

Editorial

“Civilization exists by geological consent, subject to change without notice.” This quotation attributed to the historian Will Durant seems appropriate after the experience of the moderate-size earthquake (M_L 5.8) that occurred in Gyeongju on September 12, 2016. This earthquake (the largest earthquake in South Korea since 1978) strongly shook the entire country, having both physical and societal impacts. The earthquake activity clearly reflected an intricate fault network and processes that may be hidden beneath the earthquake source region.

The 2016 Gyeongju earthquakes provided insights into the state of stress near the earthquake fault zone, which were less clear before. A pair of companion letters in this issue

by YoungHee Kim, Kwang-Hee Kim, and their colleagues contemplates questions that need to be solved not only to better understand the physics of the earthquakes but also to help predict future activities near and at the fault zone. These two letters provide timely information on the 2016 Gyeongju earthquakes, which is of importance to many scientists in various disciplines.

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