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Fault-zone geology: lessons from drilling through the Nojima and Chelungpu faults

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Abstract: Several drilling projects have been conducted through active faults with the aim of learning about the geology of the fault zones and tentatively correlating the structure and mineralogy of the fault zones with their seismological behaviour during recent earthquakes. Here we present the major results obtained from structural and mineralogical studies of core samples retrieved from the dextral reverse strike-slip Nojima Fault (Japan) within granitic rocks following the Kobe earthquake (1995), and from the Chelungpu Thrust Fault (Taiwan) within alternating silts and shales following the Chi-chi earthquake (1999). We show how these projects, despite not fullfilling all their objectives, have still contributed to a better geological knowledge of the fault zones, to a better characterization of the slip zones related to the recent earthquakes particularly of their thickness, microstructures and deformation mechanisms, and to a better understanding of the nature and role of fluids within the fault zone. They have also led to new questions, and to new approaches, for studying fault-rock samples. For all of these reasons, they have stimulated international scientific research into fault-zone geology.

In 1993, a conference was held in California by the US Geological Survey on 'Mechanical Effects of Fluids in Faulting'. This led to a special issue of the *Journal of Geophysical Research*, in the introduction of which Hickman *et al.* (1995) reported recommendations for three significant topics for future research, one of which was 'fault zone drilling combined with surface-based geophysical and geological investigations' (p. 13 838). Since that time, several fault-zone drilling projects have been conducted around the world, such as the Nojima Fault project following the 1995 Kobe earthquake, the Corinth Rift (Greece) Laboratory, the San Andreas Fault Observatory at Depth (SAFOD) in Parkfield (California), the Taiwan Chelungpu fault Drilling Project (TCDP) following the 1999 Chi-chi earthquake and the Wenchuan earthquake Fault Scientific Drilling (WFSD) through the Longmen Shan active fault zone (following the 2008 Wenchuan earthquake, China). Other projects have drilled plate boundaries along subduction zones, such as the shallow Barbados accretionary prism (Leg ODP 156) or the NanTroSeize experiment, which is still in progress through the Nankai Trough.

In a recent review, Zoback *et al.* (2007) summarized the principal objectives and scientific goals of fault-zone drilling: 'The objective of fault-zone drilling projects is to directly study the physical and chemical processes that control deformation and earthquake generation within active fault zones' (p. 649). More recently, the ICDP–SCEC international workshop on 'Rapid Response Drilling: Past, Present, and Future', held in Tokyo, Japan in November 2008 (see Brodsky *et al.* 2009), pointed out the importance of knowing how fault strength recovers slowly in the long interval between earthquakes, and what combinations of physical and chemical properties of fault rocks lead faults to slip or to creep. In order to fulfill these objectives, the active fault zone and the active slip zone related to the last earthquake had first to be recognized so that their thickness, mineralogy, chemical composition and microstructures could be studied. The major geological questions addressed by fault-zone drilling projects are the following. Can we interpret microstructures in terms of deformation mechanisms, strain-rate, slip-weakening or slip-hardening processes? Can we estimate the fracture and heat contribution in the energy budget of an earthquake? What is the importance of fluids before, during and after an earthquake? What are the mechanisms and kinetics of fault healing? What are the physical properties (seismic velocities, electrical resistivity, density, porosity, permeability) of fault-zone materials compared to country rocks, and how do they vary in time and space? As predicted by Hickman *et al.* (1995), these drilling programmes have partly answered these questions and have contributed to a better understanding of the active faults, as illustrated by the huge number of scientific papers that have arisen from the studies of core samples. In fact, these are too numerous to cite herein. These studies have also enabled important new questions to be defined, and have also stimulated a large number of laboratory measurements and experiments.

Of course, boreholes are needlepoints through faults, and surface surveys and detailed studies should not be neglected. However, they provide continuous and unaltered sampling through the faults. In this paper I will focus on and tentatively summarize the main results that have specifically arisen from the Nojima (Japan) and Chelungpu (Taiwan) drilling projects.

The Nojima Fault (Japan)

General context

The 1995 Hyogo-ken Nanbu earthquake (Kobe earthquake, *M* 7.2) caused 6432 fatalities and disastrous damage in the Kobe city and Awaji Island area. One year after the earthquake, five boreholes were successfully drilled through the Nojima Fault in Awaji Island by the Geological Survey of Japan (GSJ) and the National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Prevention (NIED) at Hirabayashi, and by the Disaster Prevention Research Institute (DPRI, Kyoto University) at Ogura, with the aim of better understanding seismic processes. These boreholes, which were completed within 14 months of the Kobe earthquake, were the first to penetrate through active faults following a recent earthquake. The Nojima Fault is a NE-striking and SE-dipping dextral reverse fault running along the west coast of the Awaji Island, which cuts across the Cretaceous Ryoke granodiorite and its porphyry dykes (Fig. 1a). Its Quaternary offset and average slip rate have been established by Murata *et al.* (2001) to be 490–540 m and 0.4–0.45 m per 10^3 years, respectively, for the last 1.2 Ma based on the displacement of an unconformity below the sedimentary Kobe Group (Fig. 1b). The basal part of this group has been dated to Middle–Late Eocene (Yamamoto *et al.* 2000), that is, 40 Ma. These geological data and dates represent important constraints for interpreting the structure and mineralogy of the fault rocks observed in core samples.

The active fault zone

Drill holes were nearly vertical and at low angle to the orientation that is inferred for the Nojima Fault from its steeply dipping surface rupture (75–85°SE: Awata & Mizuno 1998). Conventional borehole logging during drilling illustrated the evolution of physical properties of rocks with depth. Measured parameters, were sonic wave velocity (V_p), borehole diameter, resistivity, porosity, density, gamma-ray and temperature (Ito *et al.* 1996; Ikeda 2001). By combining these data with continuous observation of core samples on-site, the main fault zone was located at 389.5, 624.5 and 1140 m depth in the DPRI 500, Hirabayashi GSJ and NIED drill holes, respectively (Fig. 1b, c). Another borehole approached the fault at approximately 1700 m depth (DPRI 1800, Fig. 1b) but did not go entirely through it (Lin *et al.* 2007).

The logging tools give a first image of the structure of the fault. In the GSJ borehole, for example, the resistivity decreases regularly above and increases abruptly below all faults regardless of their importance (Pezard *et al.* 2000). Conversely, the natural gamma radioactivity displays a wide maximum above the fault, decreases sharply on the fault and then increases regularly below it, until the baseline (Pezard *et al.* 2000). Both trends indicate an asymmetry of the fault zone, and a tendency towards more extensive fracturing and alteration of the hanging wall as the fault is approached. This result illustrates that logging tools are powerful methods to locate damage and fault zones in boreholes. The Stoneley wave analysis was used to determine the location of the permeable zone around the Principal Slip Zone (PSZ: Sibson 2003) in the Hirabayashi GSJ drill hole within the 623–625 m depth interval predicted by observations of the surface rupture (Kiguchi *et al.* 2001). It is important to note that no temperature anomaly was measured in any borehole.

Characterization of the fault zone

An identical procedure was followed for core handling for all drill holes (Matsuda *et al.* 2001; Tanaka *et al.* 2001*a*; Lin *et al.* 2007). Core pieces were fixed using epoxy resin and cut into two halves. One of these halves was for archiving, but was polished for naked-eye observations. The other half was made into thin sections, and used for experiments and analyses. This method has advantages for microstructural studies because it allowed multiscale observations of samples from cores to thin sections. However, it caused complications in the measurement of physical properties of the fault rocks.

