Earthquake Prediction in Iran

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During the last 40 years, earthquake prediction studies have been carried out based on various scientific methods such as statistical analysis and earthquake precursors, having specific purposes particularly for earthquake risk reduction. With respect to available valid data and knowledge, the earthquake prediction researches are followed in Iran based on long-term and continuous programs within the Iranian plateau. These studies aim to develop scientific findings about the possibility of a probable earthquake before its occurrence. There are two general strategies in this context: probabilistic prediction (or forecasting) and earthquake precursors. In this article, it is tried to present a general perspective about earthquake prediction studies. In this regard, different developed methods for earthquakes predictions, the challenges facing these researches in Iran, future programs as well as the fields of expertise are discussed. Finally, hydrogeochemical changes as an earthquake precursor is pointed out briefly.

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