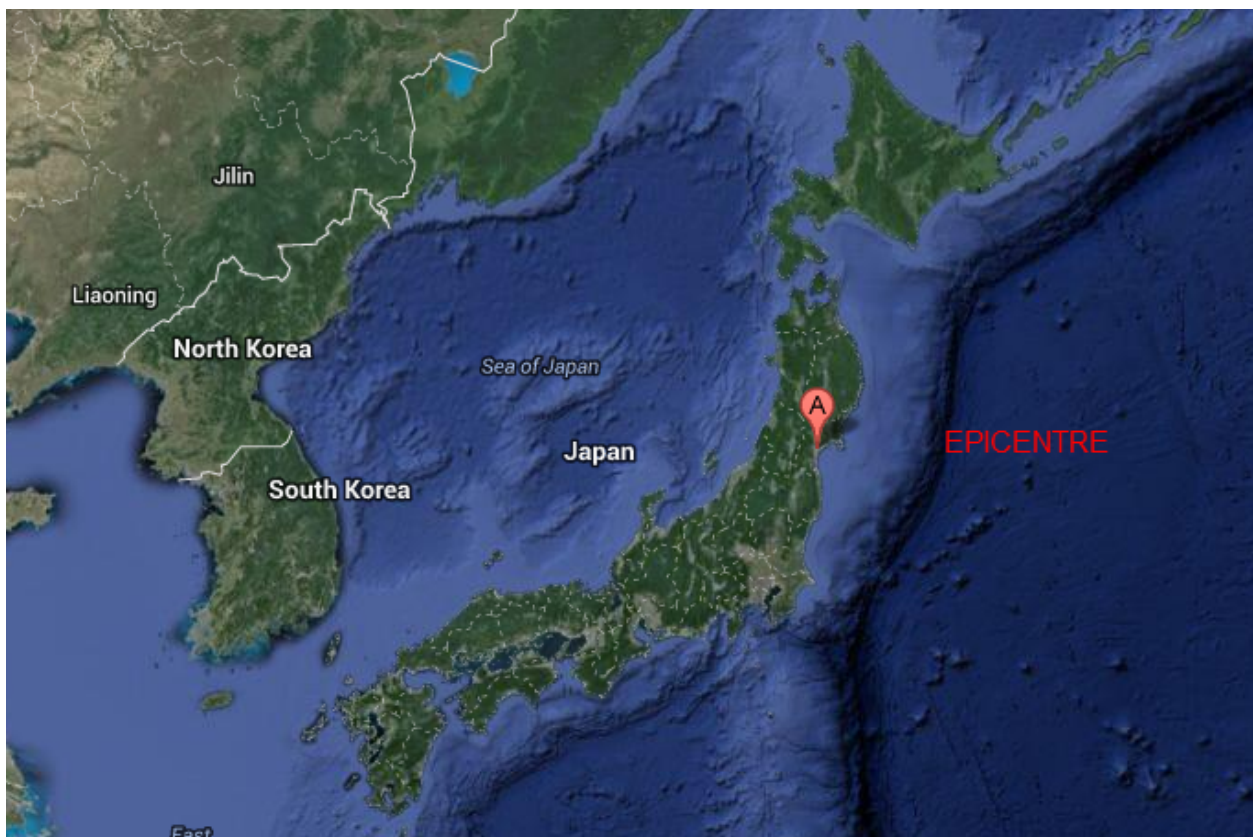


# Earthquake in Japan

The most powerful to hit Japan in recorded history occurred on March 11th 2011. It measured 8.9 on the richter scale and caused a massive tsunami that reached heights of over 30 metres. It affected the east coast of Japan and resulted in the collapse of many buildings and even entire villages. The Japanese police confirmed that over 15,000 people died and that 4.4 million families in northern Japan were left without electricity and water.

The earthquake also damaged the Fukushima nuclear power plant and residents nearby had to be evacuated. The World Bank estimate the cost of the earthquake to be \$200 billion, making it the most expensive natural disaster in world history.



Map of Japan showing Sendai City (A) and the epicentre of the 2011 earthquake