

# Pacific ring of fire – from Asia to the Americas

Despite the occurrence of three major earthquakes in less than two months, seismologists say they are not related, other than that the two latest are located on the Pacific “ring of fire” – the volatile tectonic region that accounts for 95 percent of the world’s tremors

**Japan, Feb 26:** Magnitude 7.0 quake, at 22km depth off Ryukyu Islands, triggers tsunami warnings

**Haiti, Jan 12:** Magnitude 7.0 quake, depth 13km, devastates Port-au-Prince and nearby towns

EURASIAN PLATE

OKHOTSK PLATE

Direction of plate movement

Japan

PACIFIC PLATE

NORTH AMERICAN PLATE

PHILIPPINE

Hawaii

CARIBBEAN

**Strike-slip fault:** Plates shift either side of vertical fault

HAITI

AUSTRALIAN

COCOS

SOUTH AMERICAN

NAZCA

**Convergence fault:** One plate pushed under another as they move towards each other

CHILE

ANTARCTIC

**Chile, Feb 27:** Magnitude 8.8 quake, depth 35km. Aftershock zone stretches 600km along fault line