Formation Micro-Imaging (FMI^{TM}: Schlumberger, Houston, TX), a downhole logging technique that was performed after the GSJ drilling, provides an image of the electric resistivity of the borehole, and thus indicates the number and orientation of the fractures. The fractures tend to strike east–west far from the fault, as expected due to the orientation of the present-day stress field, but they become normal to the fault close to it and parallel to it within the fault core (Ito & Kiguchi 2005). FMI and images of the core were compared to reorientate the core samples in a geographical coordinate system (Ohtani *et al.* 2000*b*). However, this was not possible for the whole length of the borehole, particularly in sections with few fractures.
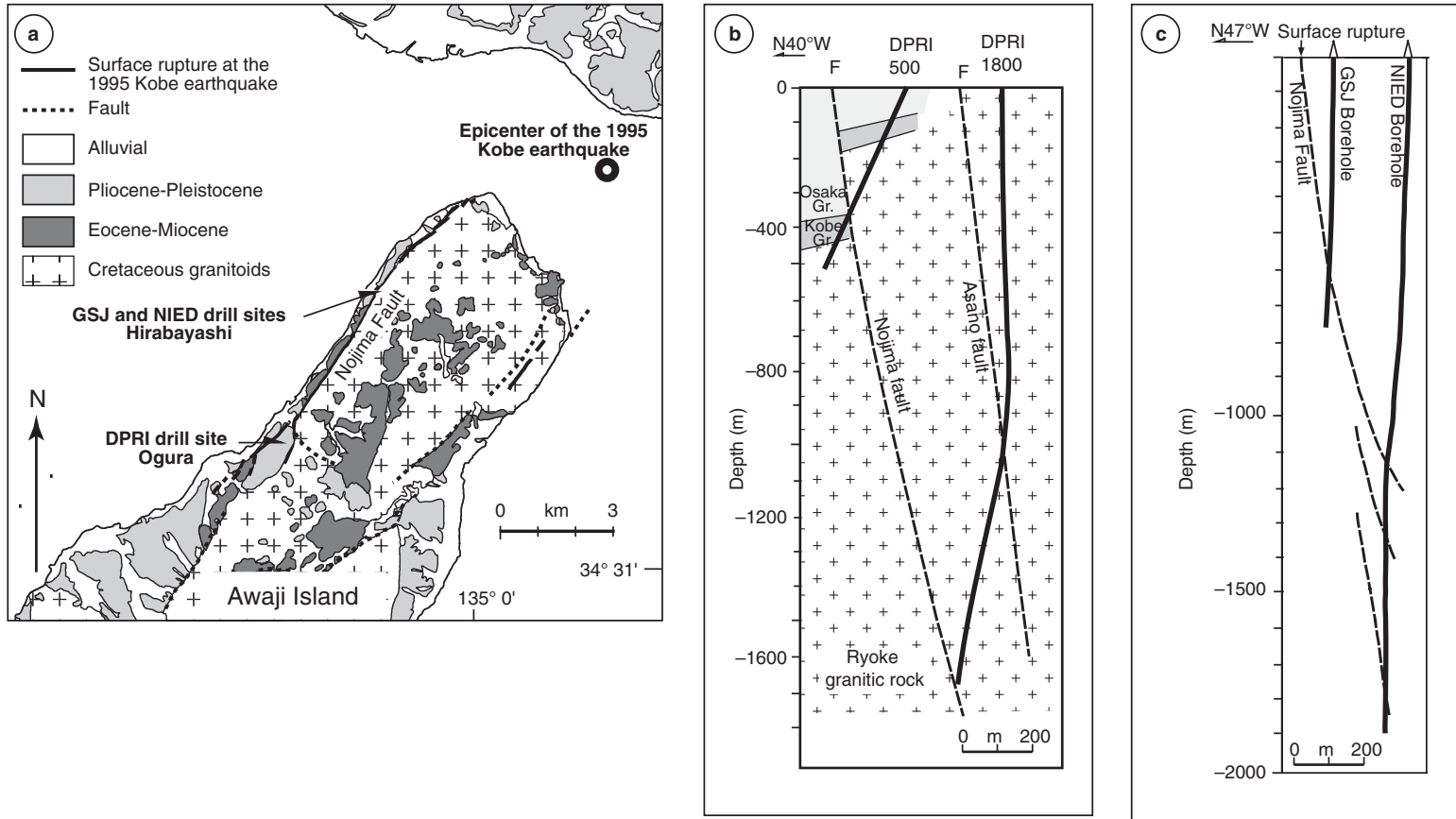
Fig. 1. (**a**) Geological map of the northern part of the Awaji Island and location of the DPRI, Hirabayashi GSJ and NIED drill sites (after Ohtani *et al.* 2000*b*). (**b**) Cross-section showing the vertical offset of the Nojima Fault, and the orientation of the DRPI 500 and DPRI 1800 boreholes at Ogura (after Lin *et al.* 2007). (**c**) Cross-section showing the orientation of the GSJ and NIED boreholes at Hirabayashi (after Tanaka *et al.* 2007*b*).

Nevertheless, observations of thin sections normal to the core indicate evidence of two nearly orthogonal directions of compression in the form of kinked biotites (Boullier *et al.* 2004*a*), and healed (fluid inclusion planes) or sealed (calcite) microfractures (Takeshita & Yagi 2001). These two stress tensors are consistent with the geodynamics of Japan, which displays left-lateral transcurrent faults striking 045° during the Late Cretaceous–Paleocene (Kanaori 1990) that were reactivated as right-lateral faults during Late Pliocene–Quaternary times (Fabbri *et al.* 2004).

Systematic studies of polished slabs (see, for e.g. Fig. 2) and thin sections have provided important data on the distribution of deformation microstructures, geochemical composition and mineralogy of the core samples in all boreholes (Ohtani *et al.* 2000*a*, 2001; Fujimoto *et al.* 2001 2007*a*; Kobayashi *et al.* 2001; Lin *et al.* 2001, 2007; Matsuda *et al.* 2001, 2004; Tanaka *et al.* 2001*a*, *b*). Most of these studies have used Sibson's (1977) classification of fault rocks. First, these authors used the distribution of deformation and alteration textures in order to define the fault core where most of the displacement is accommodated. The damage zone was defined as the zone made up of a network of subsidiary structures between the fault core and the undeformed protolith (Caine *et al.* 1996). The fault core and damage zone are 0.3 and more than 46.5 m wide, respectively, in the Hirabayashi GSJ borehole (Ohtani *et al.* 2000*a*, 2001; Fujimoto *et al.* 2001; Tanaka *et al.* 2001*a*). The fault damage zone is 70 m wide in the Hirabayashi NIED drill hole (Tanaka *et al.* 2007*b*), and even larger (130 m) if the 1140 and 1312 m fault zones are considered the bounding faults of a fault zone (Lockner *et al.* 2009). The Nojima Fault Zone becomes wider and more complex with depth, branching into two faults between the Hirabayashi GSJ and the NIED drill holes.

Secondly, correlations between deformation intensity and geochemical composition were possible thanks to the homogeneity of the starting material, the Ryoke granodiorite (Fig. 2a). Mass balance calculations considering TiO_2 and P_2O_5 as immobile elements indicate important volume loss (compaction) in the fault core but volume gain (dilation) in the damage zone in the Hirabayashi GSJ and the NIED boreholes (Tanaka *et al.* 2001*a*, 2007*b*). Volume gain in the damage zone corresponds also to an LOI (loss on ignition) increase and to a decrease in the P-wave velocity (Fujimoto *et al.* 2001). These results are consistent with the permeability and strength evolution around the fault as measured by Mizoguchi *et al.* (2008*a*) on surface samples and by Lockner *et al.* (2009) on drill core samples. The fault zone is 'a thin, low-strength, low-permeability fault zone core flanked by zones of high permeability rock that have undergone relatively limited total shear' (Lockner *et al.* 2009, p. 1662).

The Principal Slip Zone

Although it was a challenging prospect, the Principal Slip Zone (PSZ: Sibson 2003), where displacement took place during the Kobe earthquake, was located by means of careful observations of core samples and polished slabs from three drill holes. In the DPRI 500 drill hole (Fig. 1b) the PSZ is localized to the contact between foliated gouges from the Ryoke granodiorite and from the Osaka group, and is described as a fault surface (Lin *et al.* 2001; Tanaka *et al.* 2001*b*). This would suggest that the PSZ related to the Kobe earthquake has no apparent thickness at this depth. However, thanks to electron spin resonance (ESR) intensity measured across the dark-grey fault plane by Fukuchi & Imai (2001), and to comparisons made of ESR analyses of natural and experimental fault gouge samples produced from high-speed slip tests (Fukuchi *et al.* 2005), it has been demonstrated that a thermal effect related to the earthquake was recorded in a 6 mm-wide zone. This could be explained by the frictional heating of the pore water in the fault gouge above boiling, and its diffusion into the fault gouge (Fukuchi & Imai 2001). Darkening of the gouge and the presence of an increased ferrimagnetic resonance (FMR) signal in the PSZ are related to the formation of ferrimagnetic iron oxides, an indication that frictional heating may have induced temperatures of at least 350–400 °C during seismic slip at a depth of 390 m (Fukuchi *et al.* 2005).

In the Hirabayashi GSJ drill hole (Fig. 1c), after much debate, it was concluded that the PSZ was found at a depth of 625.27 m in a millimetre-thick slip zone (Tanaka *et al.* 2001*a*). In the Hirabayashi NIED drill hole (Fig. 1c), Tanaka *et al.* (2007*b*) located the PSZ at a depth of 1140.57–1140.66 m in a 10 mm-thick Ca-rich ultracataclasite layer in which intense grain-size reduction has occurred. However, Lockner *et al.* (2009) suggested that two activated fault strands were crossed by this drill hole at depths of 1140 and 1312 m. All of these observations on drill holes through the Nojima Fault demonstrate that thickness of the PSZ increases with depth and that fault-healing processes may be very efficient, making it difficult to determine the presence of the PSZ in all drill holes only 1 year after the Kobe earthquake.

