



### **A BIGGER ONE TO COME?**

There is a one in 20 chance of a bigger earthquake striking the same region within 72 hours of yesterday's tremor off Andaman Islands, warned eminent tectonic scientist Kerry Sieh of the Earth Observatory of Singapore (EOS) yesterday.

The 7.6-magnitude earthquake happened near the northern tip of the rupture caused in the 2004 Aceh-Andaman earthquake, which led to the deadly tsunami. But Professor Sieh said more data was

needed to determine if the quake happened on the Sunda megathrust — a major reverse fault where the 2004 rupture occurred.

Professor Sieh, director of the EOS at Nanyang Technological University, was speaking at the Annual Meeting of the Asia Oceania Geosciences Society 2009.

Prof Sieh also presented his finding that a magnitude 8.8 quake that would likely take place in the next 30 years off Padang in West Sumatra. He said the odds

of the quake happening within 30 years are 10 to one, and that the quake would likely be 600km from Singapore. Scientists are now trying to predict what the tsunami resulting from that quake might "look like", so as to better warn residents and authorities, he said.

The quake presents no danger of "any major catastrophe in Singapore", but research is ongoing to see what the "marginal problems" could be, said Prof Sieh. **NEO CHAI CHIN**