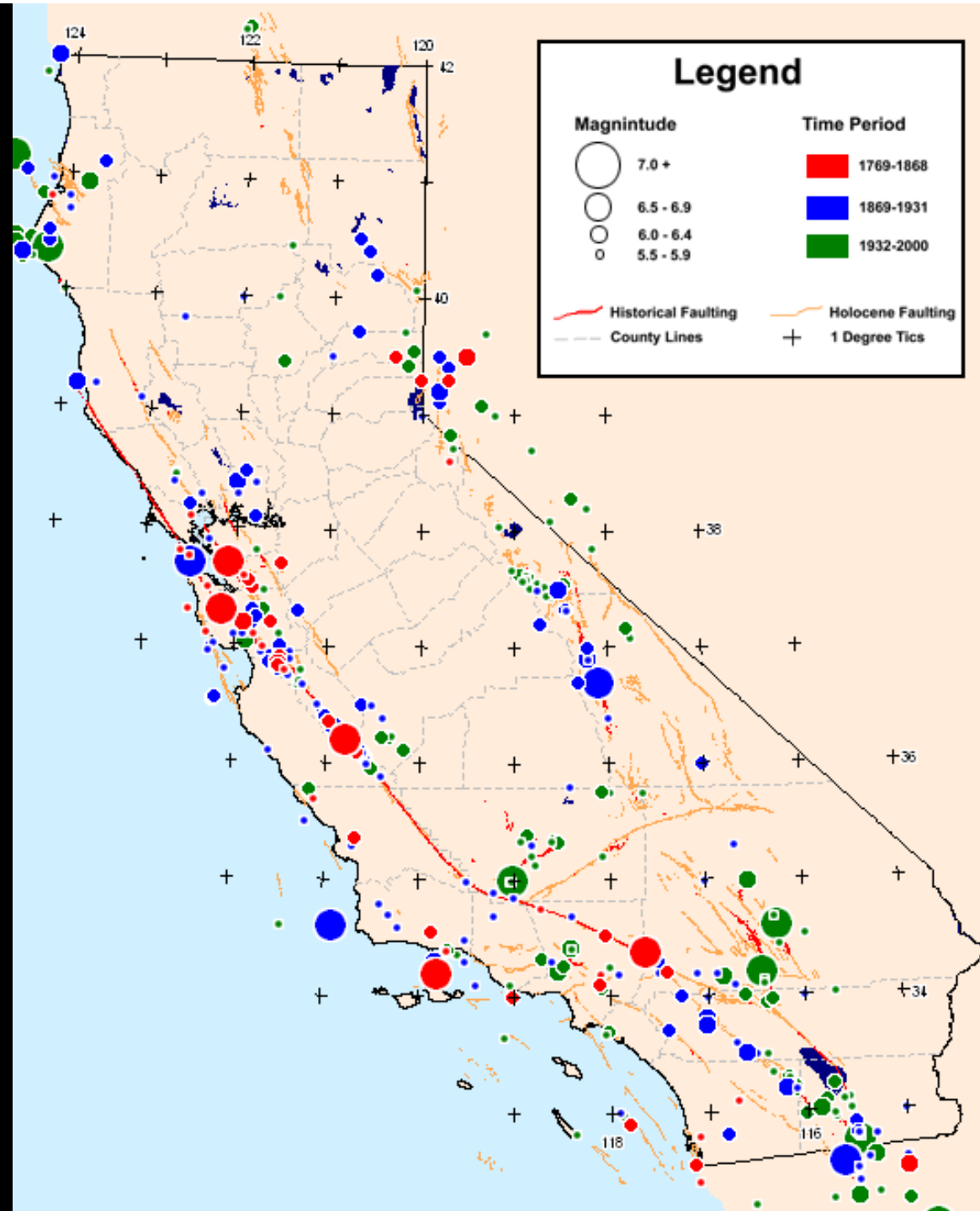
# The San Andreas Fault



*R. Wallace (USGS)*

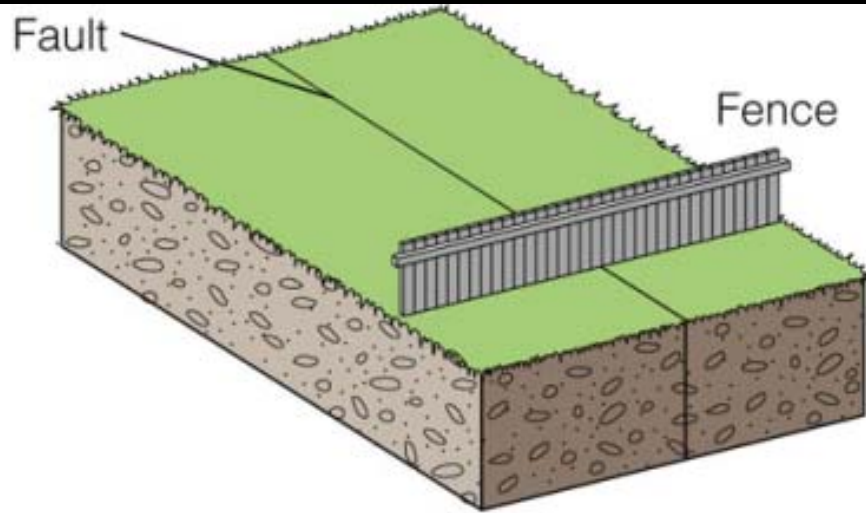


# Earthquakes in California 1800 - 1999

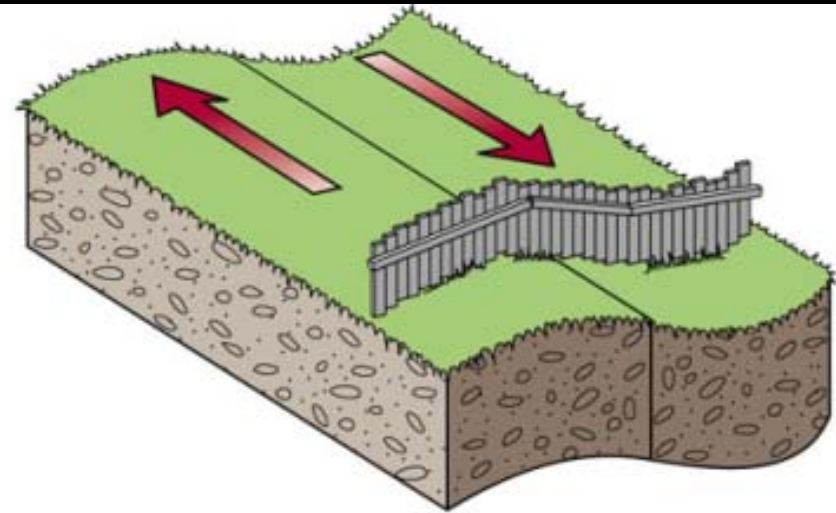


*California Geological  
Survey*



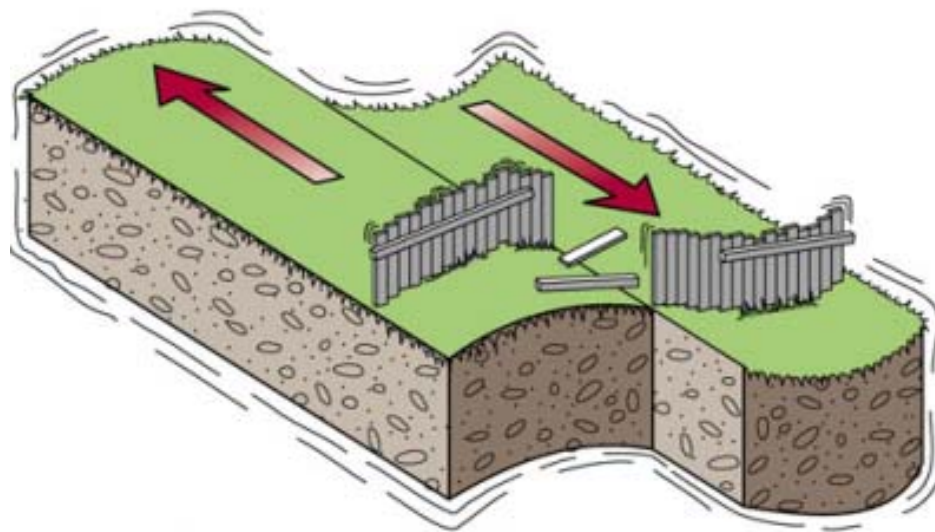


(a) Original position

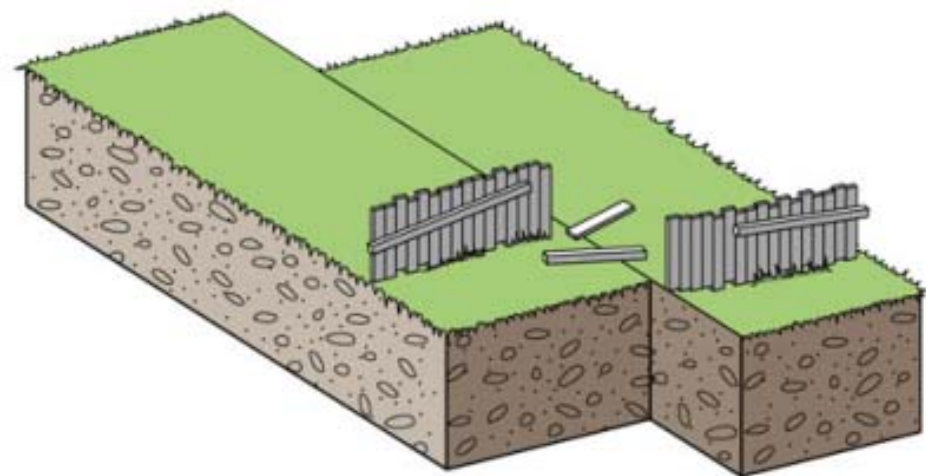


(b) Deformation

