

KERRY SIEH

Prof Kerry Sieh initiated the field of paleoseismology 30 years ago with his discovery of how often California's infamous San Andreas fault has generated great earthquakes. Prior to his appointment as Director of the EOS, Prof Sieh was a chaired professor in Caltech's Tectonics Observatory, a US\$30m privately funded multi-disciplinary scientific effort, which he and others at Caltech created. In the formative years of the Southern California Earthquake Centre, Sieh led its effort to characterise earthquake faults beneath Los Angeles. Here in Asia, his work along the great under-sea Sunda megathrust revealed patterns of ancient rupture and current straining that led to forecasts of recent and impending large Sumatran earthquakes and tsunamis. He and his students recently completed a 6-year study that redefined the active tectonics of Taiwan, and have begun a comprehensive study of the neotectonics of Myanmar.