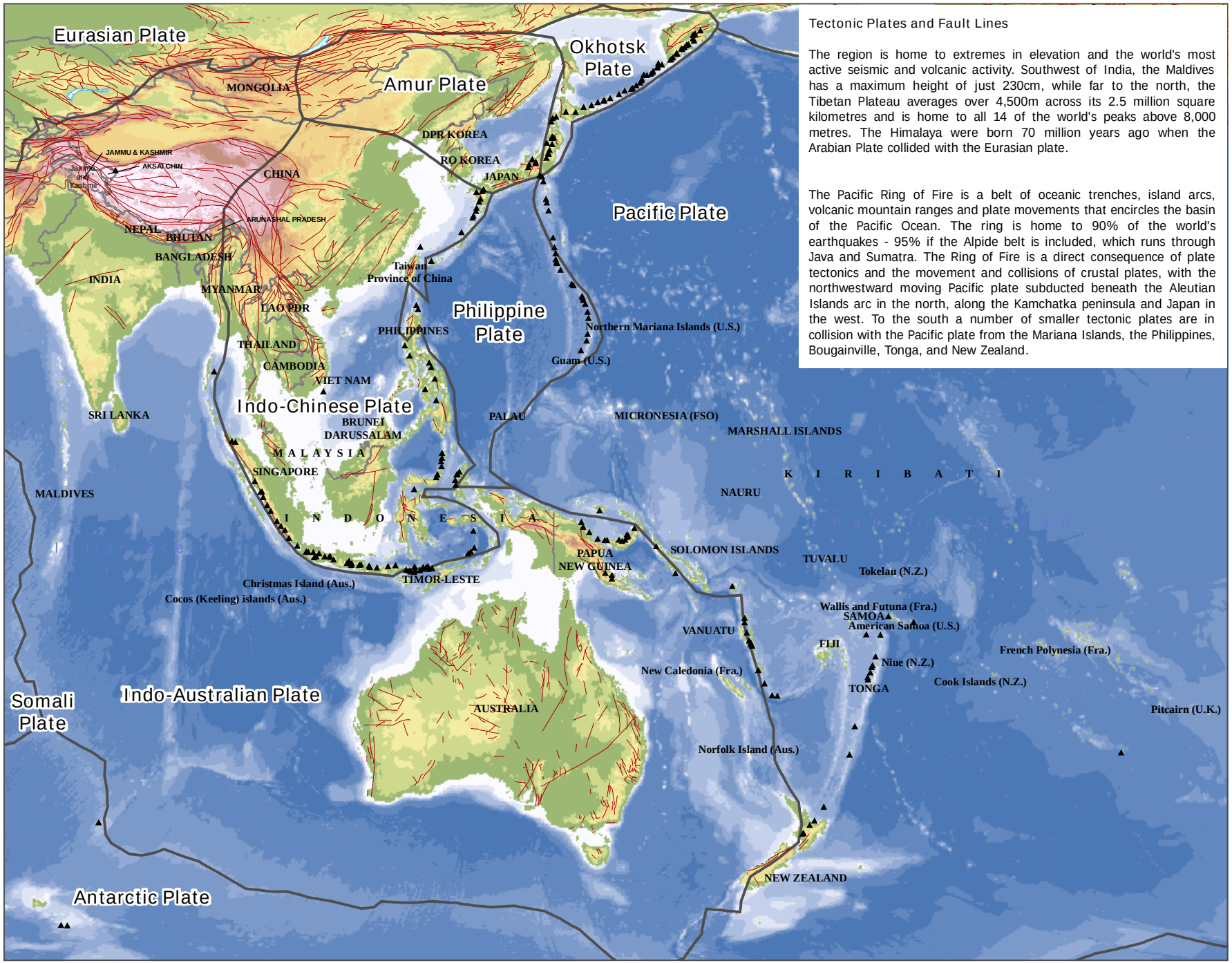
Tectonic Plates and Faults in Asia-Pacific

Issued: 4 January 2010

OCHA
Regional Office for Asia-Pacific



Tectonic Plates and Fault Lines

The region is home to extremes in elevation and the world's most active seismic and volcanic activity. Southwest of India, the Maldives has a maximum height of just 230cm, while far to the north, the Tibetan Plateau averages over 4,500m across its 2.5 million square kilometres and is home to all 14 of the world's peaks above 8,000 metres. The Himalaya were born 70 million years ago when the Arabian Plate collided with the Eurasian plate.

The Pacific Ring of Fire is a belt of oceanic trenches, island arcs, volcanic mountain ranges and plate movements that encircles the basin of the Pacific Ocean. The ring is home to 90% of the world's earthquakes - 95% if the Alpide belt is included, which runs through Java and Sumatra. The Ring of Fire is a direct consequence of plate tectonics and the movement and collisions of crustal plates, with the northwestward moving Pacific plate subducted beneath the Aleutian Islands arc in the north, along the Kamchatka peninsula and Japan in the west. To the south a number of smaller tectonic plates are in collision with the Pacific plate from the Mariana Islands, the Philippines, Bougainville, Tonga, and New Zealand.

Legend

Depth (m)	Elevation (m)
Below 5,000	250
5,000	500
4,000	750
3,000	1,000
2,000	1,500
1,000	2,000
500	2,500
100	3,000
Volcano	4,000
Faultline	5,000
Plate boundary	7,500
	Above 7,500

Country Naming Convention

UN MEMBER STATE
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DISPUTED TERRITORY

Map Doc Name: OCHA_ROAP_Tectonics_v5_100104
Creation Date: 4 January 2010
Projection/Datum: Behrmann/WGS84
Web Resources: http://ochaonline.un.org/roap

0 1,000 2,000
Kilometers

Map data source(s):
UN Cartographic Section, Global Discovery, NASA, Columbia University, Smithsonian Institute

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