

ID: P5.1-336

Type: E-poster

of earthquake in the vicinity of Bangladesh from 2001-2024: Implications for disaster management and preparedness

Earthquake is one of the foremost disasters which cause severe disruption of life and property. In Bangladesh, earthquake is considered as hidden disaster as the country is tectonically located at the junction of three tectonic plates (Eurasian, Burma and Indian plate). To understand the potential risks of the deadly catastrophe in Bangladesh, an earthquake distribution map was prepared using earthquake occurrence data of the last two decades from the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Earthquake Catalogue. In the present study, earthquakes of 3.5 or above magnitude were considered, which caused significant seismic activity in and around Bangladesh. During the above-mentioned period, more than 600 earthquakes were recorded, among them approximately 98% of the earthquakes are below 5.5 magnitude. However, there are at least 14 earthquakes of more than 5.5 magnitude which were felt quite noticeably with record of human casualties, fractures of buildings, dropping of materials, etc. From these recent EQ occurrence data, the Eastern part of Bangladesh is identified as the earthquake prone area where higher magnitude earthquake frequency also increased in recent time. These data will contribute to different awareness raising activities of Department of Environmental Science and Disaster Management, DIU in collaboration with CTBTO NDC-BD.

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Session Classification: P5.1 Synergies with Global Challenges

Track Classification: Theme 5. CTBT Science and Technology in the Global Context: T5.1 Synergies with Global Challenges