Pseudotachylytes and seismic processes

The most striking rocks observed either in the GSJ or NIED drill holes are pseudotachylytes (Figs 2c & 3a), which are associated with ultracataclasites
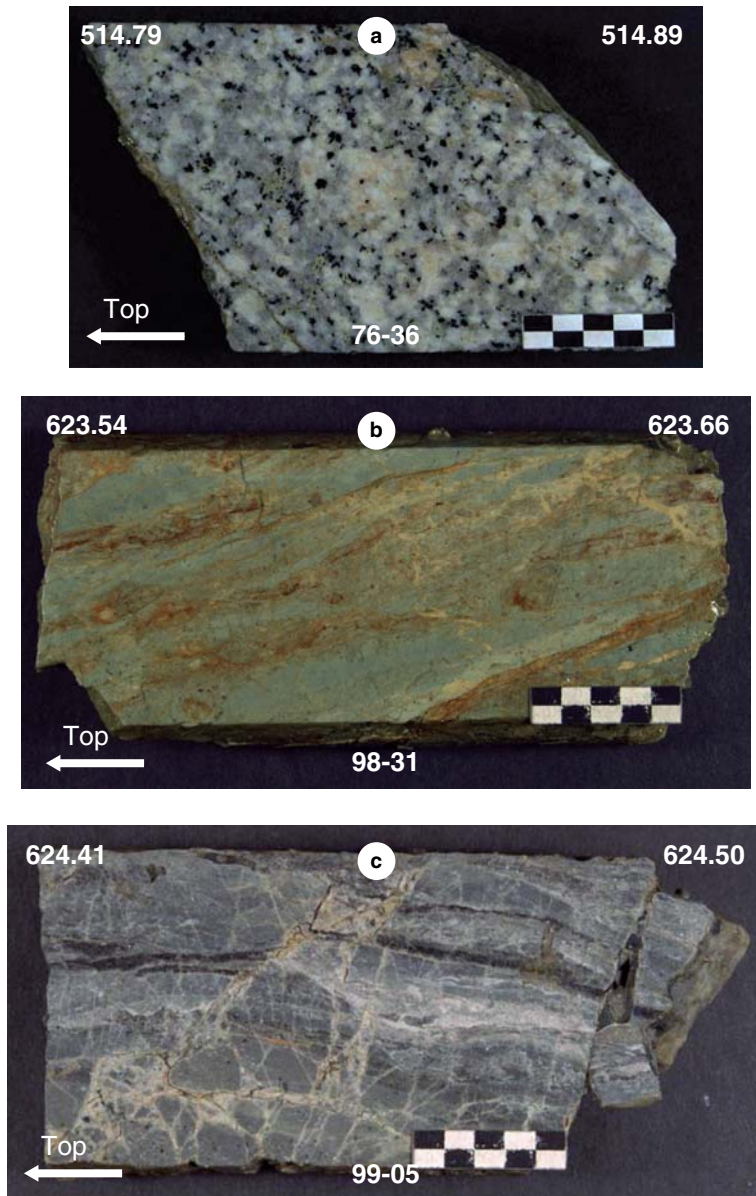
Fig. 2. Photographs of polished drill core slabs from the Hirabayashi GSJ borehole. The depths of the upper and lower limits of the samples are specified at the top of each image (top of the core is always to the left). The sample number (bottom) indicates the number of the drill core box and the number of the sample within that box. The scale marker is 2.5 cm long. (**a**) Undeformed and almost unaltered Ryoke granodiorite. (**b**) Very fine-grained compacted ultracataclasite in the core of the fault. Note the reddish colour related to siderite veinlets and the pale honey-coloured veins filled by siderite + ankerite. (**c**) Very fine-grained compacted ultracataclasite (bottom left) associated with layered pseudotachylytes in the core of the fault.

(Ohtani *et al.* 2000*a*; Boullier *et al.* 2001; Tanaka *et al.* 2001*a*; Otsuki *et al.* 2003). These rocks are rarely observed in faults, as predicted by Sibson & Toy (2006), but clearly result from seismic slip (Sibson 1975) and therefore provide information on seismic processes and the energy budget of earthquakes (Kanamori & Heaton 2000). Otsuki *et al.* (2003) suggested that the ultracataclasites observed
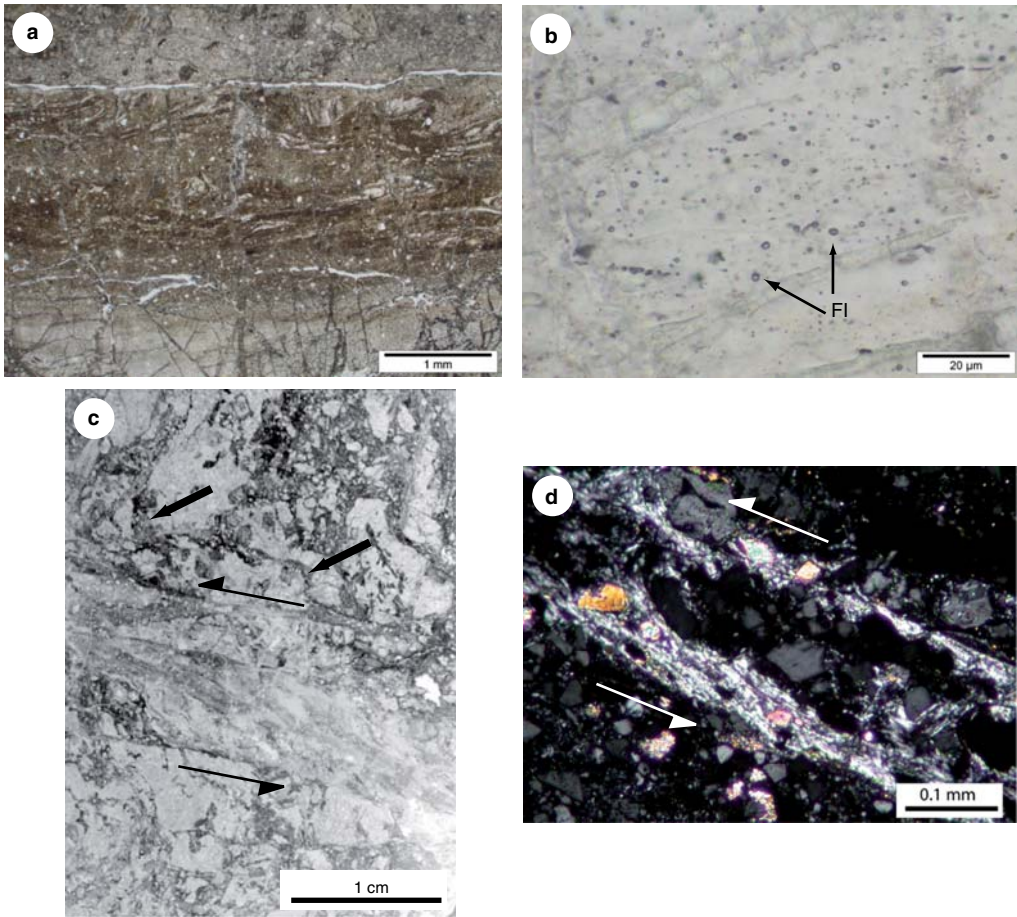
Fig. 3. Microphotographs of thin sections from the Hirabayashi GSJ borehole. (**a**) Pseudotachylyte from the sample 99−05 (Fig. 2c, upper-right corner). Note the flow structures in the dark brown layer. Plane polarized light. (**b**) Transparent psedotachylyte fragment in the ultracataclasite from sample 99−05 (Fig. 2c, lower-left corner), which contains numerous CO_2-rich fluid inclusions (FI). Plane polarized light. (**c**) Scan of a thin section in sample 100−35 at 633.07 m depth showing a clay-rich, low-angle reverse shear zone deforming the fine-grained carbonate veins (short thick arrows). (**d**) Detail of the shear zone in Figure 3c showing the C/S arrangement of clays (presumably illite). Crossed polars.

