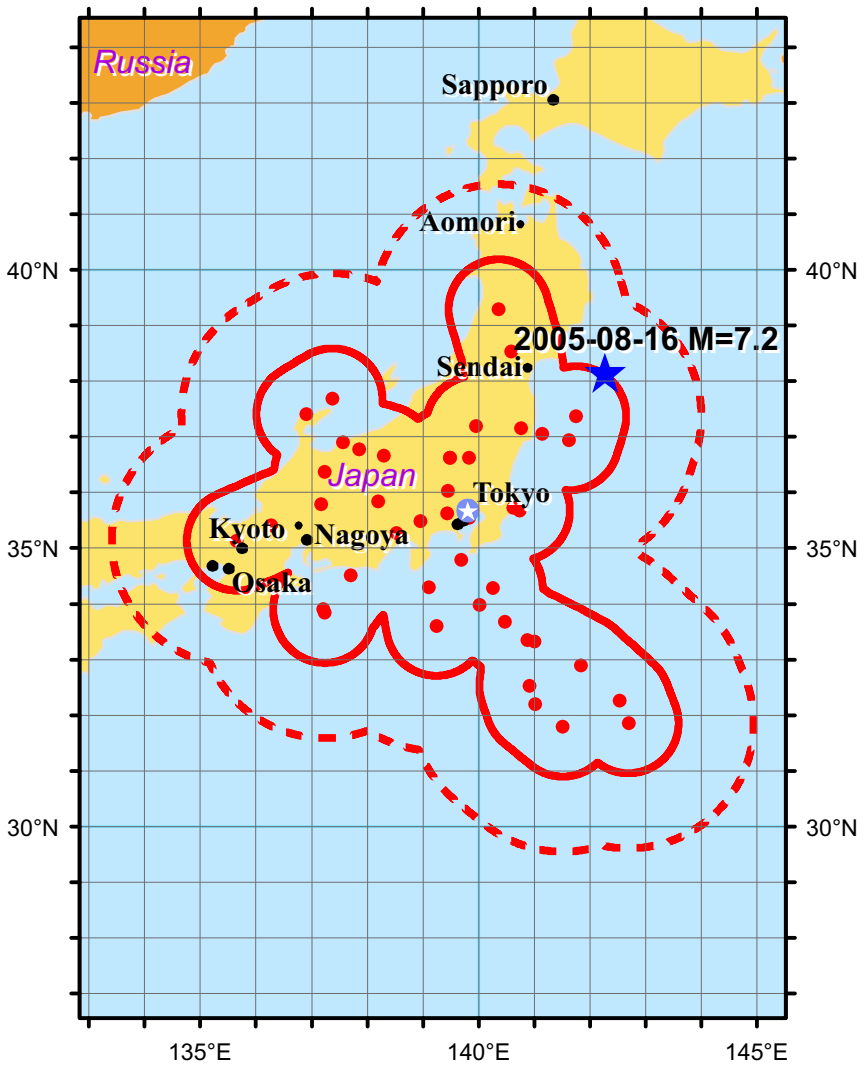
Experiment in prospective earthquake prediction using Reverse Tracing of Precursors (RTP)
Prediction #9, October 1, 2005



Red circles show the earthquakes that formed precursory chain on June 1, 2005. Area of alarm is shown by red contour: solid line test A, dashed line test B. Blue star shows the epicenter of the earthquake that has occurred on August 16, 2005, M_w=7.2 within the area of alarm. Due to technical delay of data the complete RTP analysis was made after the earthquake. According to the RTP rules the prediction remains current until March 2, 2006.

Starting from October 1, 2005 we test in parallel two versions of the prediction algorithm. Test A concerns exactly the same algorithm as before. In test B we made one change: we increased by factor 2.5 the value of the numerical parameter, R, thus expanding the area of alarm.

An earthquake with magnitude M_w >= 7.2 is predicted to occur within the time interval 9 months, from 00:00 GMT June 2, 2005, to 00:00 GMT March 2, 2006 in the area shown in the figure: solid line shows the area of alarm in test A, dashed line in test B.

Estimated probability that a target earthquake will occur at random in the time-area of alarm is less than 5% in test A and less than 14% in test B. Estimated probability of a false alarm does not exceed 50% in both tests.

Reminder. As you know, earthquake predictions should be released to the public or media only by a proper disaster management authority. Otherwise, prediction may trigger profiteering and disruptive anxiety of population. Accordingly, we open an access to our predictions only to professionals who agreed to comply with the above limitation. This restriction is lifted and prediction becomes publicly available when a target earthquake occurs in the area of alarm, or when the alarm expires, independently of was it correct or wrong.