Crustal and tectonic evolution of accretionary orogens in NE Asia and comparison with the Central Asian Orogenic Belt

*Bor-Ming Jahn¹, Pan Zhao¹, Jia-Ping Liao¹, J.T. Wu¹, Masako Usuki¹, Igor Alexandrov², S. Osozawa³

1.Department of Geosciences, National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan 106, 2.Far East Geological Institute, Far East Branch, RAS, Vladivostok, Russia, 3.Dept. Earth Sciences, Tohoku University, Sendai 980-8578, Japan

The Northeast Asian Orogenic Belt (NAOB) is a Mesozoic-Cenozoic accretionary orogenic collage, and it constitutes the northern and principal part of the “Nipponides” [1]. The orogenic style of the Nipponides has much in common with that of the Central Asian Orogenic Belt (CAOB) or the “Altaiides” [1, 2]. The tectonic framework of the NAOB was formed in Mesozoic and Cenozoic, and it continues to evolve along the modern Pacific arc-trench systems. Generally, an oceanward younging of tectonic units may be discerned, but such a simple pattern is disrupted in many places by extensive strike-slip faulting, most of which is left lateral. In this talk, the issue of crustal evolution in the sector of Sikhote-Alin, Sakhalin and Japanese Islands will be discussed based on the geochemical and isotopic analyses of granitoids that intruded in various tectonostratigraphic terrains.

The majority of granitoids in the NE Asian Orogenic Belt formed from Jurassic to late Cenozoic, with Cretaceous as the dominant period of granitic magmatism and silicic volcanism. Though remnants of Paleozoic granitoids have been preserved in Japan [3], most granitic rocks were emplaced in the Mesozoic and Cenozoic times. Cretaceous granitoids are widespread in Sikhote-Alin [4] and Japan. However, granitoids were emplaced only in the Cenozoic in Cretaceous granitoids from Sikhote-Alin and SW Japan overlap almost completely. Cenozoic granitoids of Hokkaido are characterized by I^Sr = 0.7044 to 0.7061, e^Nd(T) = +1.0 to +4.7, and Sm-Nd model-1 ages = 400-1000 Ma. They are remarkably similar to Sakhalin granitoids with I^Sr = 0.7047 to 0.7050, e^Nd(T) = +2.8 to +3.7, and model-1 ages of 700-1100 Ma. The isotopic data suggest that the granitoids of NAOB were generated by partial melting of sources with mixed lithologies, including subducted accretionary complexes and probably some hidden Paleozoic to Proterozoic basement rocks. The Nd isotopic data also suggest a proportion of 30-77% of juvenile component in the generation of Sikhote-Alin granitoids, whereas the proportion is much higher for the Cenozoic granitoids of Hokkaido and Sakhalin (about 65-95%). In any case, a significant amount of juvenile crust was produced and added to the NE Asian Orogenic Belt.

Many workers have proposed a geological correlation between Sikhote-Alin and Japan, as well as between Sakhalin and Hokkaido, based on several lines of evidence including lithostratigraphy, biostratigraphy (radiolarian assemblages) and geological structures [6]. The present work lends support to the general scenario. However, the significant difference between SW Japan and NE Japan in their crustal composition and probably tectonic evolution has to be reckoned. The two geologic entities might have evolved in very different ways. A brief comparison of crustal evolution in the NAOB and CAOB will be presented. (Supported by MOST 104-2913-M-002-005, Taiwan)

References:

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