in these drill holes behaved as fluidized granular material, in which frictional resistance decreased abruptly to nearly zero during seismic slip. They also proposed that the viscosity of the pseudotachylytic melt evolved during seismic slip, based on the temperature reached and the percentage of unmelted grains. As observed in the Hirabayashi GSJ drill hole and surface outcrops, the pseudotachylytes are laminated with some contorted and folded layers (Fig. 3a) (Boullier *et al.* 2001; Tanaka *et al.* 2001a; Otsuki *et al.* 2003) that could be indicators of high-velocity seismic slip (Mizoguchi *et al.* 2009). The glass is not recrystallized and does not display spherulites or crystallites as often described

in pseudotachylytes (see, for e.g. Di Toro & Pennachioni 2004). However, there are abundant rounded vesicles that appear to be fluid inclusions (Fig. 3b). Microthermometry on some of these fluid inclusions indicates that they are filled by a very dense CO_2-H_2O fluid. The intersection of isochoric lines with the present-day 24 °C km^{-1} geothermal gradient indicates that the fluid inclusions were trapped at 380 °C and 410 MPa (Boullier *et al.* 2001) or at 270 °C and 250 MPa if a 30 °C km^{-1} geothermal gradient is considered (Boullier *et al.* 2004a). The lower estimate is probably more realistic as no mylonites were found in the Nojima Fault. Such trapping conditions imply that

these pseudotachylytes were formed at a depth of more than 9 km in the seismogenic zone before exhumation of the Ryoke granodiorite and deposition of the Kobe group at 40 Ma. They therefore formed during an early stage of seismic activity on the Nojima Fault (Boullier *et al.* 2001). This deduction has been confirmed by fission-track data of zircon, which provided a 56 Ma age for the pseudotachylytes (Murakami & Tagami 2004). The presence of fluid inclusions also indicates that the pseudotachylytic melt was saturated in fluids when cooling, which suggests that this frictional melt formed in an already altered initial material containing fluid as a free phase and/or structurally bound in minerals. Famin *et al.* (2008) measured the CO_2 and H_2O content of the pseudotachylytic melts using Fourier transform infrared (FTIR) microanalysis. This demonstrated that the younger layers have a decreasing CO_2 content due to the decreasing pressure of formation, and that a significant mass of CO_2 may have been exsolved during each pseudotachylyte-generating seismic event. Consequently, because CO_2 saturation in silicate melts is pressure-dependent, the CO_2 content in pseudotachylytic glass may be used as a proxy for the depth of pseudotachylyte formation.

Energy budget of the earthquake

Boullier *et al.* (2001) used the calculations proposed by Kanamori & Heaton (2000) to evaluate the thermal budget of earthquakes that resulted in pseudotachylyte formation. Based on the thickness of the pseudotachylyte layers (1 mm) and on the temperature increase due to frictional melting (1000 °C), they deduced that each pseudotachylyte layer corresponds to M 6–M 7 earthquakes, assuming the 3–4 MPa initial frictional stress calculated by Bouchon *et al.* (1998) from the slip model of Irikura *et al.* (1996). Therefore, the pseudotachylytes now observed at a depth of 625 m in the Hirabayashi GSJ borehole were formed during approximately 56 Ma-old earthquakes similar in magnitude (M 6–M 7 v. M_w 6.9) to the recent Kobe earthquake.

Grain-size distribution (GSD) has been recently used by many authors to characterize fault rocks and gouges related to seismic events, with the aim of estimating the fracture energy of earthquakes (see a review in Keulen *et al.* 2007). This technique has also been used to characterize aseismic faulting and cataclasis accompanying hydrothermal alteration in the Cajon Pass drill hole (Blenkinsop & Sibson 1992). Keulen *et al.* (2007) measured GSD in cataclasites from the Hirabayashi GSJ drill hole and in experimentally deformed granitoids. In both cases, GSD was not fractal and two slopes (D) were observed in all log–log GSDs. In experimental

or natural examples, D values of 0.9–1.1 were measured for grains smaller than about 1 μm. Two different D were measured for cracked grains (1.5–1.6) and gouges (2.0–2.6) for grains larger than 1 μm, which is the grinding limit of quartz. These results show that grain-size reduction in fault zones develops by a two-stage process: rupturing creates cracked grains; further displacement of fragments causes further comminution by wear and attrition. Healing processes may also modify GSD as demonstrated by experiments of hydrostatic or non-hydrostatic healing of fault gouges (Keulen *et al.* 2008). Thus, we should be cautious when using GSD for calculating the fracture energy of an earthquake because GSD is the sum of several cumulated seismic events and is the product of different mechanisms occurring during the whole evolution of the gouge zone.

Fluids: before, during and after earthquakes

Multistage alteration of fault rocks has been recognized by Ohtani *et al.* (2000*a*), Fujimoto *et al.* (2001), Tanaka *et al.* (2001*a*, 2007*b*) and Boullier *et al.* (2004*a*), as summarized in Table 1. Using the relationships between hydrothermal minerals and structures, it is possible to correlate hydrothermal alteration with deformation episodes.

The older hydrothermal stage is weak, static and characterized by chlorite. It is attributed to the cooling of the granodiorite between 90 and 74 Ma (Takahashi 1992; Murakami *et al.* 2002).

The second stage is widespread and, at least in the Hirabayashi GSJ drill hole, is represented by zeolites. Laumontite, the most common mineral formed in this stage, is observed throughout the damage zone as an alteration product of plagioclase, filling veins and sealing fractures. The hydrothermal alteration in the low-strain damage zone in the Hirabayashi GSJ drill hole is very similar to that observed in the Cajon Pass drill hole (Blenkinsop & Sibson 1992) in terms of starting material (granitic rock), alteration product (laumontite formed at the expense of plagioclase) and deformation textures (almost no crack–seal textures, extensional fractures with flow structures and dilatant cataclasis). Some dilatant microstructures could thus result from aseismic deformation related to volume change induced by replacement of plagioclase by laumontite (Blenkinsop & Sibson 1992). Laumontite is present as clasts in ultracataclasites (pale green in Fig. 2b); in particular in those associated with pseudotachylytes. This indicates that the first stage of seismic activity and alteration occurred before 40 Ma under decreasing pressure and temperature conditions between the formation of pseudotachylytes at >270 °C and >250 MPa (see earlier), and the stability field of laumontite, which

Table 1. *Hydrothermal episodes in the Nojima Fault. Principal occurrences and features of the hydrothermal minerals in the GSJ drill hole (modified from* Boullier *et al.* 2004a*)*

Mineral	Chlorite	Zeolite: laumontite Minor calcite	Siderite	Ankerite and siderite	Clays
Temperature	*c.* 300 °C	*c.* 150–280 °C		<100 °C	
Texture	As rosettes in small cavities (ripidolite)	In blocky coarse-grained veins	In thin veinlets parallel to the flattening plane within the core of the fault zone	In hydraulic fractures including fragments of cataclasite and minerals, located above the slip zone	Alteration and replacement of minerals, in fractures
	In cracks together with albite	In hydraulic fractures, with small fragments of cataclasites or minerals			Very fine-grained crystals
Replaced mineral	Biotite and amphibole	Plagioclase		Plagioclase, biotite and amphibole	Plagioclase, micas, laumontite
Mechanisms of formation	Hydrothermal processes during cooling of the granodiorite	*In situ* replacement Vein filling Hydraulic fracture-fill	Taber growth	Hydraulic fracture-fill	*In situ* replacement
Subsequent deformation		Cataclasis Dissolution– precipitation processes: stylolites and veins	Cataclasis	Dissolution– precipitation processes: stylolites and schistosity Cataclasis in thin fine-grained gouge zones	Cataclasis in thin fine-grained gouge and shear zones Orientated parallel to schistosity
Age	Prior to the Kobe Group deposition	Contemporaneous with pseudotachylytes	Quiescence stage: between 56 and 1.2 Ma	Younger than *c.*1.2 Ma[c]	Contemporaneous with or younger than carbonates[d]
	Between 90 and 74 Ma[a]	Prior to the Kobe Group deposition *c.* 56 Ma[b]			

[a]After Takahashi (1992) and Murakami *et al.* (2002).
[b]After Murakami & Tagami (2004).
[c]After Murata *et al.* (2001).
[d]After Lin *et al.* (2007).

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is between 280 and 150 °C depending on the pressure (Zen & Thompson 1974). These observations are also consistent with the decreasing CO_2 content of the pseudotachylytic glass measured by Famin *et al.* (2008).

The third stage of alteration is characterized by thin veinlets of siderite emplaced within the flattening plane in cataclasites and ultracataclasites (reddish brown zones in Fig. 2b) within the core of the main fault zone around 625 m in the Hirabayashi GSJ drill hole (Boullier *et al.* 2004*a*), and within the 1140, 1300 and 1800 m fault cores of the Hirabayashi NIED drill hole (Boullier unpublished observations). These veins are not associated with any significant phase of deformation, nor with structures resulting from dilatancy, and are deformed in later gouge zones or cross-cut by later carbonate veins (see Table 1 and Boullier *et al.* 2004*a*). For these reasons, they have been correlated with a quiescence stage by Boullier *et al.* (2004*a*).