## Elastic Rebound Theory



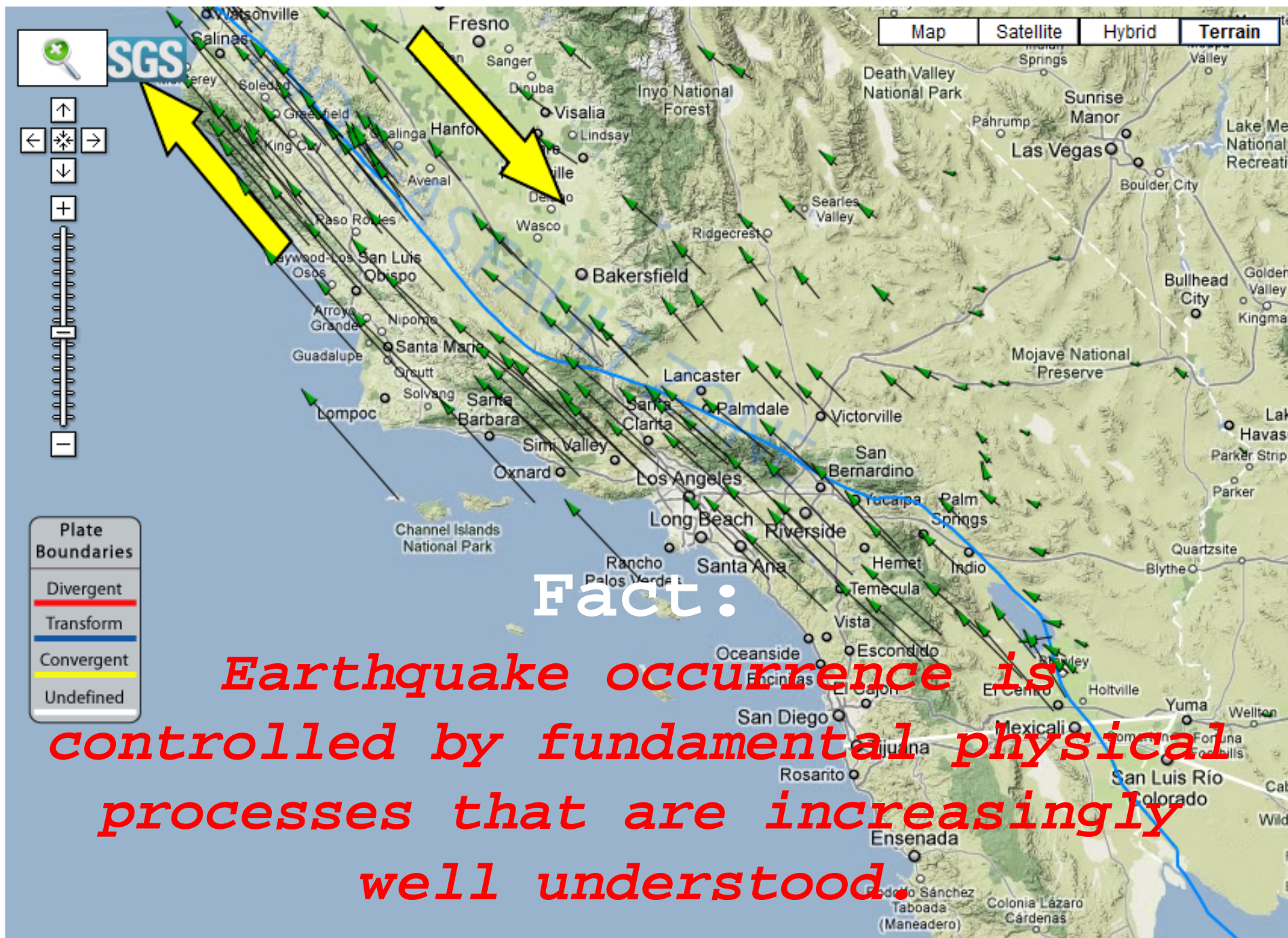
(c) Rupture and release of energy



(d) Rocks rebound to original undeformed shape

*Monroe et al. (2007)*





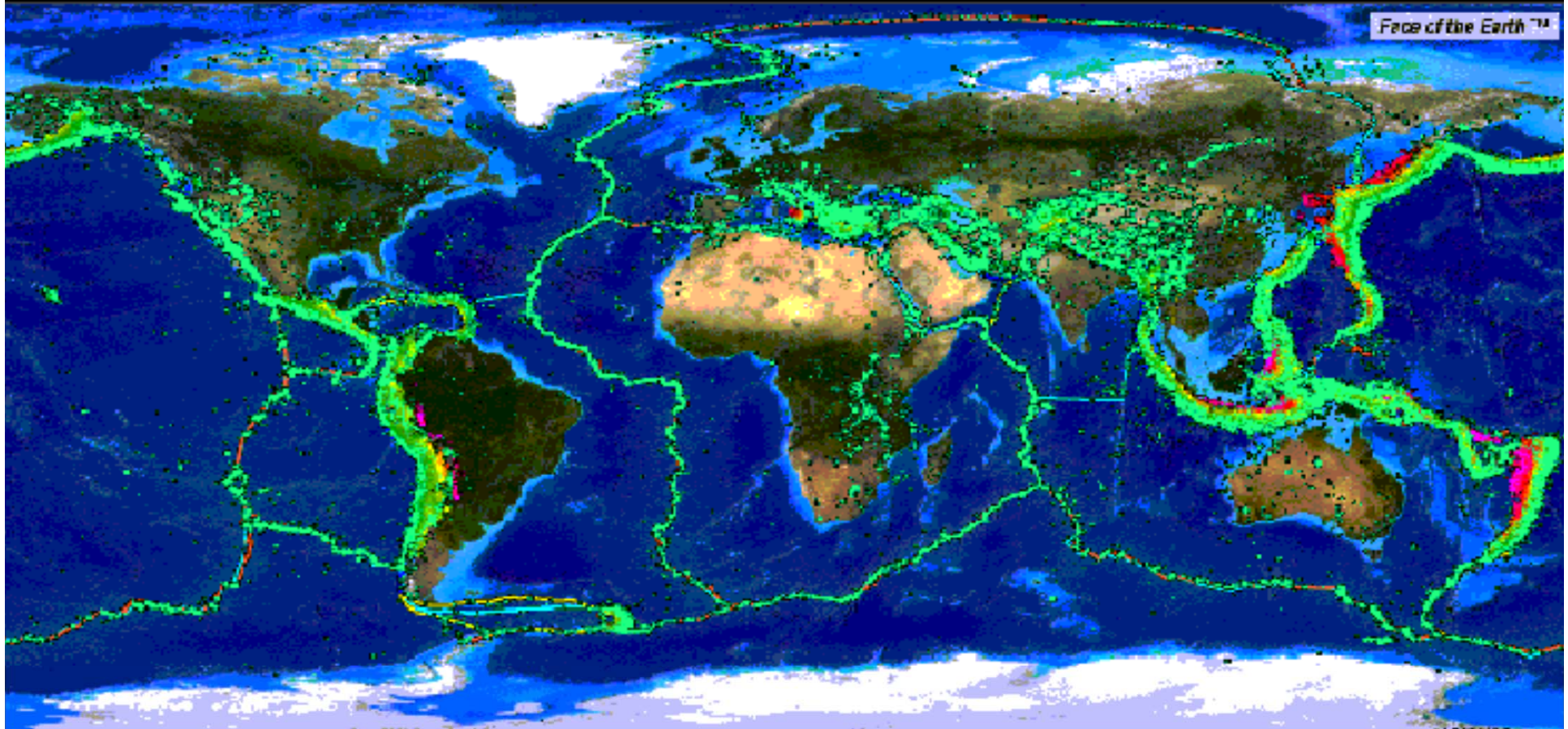
**Fact:**  
*Earthquake occurrence is controlled by fundamental physical processes that are increasingly well understood.*

## Misconception #2:

Destructive earthquakes can occur  
virtually anywhere, any time.