The fourth hydrothermal stage is characterized by hydraulic fractures filled by small-grain-size euhedral ankerite and siderite crystals (pale honey-coloured fractures in Fig. 2b) (Fujimoto *et al.* 2001; Boullier *et al.* 2004*b*; Moore *et al.* 2009). Undeformed hydrofractures of this type are mainly localized in the hanging wall of the main fault zone in the Hirabayashi GSJ drill hole but they are also observed below the fault where they are deformed by late gouge zones (Fig. 3c). Their internal structure strongly suggests that they were induced by coseismic hydraulic fracturing and fast nucleation of carbonates due to a sudden fluid or CO_2 partial pressure drop due to fracturing (Boullier *et al.* 2004*b*).

The latest stage of alteration is characterized by clays. Smectite has been found in the GSJ 625 m (Fujimoto *et al.* 2001) and NIED 1140 (Matsuda *et al.* 2004) fault zones. Illite is also observed in small conjugate low-angle reverse shear zones located below the principal 625 m fault core (Fig. 3c) in which it displays a C/S microstructure (Fig. 3d). These small shear zones lie below the principal 625 m fault core and may be observed on the FMI images (Ito & Kiguchi 2005). They also correspond to the 625–635 m depth interval where deformation of the borehole has been seen on the BHTV (BoreHole TeleViewer) acoustic scans (Célérier *et al.* 2000).

The present-day fluids that are circulating in the GSJ 625 m fault zone have been analysed. Their chemical composition is in equilibrium with the carbonates precipitated in the hydraulic fractures described earlier, and with illite and Ca-montmorillonite. This also indicates that the fluids are flowing upwards and originate from a reservoir situated at a depth of 4 km (Fujimoto *et al.* 2007)

based on the 24 °C geothermal gradient measured in the Hirabayashi GSJ borehole (Kitajima *et al.* 1998). Lin *et al.* (2003) have proposed that, because these fluids are meteoric in origin, they have infiltrated the active Nojima Fault by a fluid suction-pumping process inspired by the so-called seismic pumping model (Sibson *et al.* 1975).

Processes of healing by dissolution–precipitation

Fluids are also involved in the chemical compaction of gouges, ultracataclasites or fine-grained vein-filling material by dissolution–precipitation processes, although fluid advection is not necessary. Evidence of these processes has been found in the 625 m fault zone of the Hirabayashi GSJ borehole in the form of stylolitic surfaces in fine-grained laumontite dilatant veins of the second hydrothermal stage (Boullier *et al.* 2004*a*), and in the indentation of grains in gouges or in fine-grained carbonate veins of the third hydrothermal stage (Boullier *et al.* 2004*b*). The dissolution–precipitation processes are diffusion controlled, and therefore dependent on the diffusion distance between the source and sink of solute, and on the mineral which is dissolved (Gratier *et al.* 2003). Consequently, although these are very slow processes, they may be very efficient under low stresses in fine-grained material, such as those mentioned earlier, and therefore contribute to the post-seismic or interseismic sealing of the fault, to the decrease in permeability of very fine-grained ultracataclasites as measured by Lockner *et al.* (2009) and to the stress build-up in the lead-up to the next seismic rupture. Minerals involved in these processes are mostly laumontite during the first stage and carbonates during the second stage of seismic activity of the Nojima Fault. A decrease in permeability should result in an increase in fluid pressure. However, there are no observational data, such as horizontal extensional veins, that would suggest that an abnormal fluid pressure regime existed in the case of the Noijima Fault, as it does for the fault-valve model (Sibson *et al.* 1988; Sibson 1990).

Lessons from the Nojima Fault drilling projects

The first lesson from the Nojima Fault drilling projects is that the geology of this fault is considerably more complex than initially thought. The fault-zone thickness, structure and mineralogy are the result of two distinct periods of seismic activity accompanied by intense hydrothermal alteration separated by a period of quiescence. All of these stages are recorded in the fault-rock

microstructures. The recognition of very peculiar pseudotachylytes in the core of the fault that are attributed to the first period of activity has induced significant interest in this type of rocks. As a result, a number of high-velocity rotary shear friction experiments have been performed on 'hard' rocks (e.g. Di Toro *et al.* 2004; Hirose & Shimamoto 2005). Natural gouges from the Nojima Fault have also been used as initial material for similar high-velocity experiments to investigate their behaviour during seismic slip (Mizoguchi *et al.* 2009).

Observations of the internal structure of the Nojima Fault have also illustrated that we need more information on the permeability and thermal properties of faults in order to understand and predict their seismological behaviour (e.g. Wibberley & Shimamoto 2003, 2005; Uehara & Shimamoto 2004; Mizoguchi *et al.* 2008*a*; Lockner *et al.* 2009). Permeability is highly dependent on fracturing and healing processes, and rates and kinetics of these processes are of considerable importance. Recently, highly permeable pulverized rocks have been discovered along the San Andreas Fault by Dor *et al.* (2006) and along the Arima–Takatsuki tectonic line (Mitchell *et al.* 2009). Some textures of dilatant fractures at depth in the Hirabayashi GSJ drill hole are similar to naturally (Rockwell *et al.* 2009) and experimentally (Doan & Gary 2009) pulverized samples. Could they be the expression of pulverization at depth or high strain-rate brittle deformation in the fault zone? This question illustrates that the determination of strain rate on the basis of microstructures in fault rocks remains a major question, and more comparisons need to be made between experimentally and naturally deformed samples.

The Hirabayashi NIED borehole intercepted three fault zones (Tanaka *et al.* 2007*b*), while the DPRI 1800 borehole intercepted two (Lin *et al.* 2007). Some of these fault zones were activated by the Kobe earthquake, but others were not. As illustrated by the fact that it was difficult to identify the principal slip zone of the Kobe earthquake only 1 year after this event, fault-healing processes may be extremely efficient and so rapidly obliterate the evidence of localized slip. Therefore, can we still ask whether the non-activated faults are locked or inactive? Detailed comparative, collaborative studies by the principal investigators of each of these drill holes are needed to provide more information on the deformation and healing microstructures and mechanisms to address this question.

Nevertheless, the Japanese drill holes through the Nojima Fault have confirmed the international interest in fault-zone geology, and advanced the general understanding on faulting and seismic processes in basement rocks.

The Chelungpu Fault (Taiwan)

General context

The Chi-chi earthquake (21 September 1999, $M_w = 7.6$, *c.* 2400 fatalities) produced a surface rupture of 80 km, with up to 10 m of offset on the northern part of the Chelungpu thrust fault (Fig. 4a, b) (Kao & Chen 2000). From reconstruction of balanced cross-sections, Yue *et al.* (2005) determined that the Sanyi–Chelungpu thrust system has accommodated 14 km of total displacement, and that 0.3 km of total slip has been accommodated on a newly propagated North Chelungpu Chinshui detachment within the Chinshui Shale, where the Chi-chi earthquake occurred (Fig. 4b). Thus, in contrast with the Nojima Fault, the Chelungpu Fault has a relatively simple tectonic history.

The Chi-chi earthquake was recorded by the very dense Taiwan Strong Motion and GPS Networks, allowing models of spatial slip distribution (Ma *et al.* 2001), as well as determination of rupture velocity (Chen *et al.* 2001), and of coseismic and postseismic deformation (Pathier *et al.* 2003; Yu *et al.* 2003). During the Chi-chi earthquake, the northern segment of the Chelungpu Fault was characterized by large displacement (8–10 m), high slip velocity (2–4 m s^{-1}) and low level of high-frequency radiation. In contrast, smaller displacement (3–4 m), lower slip velocities (0.5 m s^{-1}) and higher rates of acceleration of the ground motion were measured in the southern part (Ma *et al.* 2003).

Initially, two shallow boreholes penetrated the Chelungpu Fault in March 2001 at depths of 455 m (northern site, Fengyuan) and 211 m (southern site, Nantou). These provided initial important observations, such as a temperature rise in the northern site on the suspected fault zone activated by the Chi-chi earthquake (Tanaka *et al.* 2002) and differences in fault-zone architecture: clay-rich injections (Otsuki *et al.* 2005; Ujiie 2005) and pseudotachylyte fragments (Otsuki *et al.* 2005) are described in the northern and southern boreholes, respectively. As the lithofacies and geological structure are similar at both the northern and southern sites, the difference in fault-rock microstructures are interpreted as indicating different frictional properties of the fault in these two segments (Otsuki *et al.* 2005; Ujiie 2005).

The active fault zone

The Taiwan Chelungpu Fault Drilling Project (TCDP, Fig. 4) was started in 2002. The TCDP site was chosen near the town of DaKeng, about 2 km east of the surface rupture (Fig. 4b) in order to allow investigation of the slip-weakening
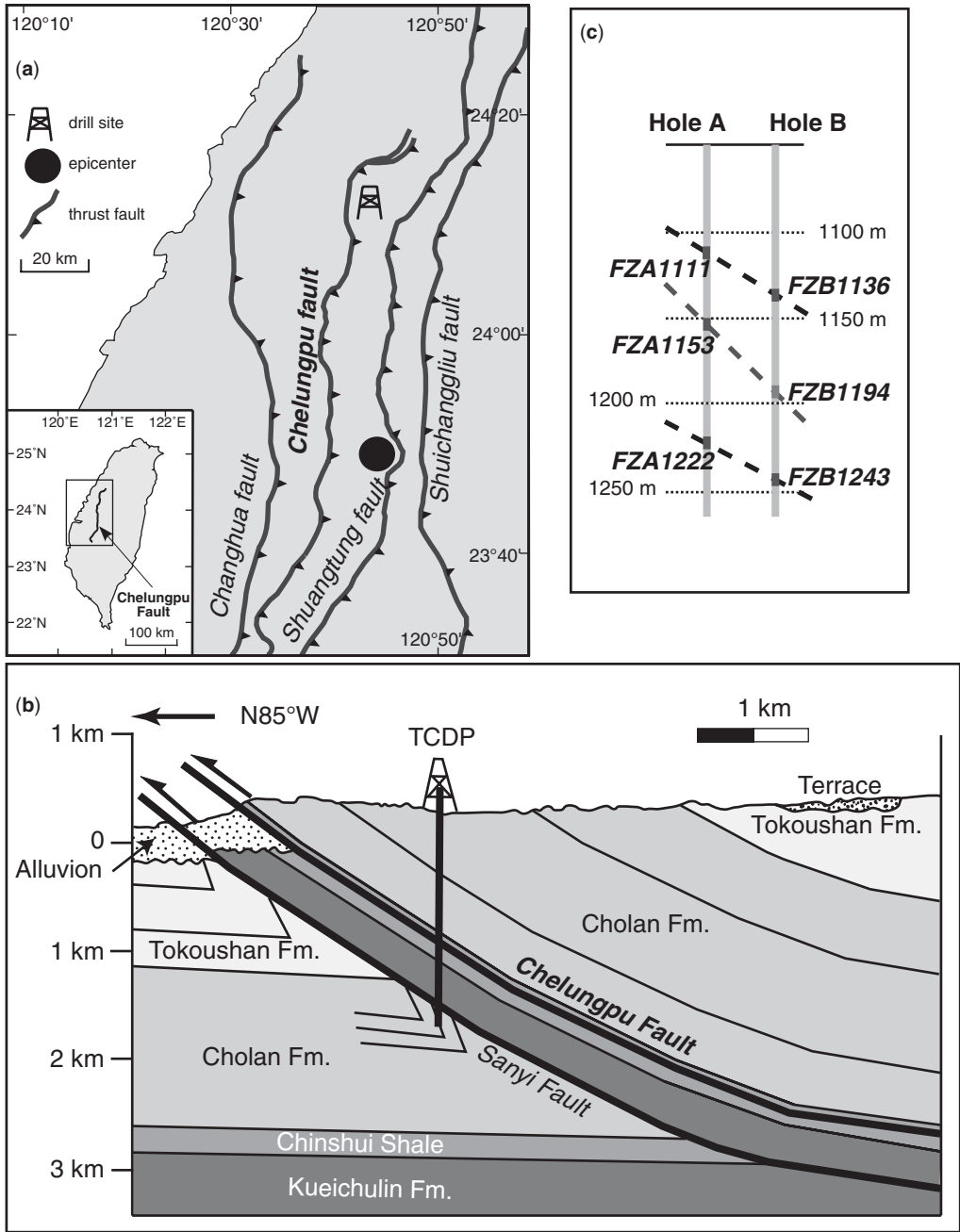
Fig. 4. (**a**) Sketch of the western Taiwanese foothills showing the principal thrust faults, the Chi-chi earthquake epicentre and the location of TCDP drill site. (**b**) Schematic cross-section passing through the TCDP drill site indicating the principal sedimentary formations and the principal faults (after Hung *et al.* 2007). (**c**) Correlation between the principal fault zones of the Chelungpu Fault system in Hole A and Hole B (after Hirono *et al.* 2007).

mechanisms responsible for the seismological characteristics of the Chi-chi earthquake in the northern part of the Chelungpu Fault. Two vertical

boreholes were drilled 40 m apart (Hole A, 2000.3 m deep, in 2004; and Hole B, 1352.6 m deep, in 2005), and a side-track was drilled from

a depth of 950 to 1280 m from Hole B (Hole C in 2005). TCDP holes penetrated through Pliocene and Upper Miocene alternating sandstones, silt-stones and shales (Fig. 4b) (Song *et al.* 2007).

One major feature in the TCDP cores is the colour change of the rocks (from light grey to dark grey, and black) that accompanied deformation. This has been used as a macroscopic on-site criteria for locating fault zones (Yeh *et al.* 2007). Three major fault zones were recognized in the Chelungpu Fault system in Hole A at 1111, 1153 and 1221 m depth (Hung *et al.* 2007; Sone *et al.* 2007; Song *et al.* 2007; Yeh *et al.* 2007) that may correlate to fault zones at 1136, 1194 and 1243 m depth, respec-tively, in Hole B (Fig. 4c) (Hirono *et al.* 2007). In Hole B the recognition of fault zones was facilitated by the use of systematic non-destructive and con-tinuous measurements performed on the retrieved cores at the Kochi Institute for Core Sample Research (JAMSTEC) such as density, porosity, magnetic susceptibility, natural gamma-ray radi-ation and gamma-ray attenuation, magnetic suscep-tibility and X-ray computed tomography (X-ray CT) (Hirono *et al.* 2007). Some, but not all, fault zones also include cm-thick fault-parallel disks of hard black ultracataclasites: at 1153 and 1221 m depth in Hole A (Yeh *et al.* 2007); and at 1194, 1243 and 1341 m depth in Hole B (Hirono *et al.* 2007).

Among these fault zones, the one located at 1111 m depth in Hole A (FZA1111, Fig. 4c) was determined on-site as the fault zone activated by the Chi-chi earthquake on the basis of several argu-ments: high-resolution shallow seismic reflection profiles predicting a depth at 1200 m with 10% error; high strain fault kinematics were determined as thrust by fault plane and slickenside orientations consistent with the measured focal mechanism of the Chi-chi earthquake; high fluid content (Ma *et al.* 2006; Song *et al.* 2007; Yeh *et al.* 2007), frac-ture density and physical properties measured by logging tools, in particular low resistivity, low density, and distinct V_p and V_s (Hung *et al.* 2007). The total thickness of the FZA1111 fault zone is 5.5 m (Yeh *et al.* 2007). It corresponds to the fault zone at a depth of 1136 m in Hole B (FZB1136, Fig. 4c), which has a 3.5 m total thickness and is characterized by a lower contrast related to higher permeability on X-ray CT images (Hirono *et al.* 2008).

Energy budget of the earthquake

One major question arising from the TCDP con-cerns the thermal budget of the earthquake, and many papers have been devoted to that point. First, temperature measurements were performed in 2005 in Hole A. A 0.06 °C temperature anomaly was found around the FZA1111 (Kano *et al.* 2006),

consistent with the 0.1 °C anomaly measured earlier in the shallow boreholes (Mori & Tanaka 2002; Tanaka *et al.* 2006). As discussed by Kano *et al.* (2006) and Tanaka *et al.* (2006, 2007a), the temp-erature anomaly may occur: (i) as residual heat gen-erated during the Chi-chi earthquake; or (ii) as a possible result of fluctuations of geothermal gradi-ent related to changes of physical and thermal prop-erties of fault rocks; or (iii) as the result of warm fluid upflow in the fault zone due to its high per-meability, deduced from hydraulic tests (Doan *et al.* 2006) and measurements on core samples (Tanikawa *et al.* 2009). Unfortunately, it is not yet possible to resolve these possibilities in the TCDP boreholes.

Ma *et al.* (2006) calculated the grain-size distri-bution in the very fine-grained gouge recognized as the Chi-Chi PSZ by Kuo *et al.* (2005) in order to better constrain the energy budget of earthquakes. By comparison with the seismic surface fracture energy determined from near-field seismic data, they concluded that the contribution of gouge surface energy represents 6% of the earthquake breakdown work, which is slightly higher than the less than 1% value obtained on mature Californian faults by Chester *et al.* (2005) and Rockwell *et al.* (2009).

The Chi-Chi PSZ

The Chi-Chi PSZ was recognized by Kuo *et al.* (2005, 2009) in the lower part of FZA1111 (Fig. 5), just above a hard, but fragile, black disk that broke into pieces during on-site core handling. This interpretation was based on the absence of reworking microstructures such as later fractures in the very fine-grained gouge, veins or schistosity, and on the presence of smectite as the dominant clay mineral. The authors also observed the presence of glassy material in small quantities (<25%) and suggested that melting of clay minerals due to strong shear heating occurred in the PSZ and that most of the resulting pseudotachylyte was promptly converted into smectite (Kuo *et al.* 2009).