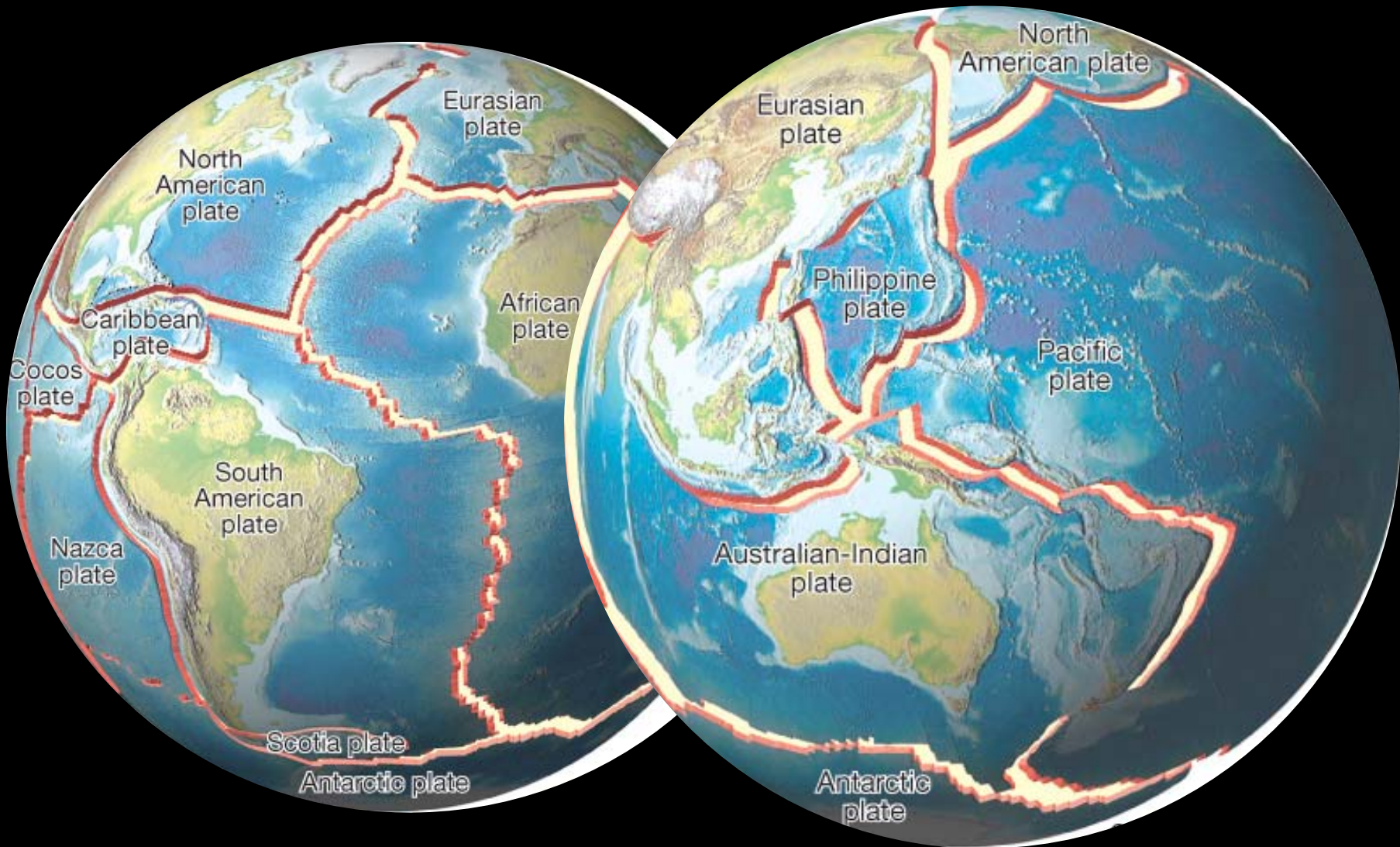


# Global seismicity and plate boundaries

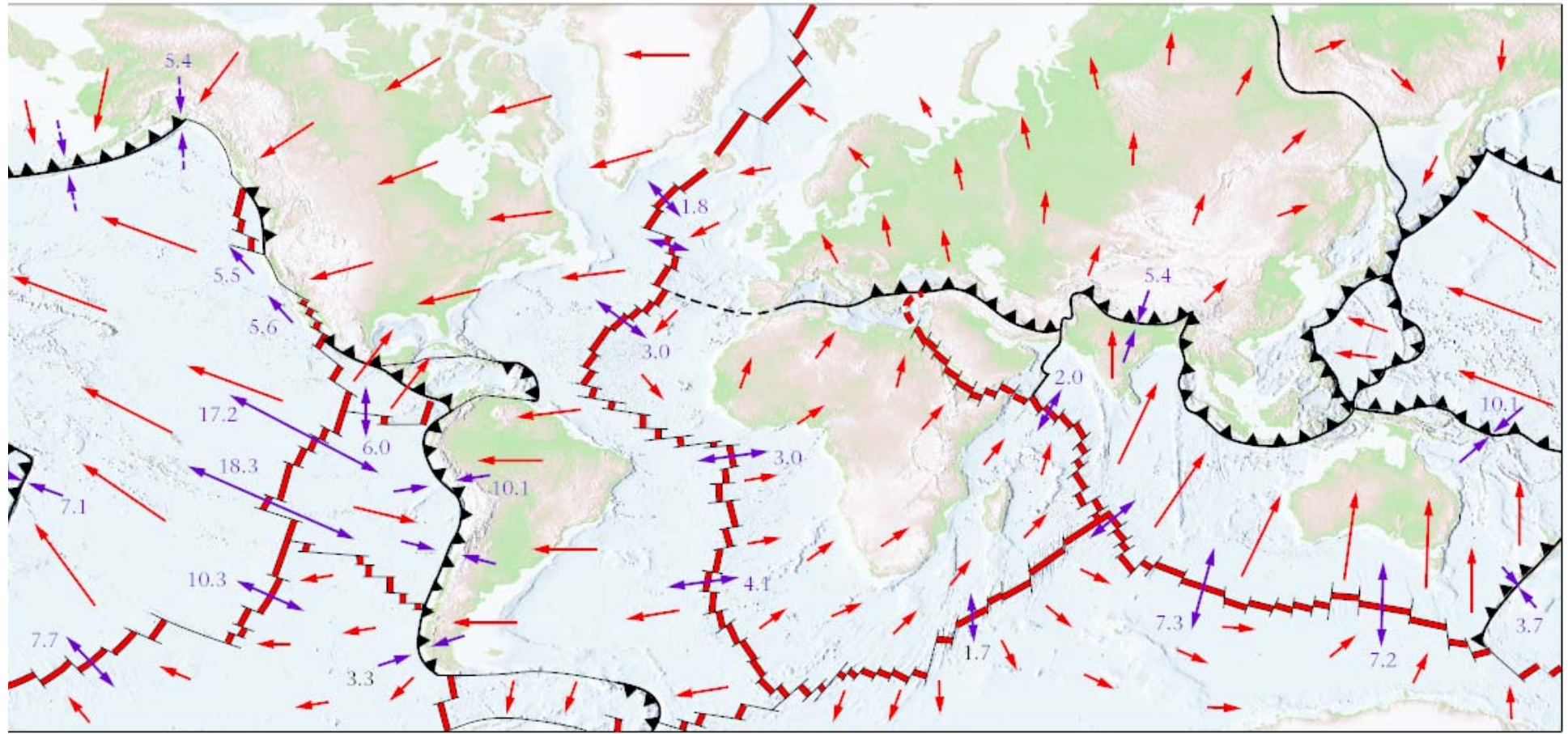




# The Global Mosaic of Tectonic Plates

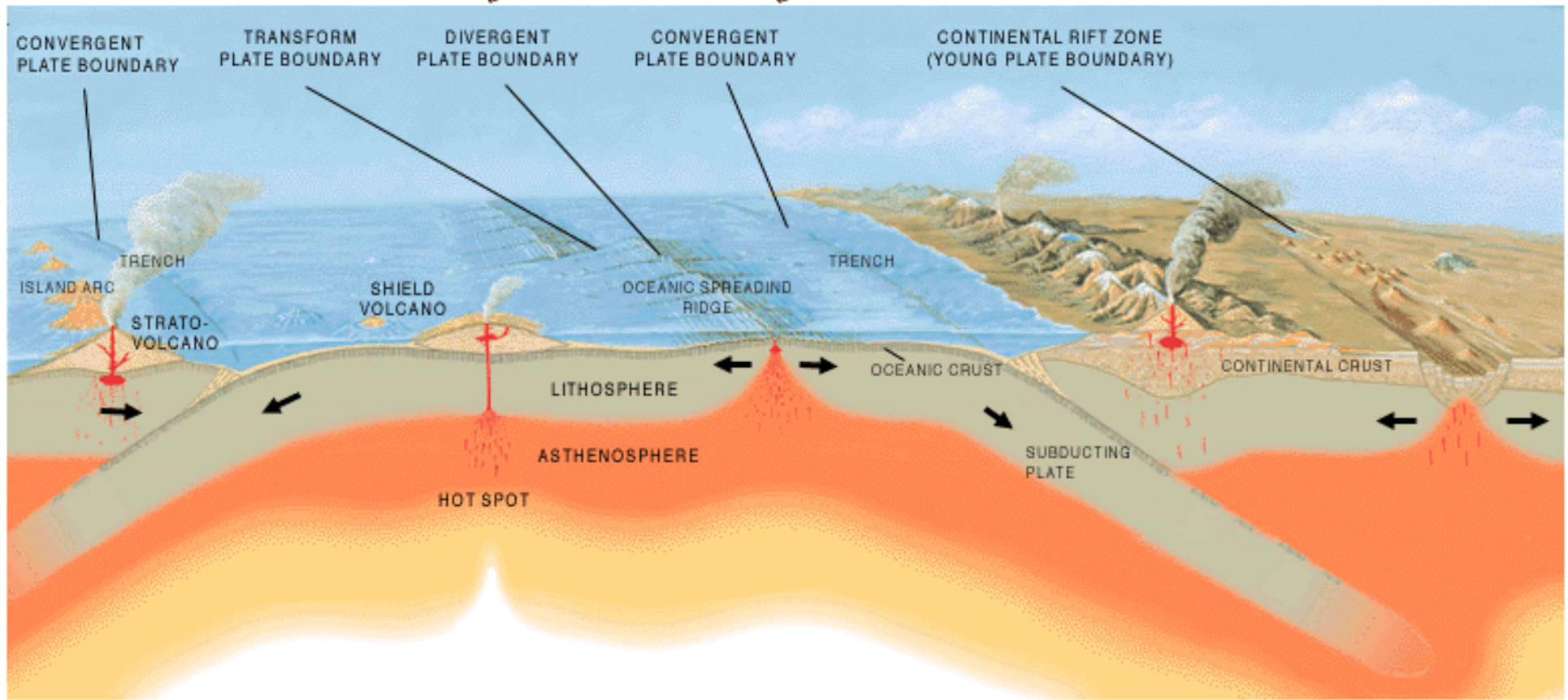
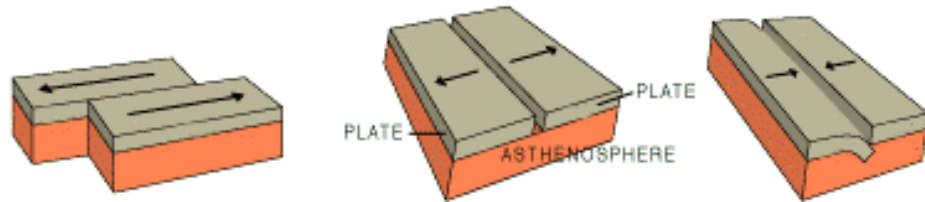




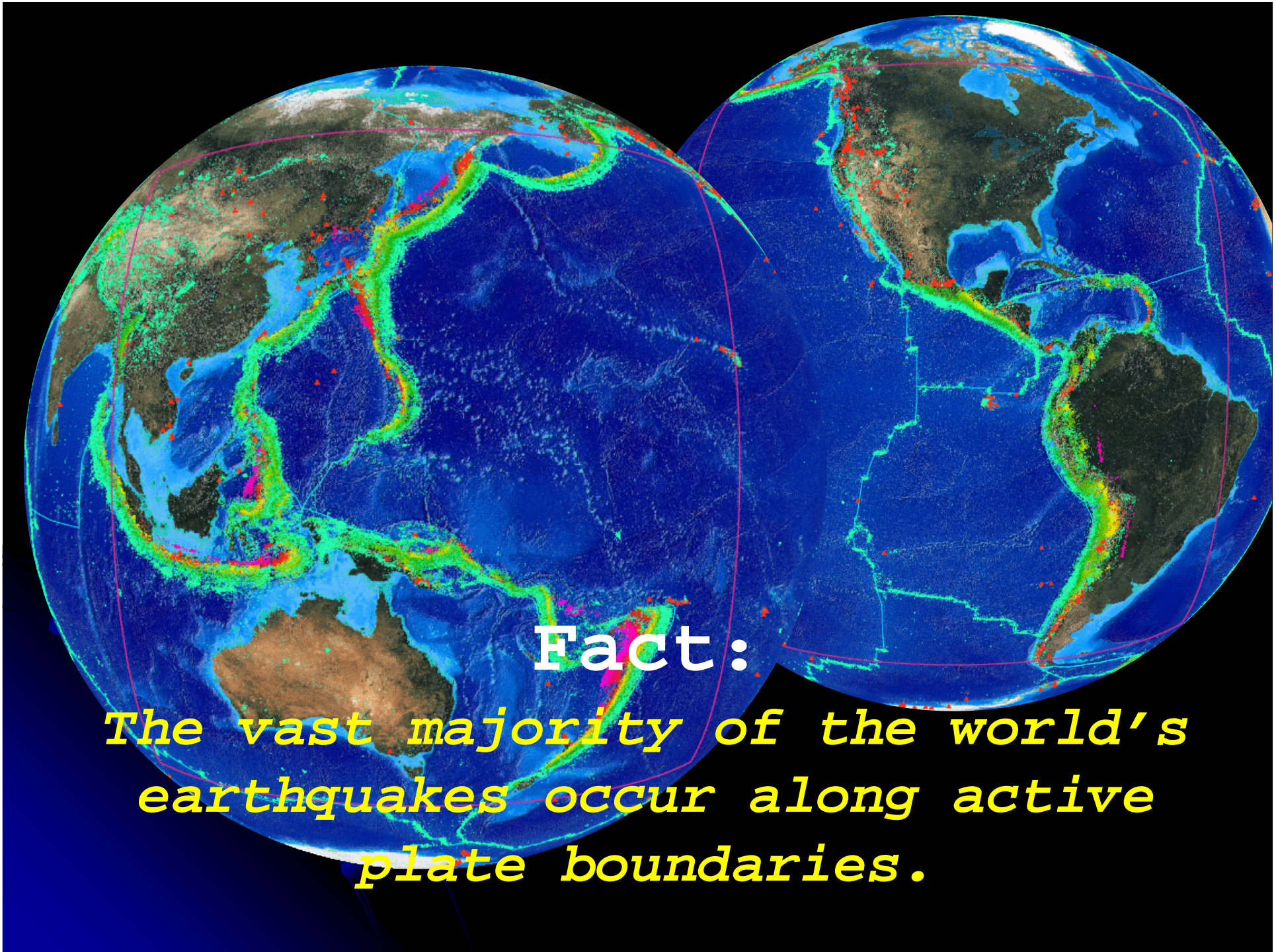


Convergent boundary    
 Ridge    
 Transform    
 Absolute plate motions    
 Relative plate motions (5.5 cm per year)









**Fact:**

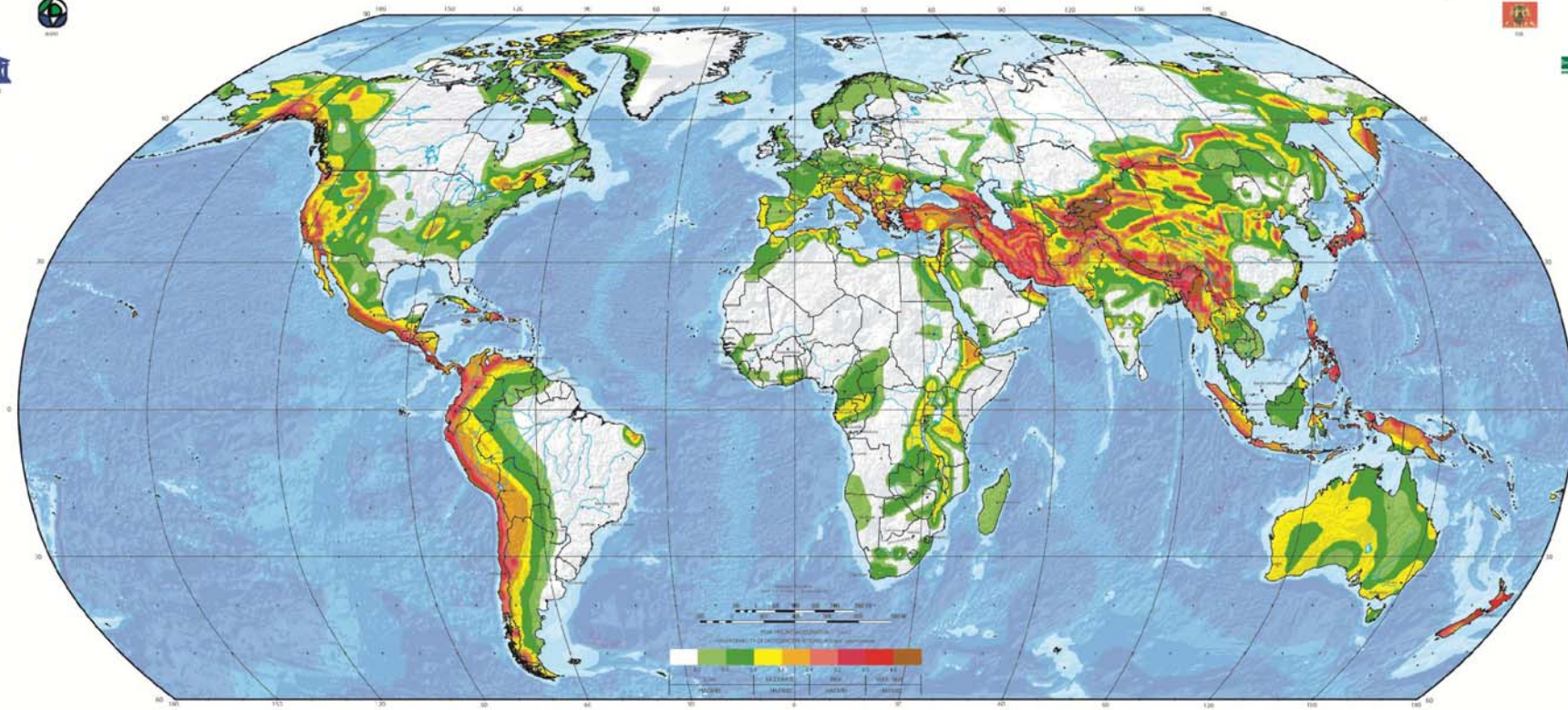
*The vast majority of the world's earthquakes occur along active plate boundaries.*