Boullier *et al.* (2009) presented a detailed study of the FZA1111 fault zone, focusing on the Chi-Chi PSZ. The latter is a 2 cm-thick, very fine-grained isotropic gouge (Fig. 6a), and contains matrix-supported clasts and clay clast aggregates (CCAs, Fig. 6b), which are microstructures that have been reproduced by Boutareaud *et al.* (2008, 2010) during high-velocity rotary shear experiments where a liquid to vapour transition occurred in the pore water. As such, CCAs are new symptomatic markers of seismic slip in clay-rich gouges, like pseudotachylytes are in 'hard' rocks (Sibson 1975). Clasts of the lower black ultracataclasites are also present in the PSZ and display an inverse grain-size
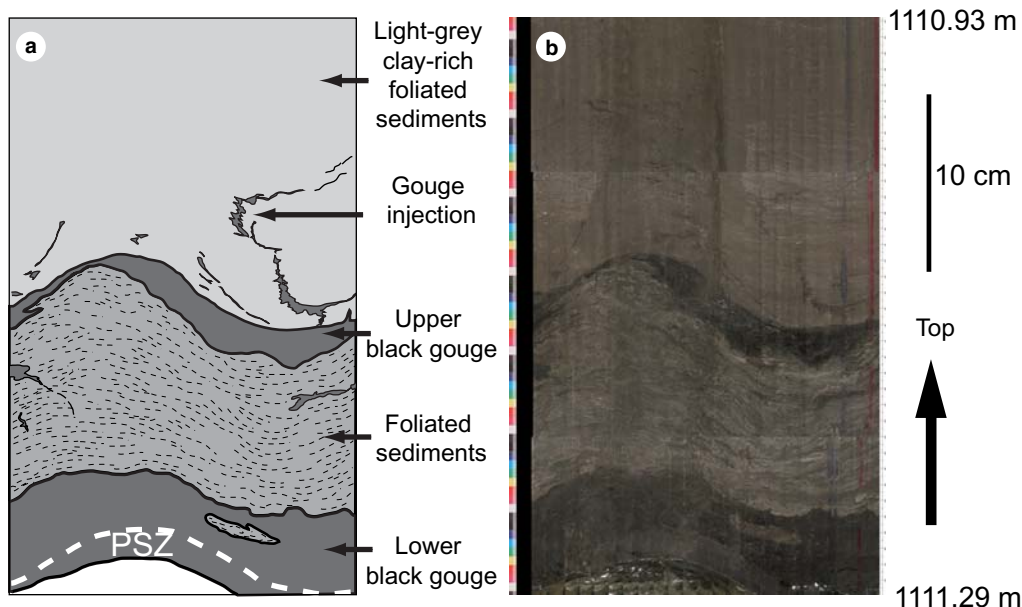
Fig. 5. Sketch (**a**) and unrolled scanning image (**b**) of the fault zone of FZA1111 showing the principal structural characteristics of the fault zone activated during the Chi-chi earthquake. PSZ, Principal Sip Zone (Sibson 2003) where slip occurred during the Chi-chi earthquake (after Boullier *et al.* 2009).

segregation according to the Brazil Nut Effect (Boullier *et al.* 2009). All of these microstructural criteria lead Boullier *et al.* (2009) to propose that the gouge was fluidized as the result of a 300–400 °C coseismic temperature rise inducing thermal pressurization (Sibson 1973). This phenomenon may explain the gouge injections observed above the FZA1111 (Fig. 5) and in the northern

shallow borehole (Otsuki *et al.* 2005; Ujiie 2005). The Chi-Chi PSZ in FZB1136 is very different from the PSZ in FZA1111; it is a thin (<0.3 v. 2 cm) ultracataclasite, locally exhibiting a layering defined by variations in concentrations of clay minerals and clasts (Boullier *et al.* 2009) similar to foliated gouges experimentally reproduced by Boutareaud *et al.* (2008) and Mizoguchi *et al.* (2009).
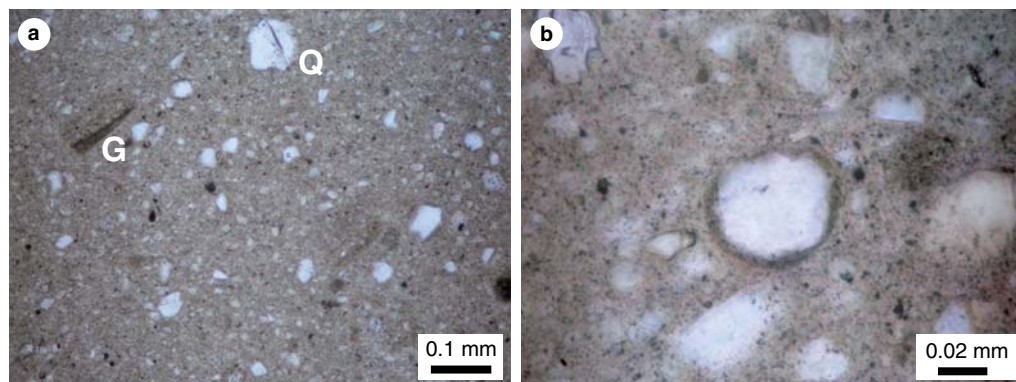
Fig. 6. Microstructures in the isotropic gouge within the PSZ shown in Figure 5 (after Boullier *et al.* 2009). All microphotographs are oriented as in Figure 5. (**a**) General view of the isotropic gouge showing the matrix-supported clasts which are either monomineralic, such as fractured quartz fragment (Q), or fine-grained polymineralic gouge fragments (G). Plane polarized light. (**b**) Clay-clast aggregate (CCA) with a round quartz core and a brownish cortex made of clays. Plane polarized light.

Continuous *in situ* and non-destructive measurement of the magnetic susceptibility in Hole B has shown that fault zones, and FZB1136 in particular, are characterized by an important increase in the magnetic susceptibility that has been interpreted by Hirono *et al.* (2006) as being due to the production of ferrimagnetic iron oxides induced by frictional heat as experimentally reproduced during high-speed frictional testings (Fukuchi *et al.* 2005). Recently, Chou *et al.* (2009, 2010) and Aubourg *et al.* (2010) performed a very detailed and complete analysis of magnetic properties on FZB1136 using a U-channel sample. They measured the magnetic susceptibility, the isothermal remanent magnetization and S-ratio, and the anhysteretic remanent magnetization every cm, together with low-temperature magnetic properties to identify the magnetic minerals. Their measurements have been precisely compared with microstructures described by Boullier *et al.* (2009). The principal results are as follows: (i) a palaeomagnetic component close to the modern dipole is recovered all along the FZB1136; (ii) very small amounts of fine-grained magnetite and pyrrhotite constitute the magnetic assemblage in the PSZ; and (iii) authigenic goethite has been clearly identified by transmission electron microscopy (TEM) in and above the PSZ, and attributed to circulation and post-seismic cooling of hot fluids in the FZB1136 (Chou *et al.* 2009, 2010; Aubourg *et al.* 2010). Therefore, they confirmed that frictional heating occurred in the Chi-Chi PSZ.

Through measurement of major and trace element chemistry, as well as isotope ratios of core samples, Ishikawa *et al.* (2008) illustrated that the three fault zones exhibit sharp compositional peaks of fluid-mobile elements and strontium isotopes. They suggested that coseismic hot ($>350 \,^{\circ}C$) fluids circulated and interacted with the fault rocks where they mobilized these elements. Hashimoto *et al.* (2008) attributed the low iron content of chlorite in the fault zone as resulting from a temperature rise and rock−fluid interactions in the three fault zones (FZB1136, FZB1194 and FZB1243). All of these results are consistent with the magnetic characteristics of FZB1136 quoted earlier.

Coseismic rise of temperature in the fault zones has been documented in a number of other publications about the TCDP. Because the hard disks of black ultracataclasites are noticeable features of the TCDP core samples, they have been investigated using different methods. Hirono *et al.* (2006) have shown that the anomalies in magnetic susceptibility measured on the black ultracataclasites in FZB1194 and FZB1243 coincide with the evidence for frictional melt and a decrease in inorganic carbon that they attribute to thermal decomposition of carbonate minerals at about 850 $^{\circ}C$. However, the effect of thermal decomposition of carbonates may be very complex if the mass and energy balance, and the kinetics of the endothermic reaction of calcite decomposition, are taken into account (Sulem & Famin 2009). Otsuki *et al.* (2009) confirmed that the hard black disks correspond to pseudotachylytic layers indicative of a single (FZB1314) or multiple (FZB1194, FZB1243) seismic events, and that coseismic temperature rise has been heterogeneous in the pseudotachylytic layer and may be estimated in the 750−1750 $^{\circ}C$ range.