# GLOBAL SEISMIC HAZARD MAP

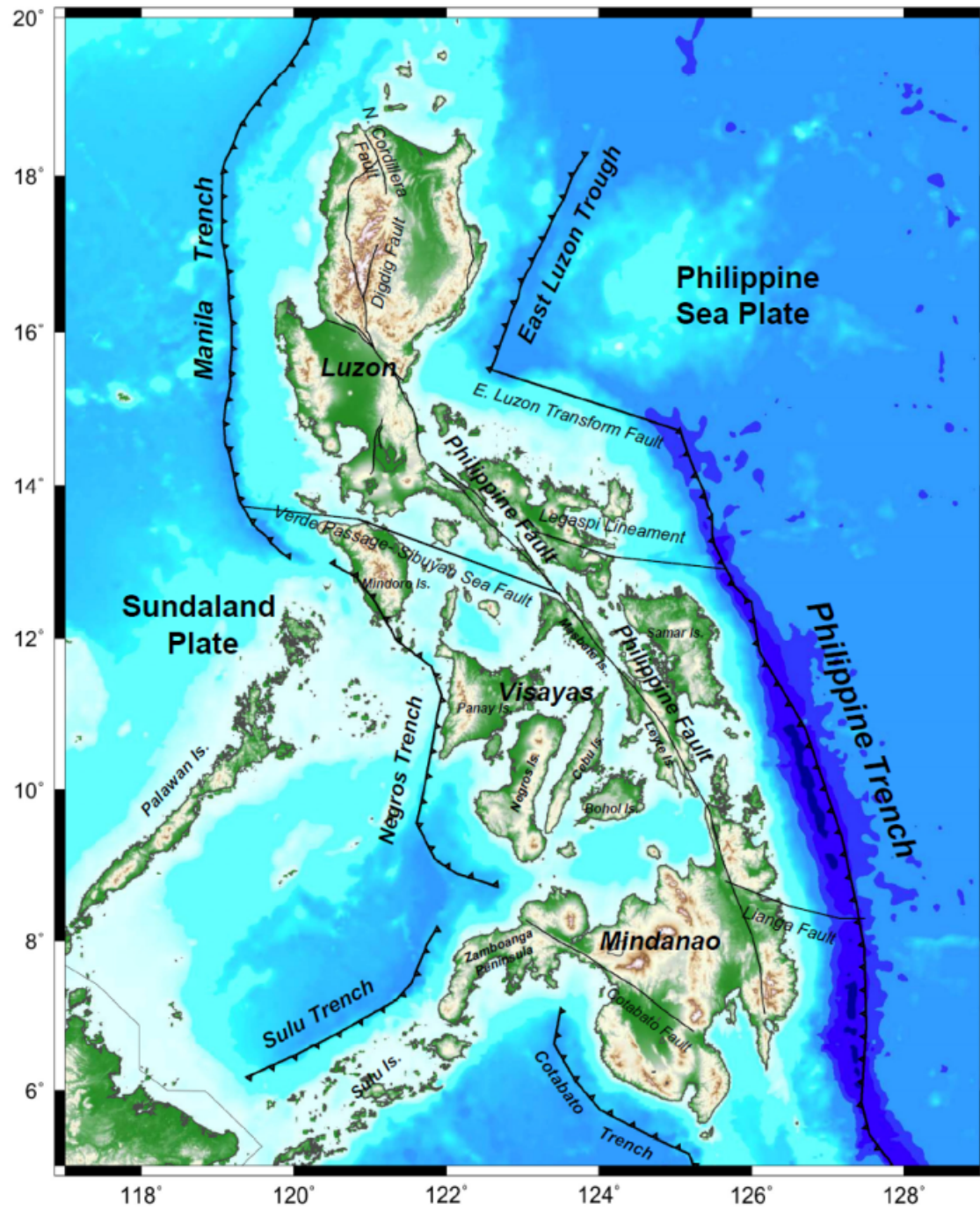
Produced by the Global Seismic Hazard Assessment Program (GSHAP),  
a demonstration project of the UN/International Decade of Natural Disaster Reduction, conducted by the International Lithosphere Program.  
Global map assembled by D. Giardini, G. Grünthal, K. Shedlock, and P. Zhang  
1999

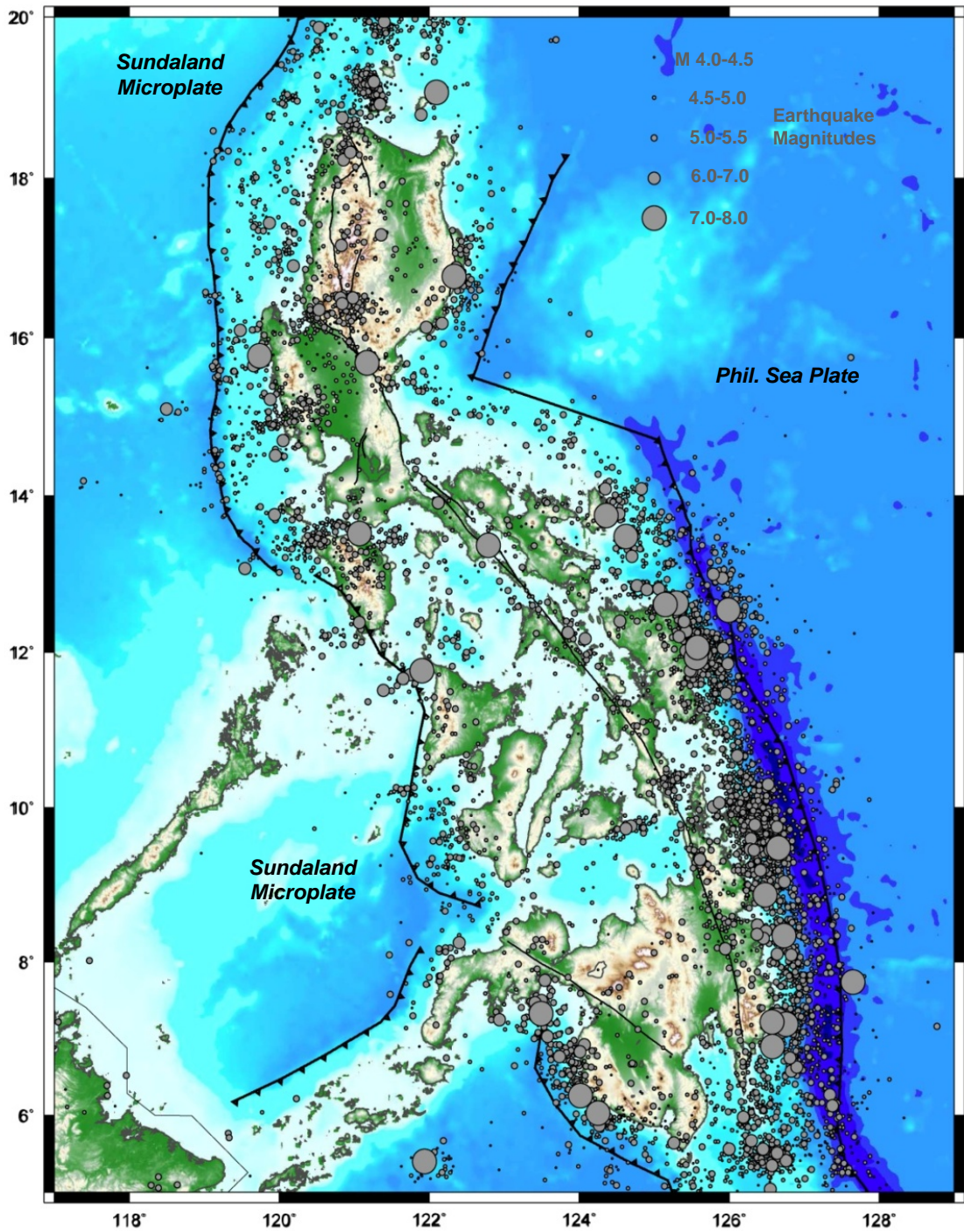


## Misconception #3:

Earthquake hazard is pretty much the same everywhere in \_\_\_\_\_.







118°

120°

122°

124°

126°

128°

20°

18°

16°

14°

12°

10°

8°

6°

**Sundaland  
Microplate**

M 4.0-4.5

4.5-5.0

5.0-5.5

6.0-7.0

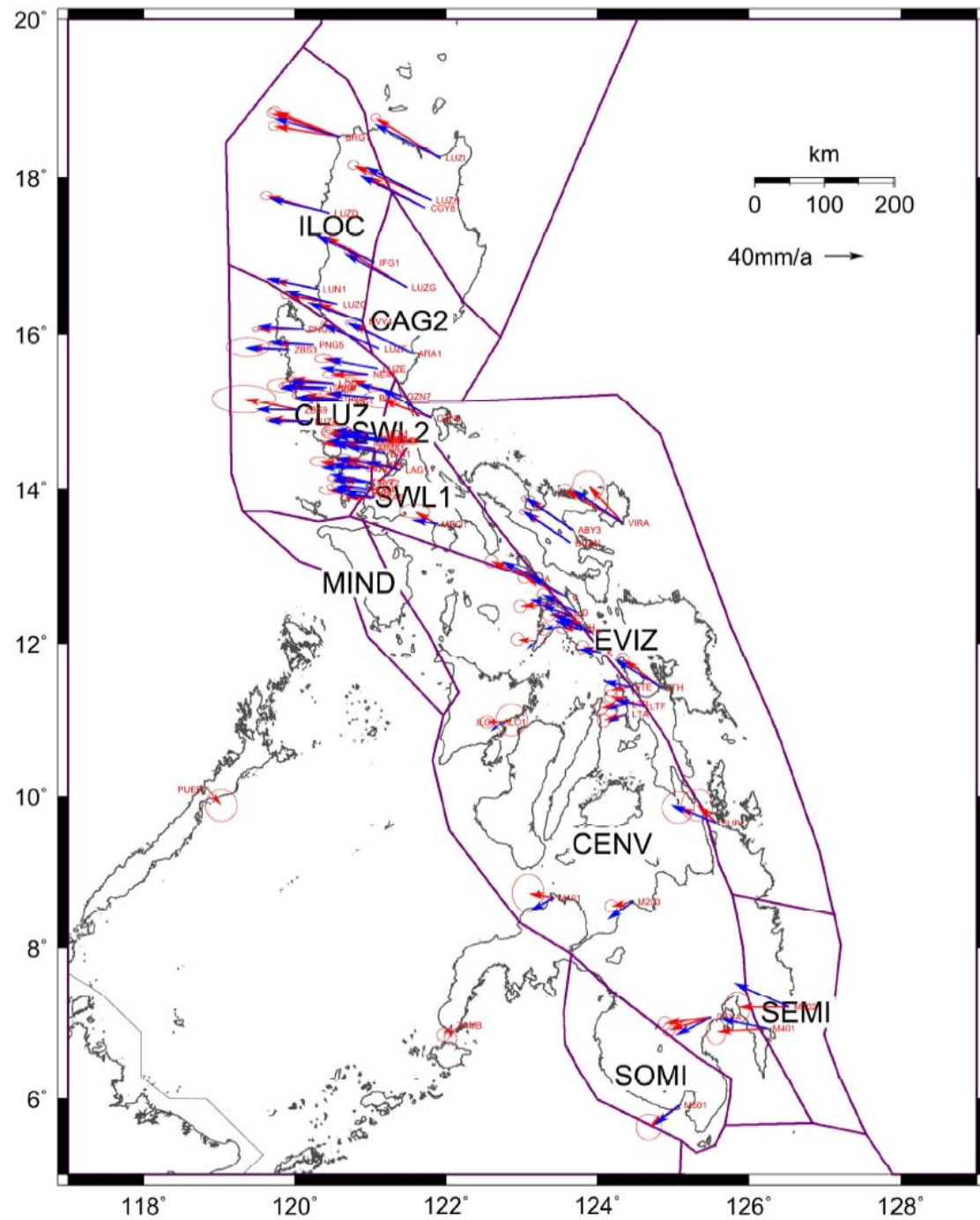
7.0-8.0

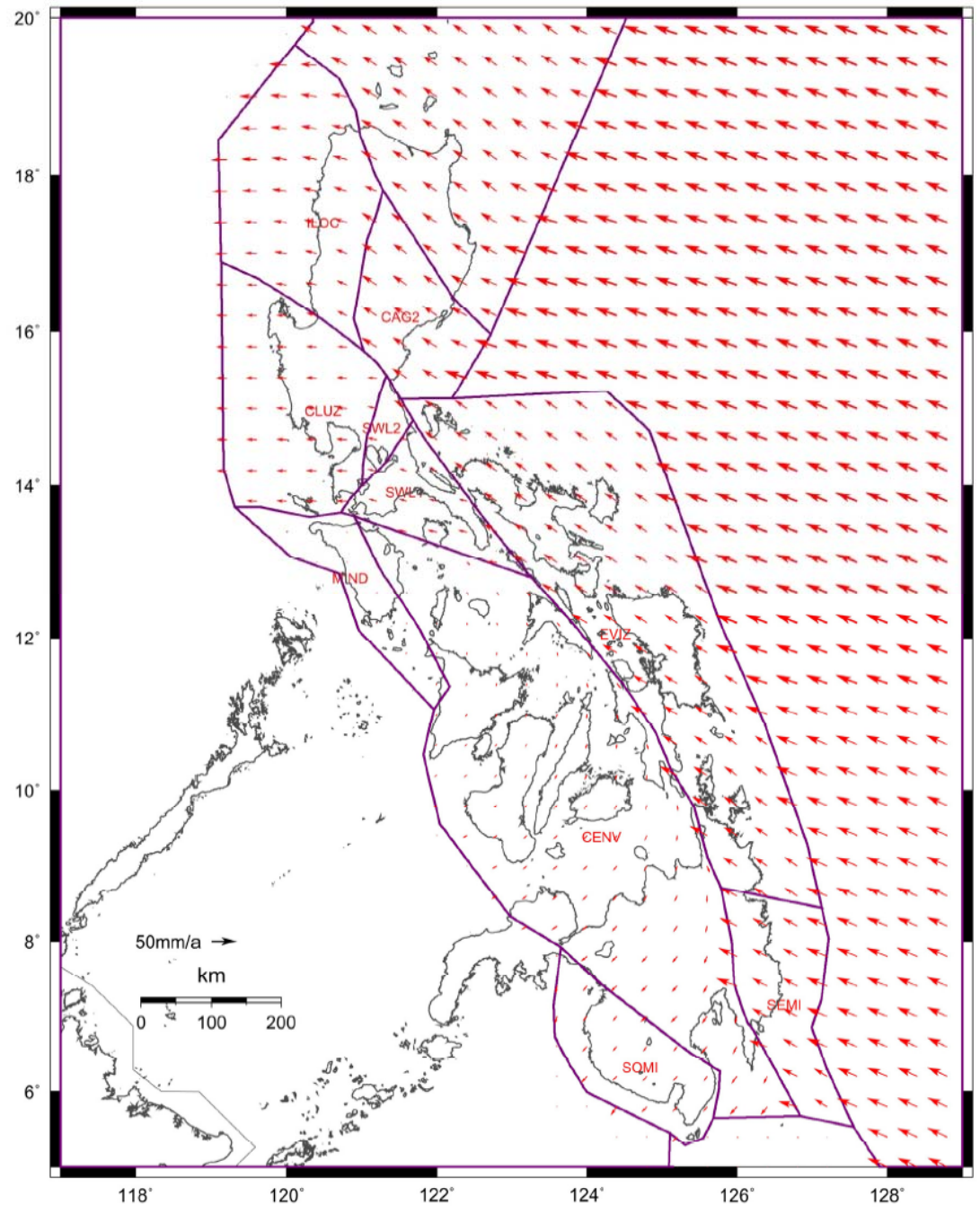
Earthquake  
Magnitudes

**Phil. Sea Plate**

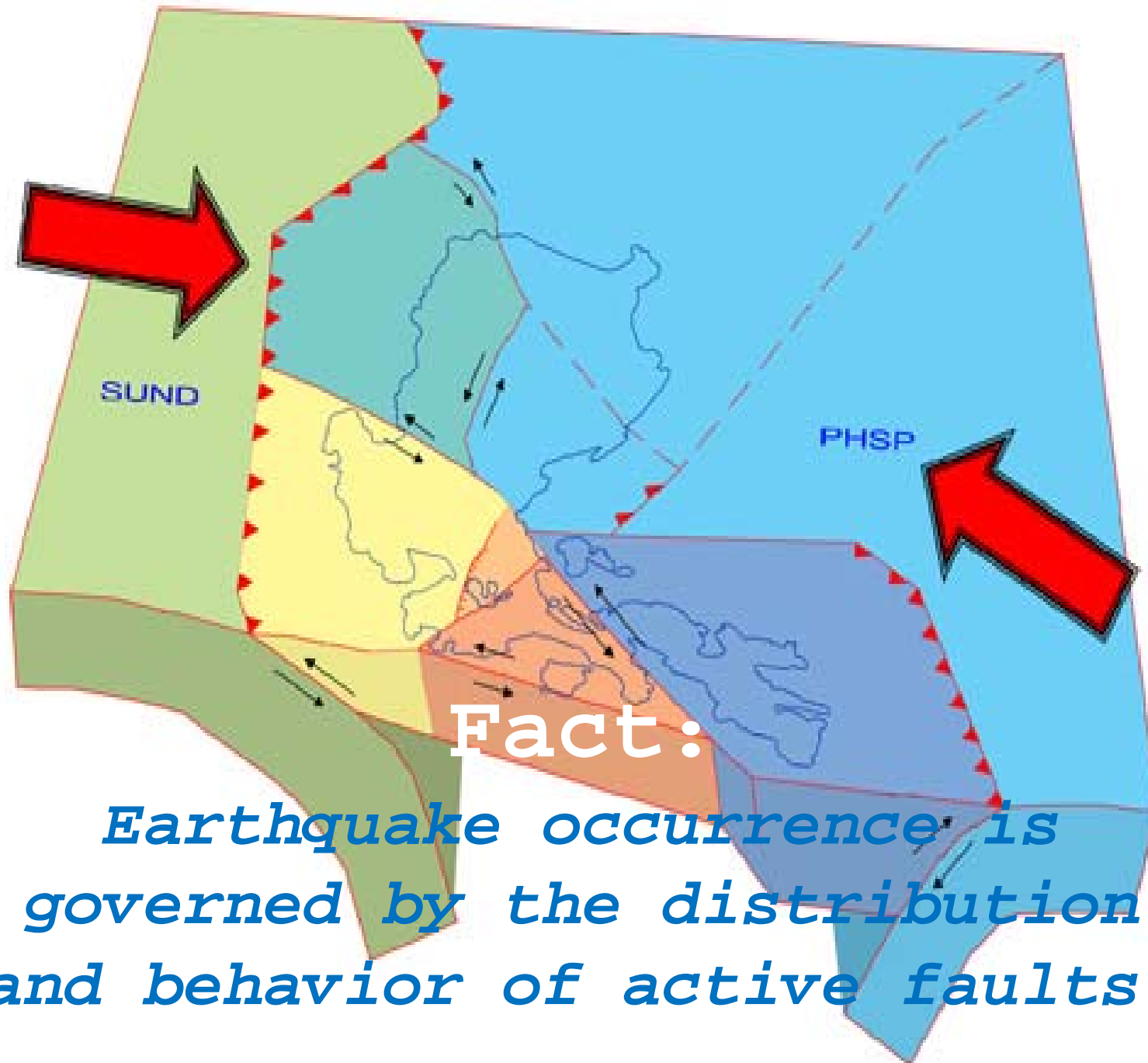
**Sundaland  
Microplate**











Fact:

*Earthquake occurrence is governed by the distribution and behavior of active faults.*

# Misconception #4:

“Earthquakes kill people.”