In conclusion, although different authors agree that frictional heating occurred on fault zones in the Chelungpu Fault, they propose different values for the temperature rise. It appears that the coseismic thermal rise was around 300−400 $^{\circ}C$ in the Chi-Chi PSZ in FZA1111 and FZB1136 (Ishikawa *et al.* 2008; Boullier *et al.* 2009), and may have reached 750 $^{\circ}C$ or more in the hard disks of black ultracataclasites observed in Hole B on the FZB1194 and FZB1243 fault zones that correspond to ancient seismic events (Hirono *et al.* 2006; Otsuki *et al.* 2009).

Several gouge layers corresponding to ancient seismic events are visible in FZA1111 and FZB1136 fault zones. They differ from the PSZ because they display a sequence of small conjugate shear zones, a fault-parallel schistosity associated with deformed calcite veins, both being folded together in some places, and dissolution seams around hard objects (Boullier *et al.* 2009). These microstructures are consistent with a fault-normal shortening and are symptomatic of a low-rate deformation by dissolution−precipitation processes that occur during the post-seismic or the interseismic stage (Gratier & Gueydan 2007).

Fluids: before, during and after earthquakes

Boullier *et al.* (2009) described thin calcite veins above the Chi-Chi PSZ in FZA1111 within compacted gouges, which form three-dimensional (3D) dilational patches and display evidence of increasing strain with increasing distance from the PSZ. They were formed by hydraulic fracturing, and are undeformed just above the PSZ where they are interpreted by Boullier *et al.* (2009) as being induced by fluid escape, and fracturing and sealing related to the Chi-chi earthquake. Farther from the PSZ, veins are planar or shortened and folded, and orientated at a high angle to the fault. In the damage zone, the silty and sandy layers are dilated, fractured and sealed by calcite, while shaly layers are not. This suggests that clay-rich layers may have acted as impermeable caps allowing compartmentalization of fluids in the sandy sediments and the formation of small-sized so-called 'Hill fault/fracture-meshes' (Sibson 1994, p. 72).

It has been shown earlier that fluids played an important role during the Chi-chi earthquake because they have been coseismically thermally pressurized. However, the relative scarcity of calcite veins in the active damage zone compared to the large volume of laumontite and carbonate veins in the Nojima Fault demonstrates that the volumes of fluids involved in deformation on the Chelungpu Fault are much smaller than those involved in the Nojima Fault. Regardless, their role in the Chelungpu faulting process illustrates that fluids may greatly influence the seismological behaviour of faults even if they are present in small quantities.

Lessons from the Taiwan Chelungpu Fault Drilling project

One major lesson from the TCDP concerns the thermal budget of an earthquake. In order to measure frictional heat arising from the fault slip, the temperature must be measured in the vicinity of the PSZ as quickly and as deeply as possible after an earthquake (Brodsky et al. 2009). However, observations from the TCDP illustrate that part of the frictional heat produced by the earthquake may be transformed into mechanical (thermal pressurization) and chemical (mineral transformations, fluid–rock interactions) work. One major contribution of TCDP to earthquake understanding has been the demonstration that the energy budget of an earthquake cannot be separated into simple fracturing, radiation and thermal terms but should also take into account chemical and mineralogical transformations.

As the Chelungpu Fault occurs in sedimentary rocks made of alternating silts and shales, clays are important minerals within the fault zone. The TCDP results show that the behaviour of clays during coseismic slip is fundamental in order to understand slip-weakening mechanisms. Therefore, for the same reasons that the Japanese drilling projects have stimulated experiments on 'hard' rocks, the TCDP has stimulated high-velocity rotary shear friction experiments on 'soft' rocks from the Chelungpu Fault (Mizoguchi et al. 2008b; Sone & Shimamoto 2009; Tanikawa & Shimamoto 2009) and numerical modelling of the thermal pressurization related to dehydration of clays (Sulem et al. 2007). The high-velocity experiments on clayey gouges have produced microstructures that have been recognized in the Chi-Chi PSZ and are key in interpreting natural fault gouges. For example, CCAs, new indicators of seismic slip, thermal pressurization and slip weakening, have been described (Boutareaud et al. 2008, 2010).

The studies undertaken on the TCDP samples have demonstrated that the mineralogy of the PSZ is of considerable importance, and that chemical and mineralogical transformations may occur in the PSZ due to the frictional heat produced there. However, the proposed values for the frictional heat differ significantly between different publications. The effect of thermal decomposition of minerals may be very complex, and to model its mechanical effects, such as slip weakening due to thermal pressurization, it is necessary to take into account the mass and energy balance and the kinetics of the chemical decomposition (Sulem & Famin 2009).

Again, the distribution of physical properties, and transport properties in particular, within the core and the damage zones of the fault is of primary importance in understanding the coseismic slip behaviour of the PSZ, and thermal pressurization in particular. The permeability structure of the Chelungpu Fault has been investigated in several studies using the TCDP samples (Louis et al. 2008; Chen et al. 2009; Tanikawa et al. 2009; Wang et al. 2009), which have demonstrated that drilling projects through active faults should include such measurements. To do so, core handling is of primary importance. The core-handling workflows were different for Hole A and Hole B samples. The results of continuous non-destructive analyses performed on Hole B samples only, were made available a short time after drilling. However, it has been shown that these rock analyses are not sufficient and that detailed studies are necessary to provide precise information on microstructures and mineralogy. For example, whole-rock analyses pointed to the fact that there is an important magnetic susceptibility record in the black ultra-cataclasites that may be significant in terms of mineral transformations and thermal pressurization (Hirono et al. 2006). However, only detailed subsequent investigations have deciphered the exact nature of this magnetic signal and shown that the Chi-Chi PSZ records the present-day Earth's magnetic field (Chou et al. 2010). TCDP has led to numerous analyses of magnetic properties of fault rocks, which contributed to the development of new techniques and approaches of the fault-zone geology.

The work carried out on the TCDP so far represents significant progress in understanding fault-zone processes. However, we still need more information on clay mineralogy, composition and volume of pore fluids before and after the earthquake in order to understand fully the mechanical and slip-weakening effects of mineral transformations in the PSZ. Regardless, the numerous studies on TCDP samples have contributed to a better knowledge of thrust faults in clay-rich rocks and, consequently, have provided good preparation for the international community for other

drilling projects such as NanTroSeize in the Nankai Trough.

Conclusions

This paper has focused on the contributions of the Japanese and Taiwanese drilling projects to a better understanding of the geology of fault zones. Some results have probably been missed, as it is impossible to cite all of the papers published on the subject. Each project has provided its own unique set of results because the faults cross-cut different parent rocks, and occur in different geodynamic and tectonic contexts. Consequently, different processes and deformation mechanisms have been activated during earthquakes on the Nojima and Chelungpu faults. In addition, large volumes of fluids were involved in the alteration of the Nojima wall rocks, while only small volumes of fluids were present in the Chelungpu fault system. This illustrates that there is no unique process applicable to all faults around the world. Fortunately, other projects are in progress that will investigate other fault types: the San Andreas Fault Observatory at Depth (SAFOD) in Parkfield (California); the Wenchuan earthquake Fault Scientific Drilling (WFSD) through the Longmen Shan active fault zone (China); the NanTroSeize project through the Nankai accretionary prism and subduction zone; and the Deep Fault Drilling Project (DFDP) through the Alpine Fault (New Zealand). With the help of these projects, combined with surface studies, we can expect to obtain some answers to the remaining questions.

Drilling projects, although not the only way to do so, have been undertaken in order to understand earthquakes as large-scale phenomena recorded by seismologists, and have triggered many micro-scale studies that have led to a better knowledge of the PSZ that controls the seismological behaviour of faults during earthquakes (Sibson 2003). Thus, questions at a macro-scale have stimulated research at a micro-scale. Reciprocally, answers provided from micro-scale studies have explained some macroscopic behaviours of active faults. We may cite as an example, the recognition of thermal pressurization in the Chi-Chi PSZ that explains the peculiar seismic behaviour of the northern segment of the Chelungpu Fault during the Chi-chi earthquake.

Let us reconsider the objectives of drilling projects through active faults (Zoback *et al.* 2007) designed 'to directly study the physical and chemical processes that control deformation and earthquake generation within active fault zones' (p. 649). It is apparent that we still need information on the thermal signature and heat production of earthquakes, the pressure and composition of pore fluid, the healing processes and their kinetics, and the mechanisms of aseismic creep on faults. On-going and future drilling projects through active faults will certainly improve our knowledge and understanding, and provide supplementary information to help address these questions by stimulating intense and fruitful collaboration between geologists and seismologists.

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