**Fact:**

*Poorly built structures are responsible for deaths and injuries of the majority of earthquake victims.*

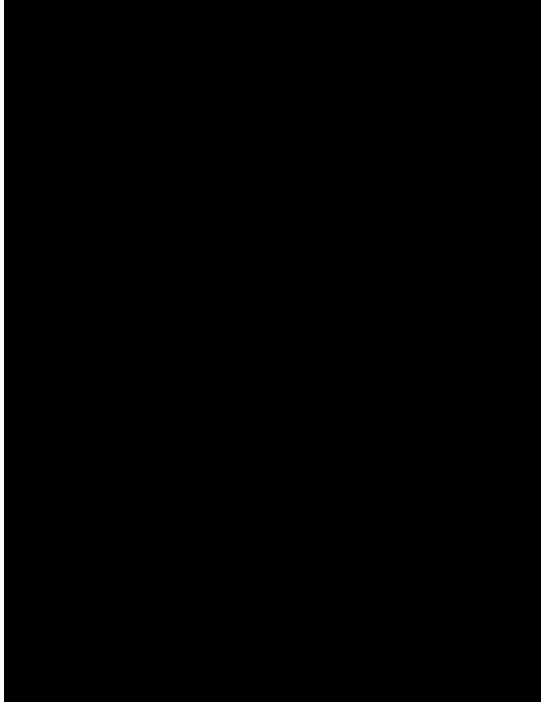
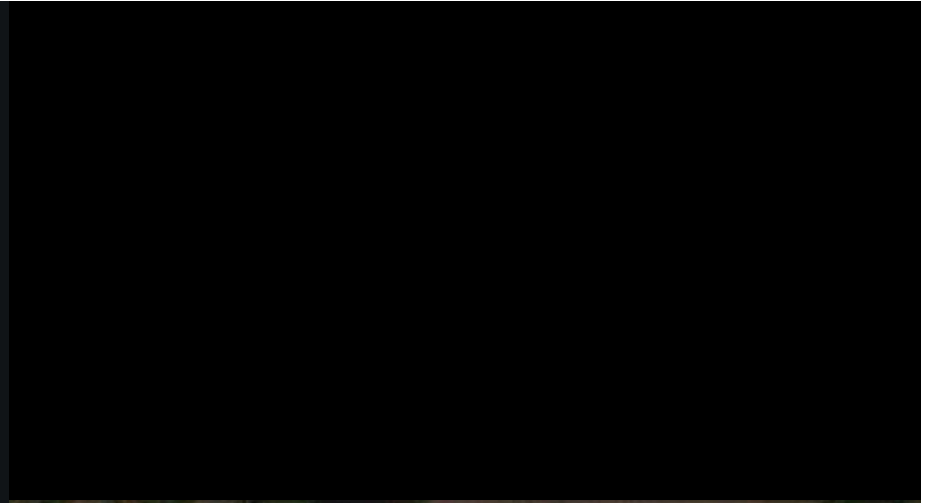
# Misconception #5:

Earthquake-triggered ground shaking is directly responsible for most earthquake disasters

















A photograph showing a street in a tropical area completely flooded with turbulent, brown water. The water is flowing rapidly down the street, which is lined with houses and palm trees. In the foreground, a black tire is visible on the left side. The sky is overcast and grey.

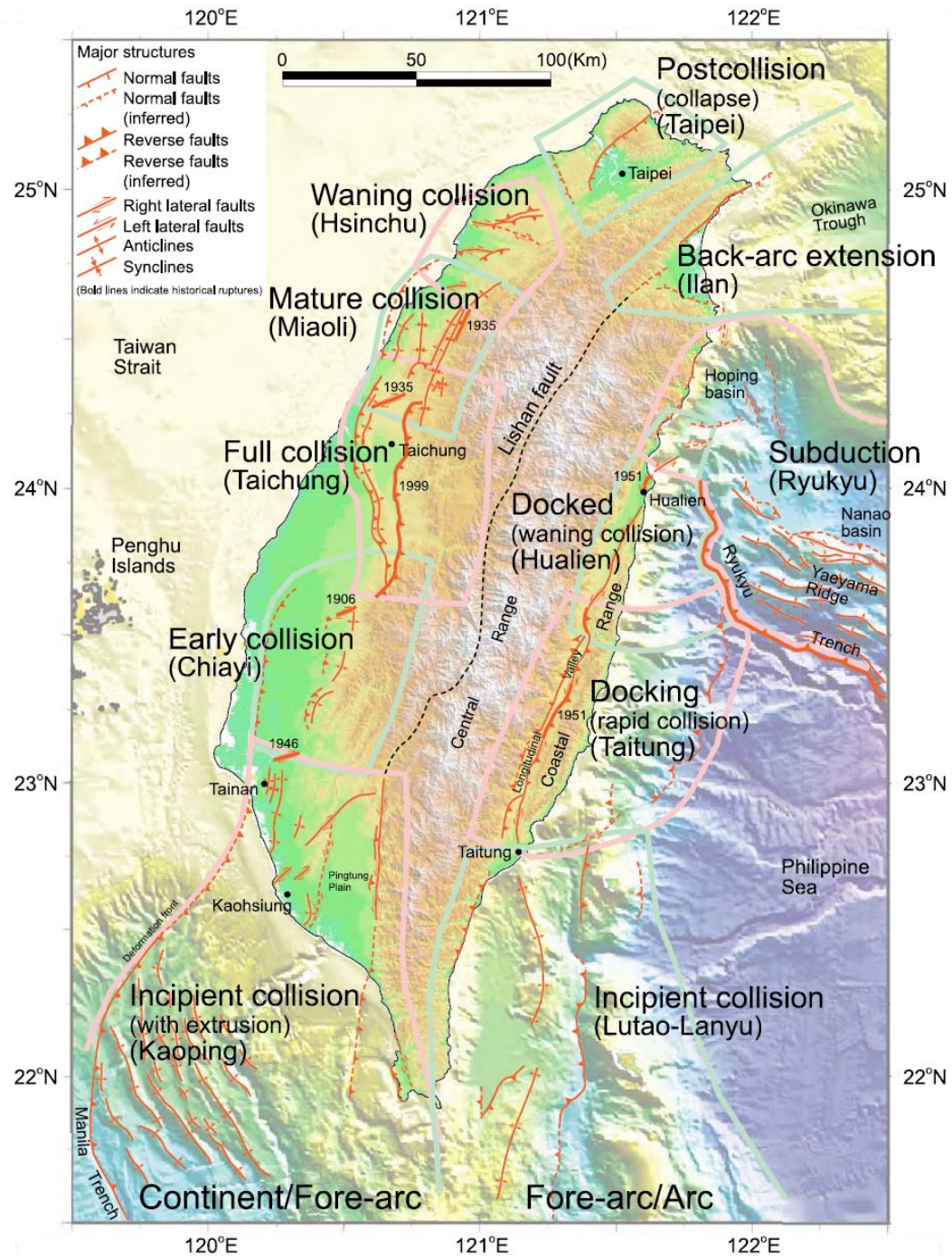
Fact:

*A significant proportion of the earthquake impacts derive from their secondary effects.*

## Misconception #6:

We can't anticipate the impacts  
of future earthquakes.

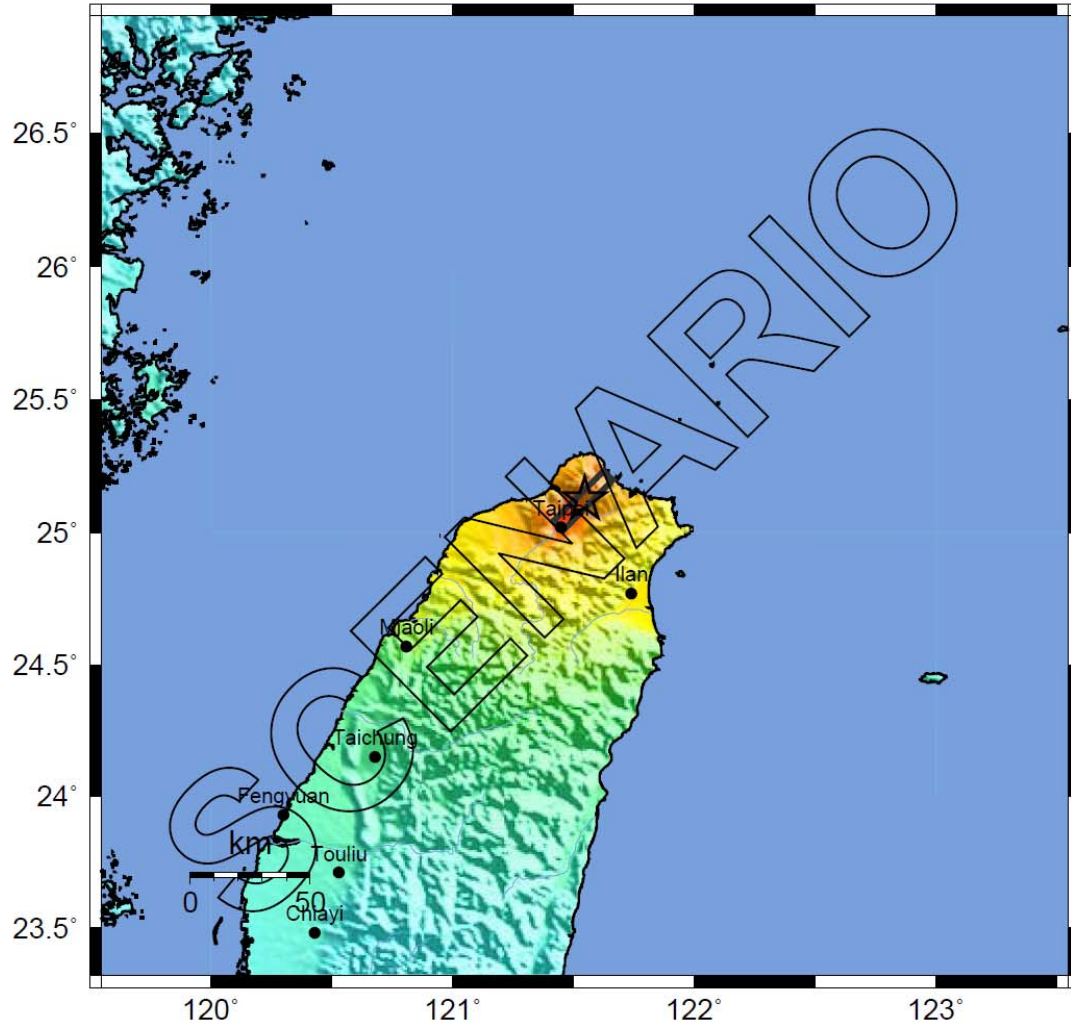




*Shyu et al. (1995)*

-- Earthquake Planning Scenario --  
 ShakeMap for Taiwan\_Sanchiao\_Fault Scenario

Scenario Date: FEB 1 2012 12:00:00 AM GMT M 6.5 N25.13 E121.55 Depth: 5.0km



PLANNING SCENARIO ONLY -- Map Version 1 Processed Tue Sep 27, 2011 12:47:49 PM MDT

PERCEIVED SHAKING	Not felt	Weak	Light	Moderate	Strong	Very strong	Severe	Violent	Extreme
POTENTIAL DAMAGE	none	none	none	Very light	Light	Moderate	Mod./Heavy	Heavy	Very Heavy
PEAK ACC.(%g)	<0.1	0.5	2.4	6.7	13	24	44	83	>156
PEAK VEL.(cm/s)	<0.07	0.4	1.9	5.8	11	22	43	83	>160
INSTRUMENTAL INTENSITY	I	II-III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X+

Scale based upon Wald, et al., 1999

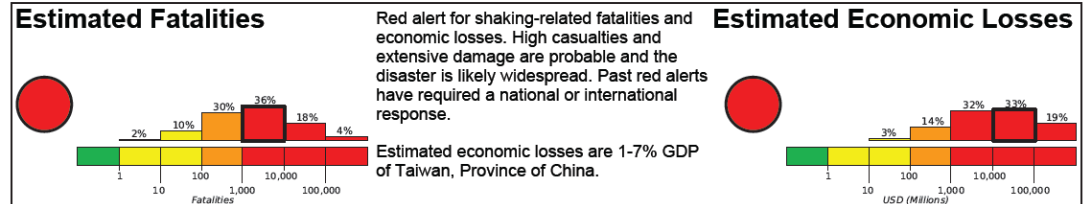


**M 6.5, Shanchiao Fault, north of Taipei, Taiwan**

Origin Time: Wed 2012-02-01 00:00:00 UTC (08:00:00 local)  
Location: 25.13°N 121.55°E Depth: 5 km

**PAGER Version 1**

Created: 20 minutes after earthquake

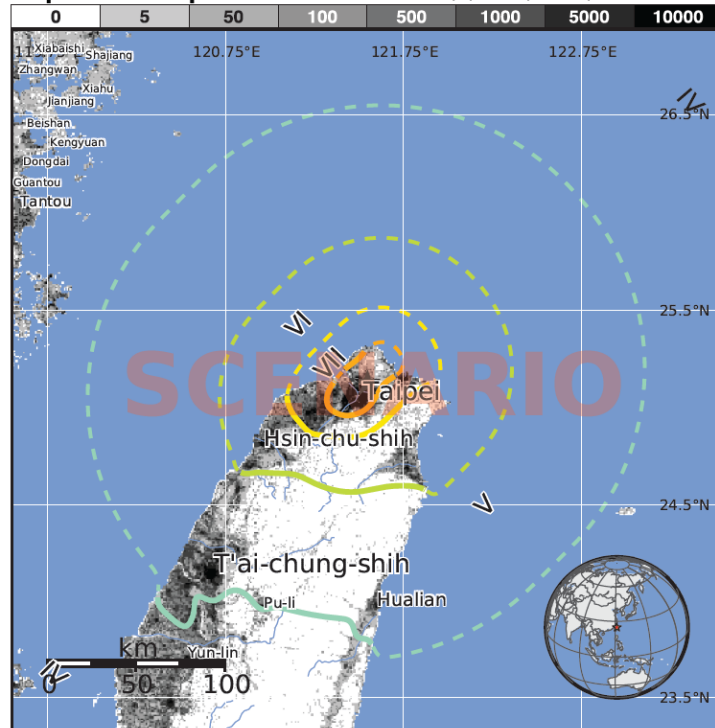


**Estimated Population Exposed to Earthquake Shaking**

ESTIMATED POPULATION EXPOSURE (k = x1000)	--*	--*	4,845k*	4,360k	1,731k	2,156k	5,135k	1,128k	0	
ESTIMATED MODIFIED MERCALLI INTENSITY	I	II-III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X+	
PERCEIVED SHAKING	Not felt	Weak	Light	Moderate	Strong	Very Strong	Severe	Violent	Extreme	
POTENTIAL DAMAGE	<b>Resistant Structures</b>	none	none	none	V. Light	Light	Moderate	Moderate/Heavy	Heavy	V. Heavy
	<b>Vulnerable Structures</b>	none	none	none	Light	Moderate	Moderate/Heavy	Heavy	V. Heavy	V. Heavy

\*Estimated exposure only includes population within the map area.

**Population Exposure**



**Structures:**

Overall, the population in this region resides in structures that are resistant to earthquake shaking, though some vulnerable structures exist. The two model building types that contribute most to fatalities are unreinforced masonry and nonductile reinforced concrete frame with masonry infill.

**Historical Earthquakes (with MMI levels):**

Date (UTC)	Dist. (km)	Mag.	Max MMI(#)	Shaking Deaths
1986-05-20	109	6.2	IX(185k)	1
1986-11-14	129	7.3	VIII(160k)	15
1999-09-20	160	7.6	IX(1,952k)	2k

Recent earthquakes in this area have caused secondary hazards such as landslides that might have contributed to losses.

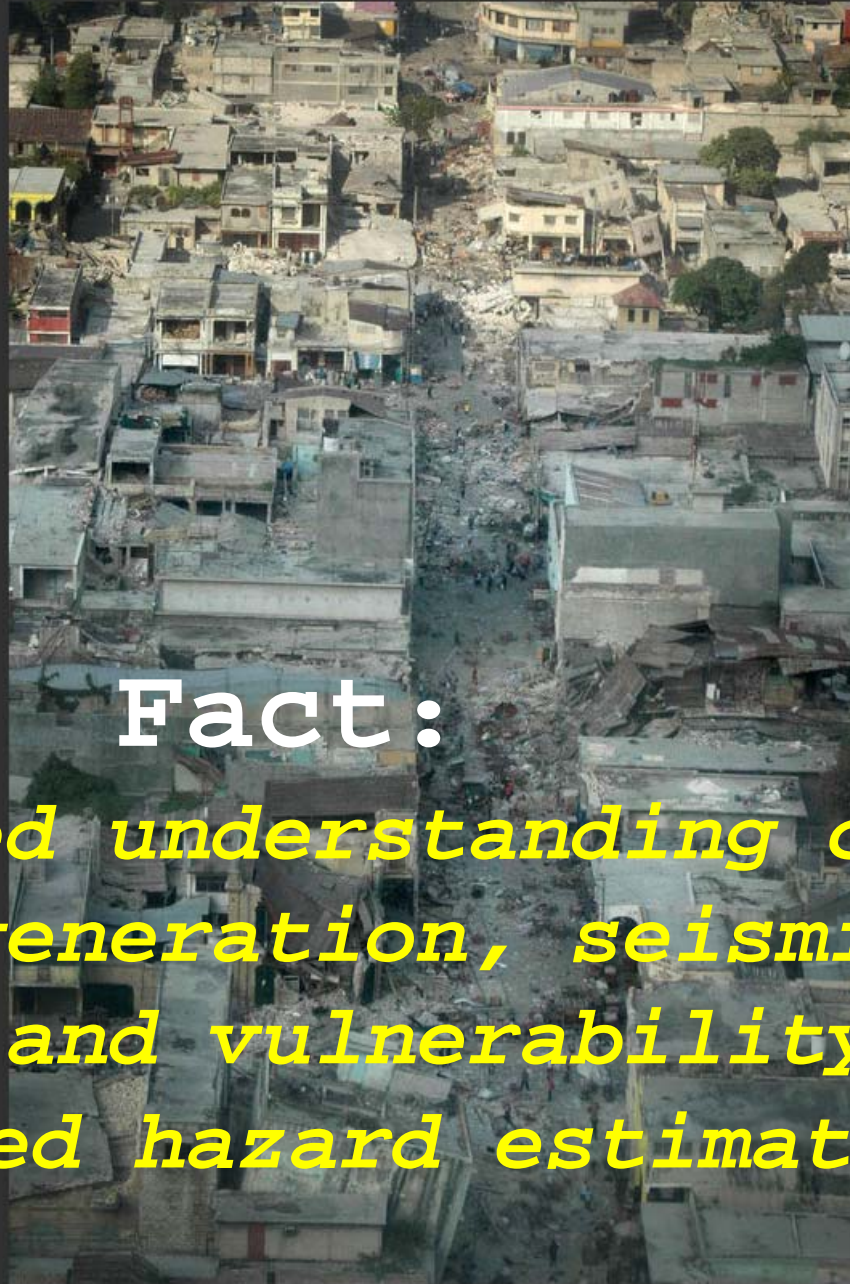
**Selected City Exposure**

from GeoNames.org

MMI City	Population
<b>VIII Taipei</b>	7,872k
VII Chi-lung	398k
VI I-lan	94k
VI Ta-hsi-chen	85k
VI Hsin-chu-shih	404k
V Hualian	350k
V T'ai-chung-shih	1,041k
V Pu-li	86k
IV Yun-lin	105k
IV Tantou	69k
IV Xiabaishi	8k

bold cities appear on map (k = x1000)

PAGER content is automatically generated, and only considers losses due to structural damage. Limitations of input data, shaking estimates, and loss models may add uncertainty.  
<http://earthquake.usgs.gov/pager>



**Fact:**

***Improved understanding of earthquake generation, seismic wave propagation and vulnerability leads to improved hazard estimation.***



# Misconception #7:

There's nothing we can do to prevent future disasters.

# Earthquake Hazard Mitigation

- Seismology research
- Building codes
- Retrofitting older buildings
- Land-use planning/zoning
- Earthquake education
- Earthquake prediction and warning
- Earthquake insurance
- Emergency Preparedness
- Disaster Response





**Fact:**  
*There is a large, and highly effective, array of tools that can help mitigate against future natural disasters.*

## Misconception #8:

Schools don't have much to do with the earthquake problem.







# Earthquake education



**Fact:**  
*Schools are both a critical part  
of the problem and a potential  
key to the solution.*



