



U.S. Department of the Interior  
U.S. Geological Survey

Prepared in collaboration with  
Russian Academy of Sciences, Mongolian Academy of Sciences, Jilin University, Korean Institute of Geoscience and Minerals,  
Geological Survey of Japan/National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology

Scientific Investigations Map 2024  
Sheet 2 of 2

### LIST OF MAP UNITS

(Geologic time scale units are according to the IUGS Global Stratigraphic Chart (Renne, 1999). For this study, the term *Paleozoic* is used for Mesoproterozoic through Middle Permian (1600 to 650 Ma), and the term *Triassic* is used for Neoproterozoic (650 to 540 Ma).

### INTRODUCTION AND COMPANION STUDIES

This map portrays the geodynamics of Northeast Asia at a scale of 1:5,000,000 using the concepts of plate tectonics and analysis of terranes and overlap assemblages. The map is the result of a detailed compilation and synthesis of 5 million scale and is part of a major international collaborative study of the *Mineral Resources, Metallogeny, and Tectonics of Northeast Asia* conducted from 1997 through 2002 by the Geological Survey of Japan, the Russian Academy of Sciences, the Mongolian Academy of Sciences, the Korean Institute of Geoscience and Minerals, and the U.S. Geological Survey.

This map is the result of extensive geologic mapping and associated tectonic studies in Northeast Asia in the last few decades and is the first collaborative compilation of the geology of the region at a scale of 1:5,000,000 by geologists from Russia, Mongolia, Northeastern China, South Korea, Japan, and the USA. The map was compiled by a large group of international geologists using the below concepts and definitions during collaborative workshops over a six-year period. The map is a major new compilation and re-interpretation of pre-existing geologic maps of the region. The map is designed to be used for several purposes, including regional tectonic analysis, mineral resource and metallogenic analysis, petroleum resource analysis, neotectonic analysis, and analysis of seismic hazards and volcanic hazards.

The map consists of two sheets. Sheet 1 displays the map at a scale of 1:5,000,000 and the map explanation. Sheet 2 displays the introduction, list of map units, and source references. Detailed descriptions of map units and stratigraphic nomenclature are provided in the companion studies.

This map is one of a series of publications on the mineral resources, metallogeny, and geodynamics of Northeast Asia. Companion studies and other articles and maps, and various detailed reports (1) a compilation of major mineral deposit types (Rodionov and Nokolberg, 2000; Rodionov and others, 2000) (2) a series of metallogenic belts (Rodionov and others, 2000) (3) descriptions of metallogenic belts (Rodionov and others, 2004), and (4) a database on significant metallogenic and selected nonmetallic lode deposits, and selected placer districts (Arinbald and others, 2003).

### KEY CONCEPTS FOR COMPLICATION OF MAP

This map portrays major geologic and tectonic units of the region. The map illustrates both the onshore terranes and overlap volcanic assemblages of the region, including cratons, tectonostratigraphic terranes and overlap assemblages, major structures, and major offshore geologic features. Geologic mapping suggests that most of the tectonostratigraphic terranes are formed after the Paleozoic, Mesozoic, and Cenozoic eras.

A tectonostratigraphic terrane is defined as a fault-bounded geologic entity or fragment that is characterized by distinctive lithology that differs markedly from the lithology of the surrounding terranes and others. Howell and others (1985). A tectonostratigraphic terrane (hereafter referred to as *terranes*) is a stratigraphically coherent assemblage that formed before tectonic juxtaposition to adjacent terranes. Terranes are mainly subgroups of international geologic concepts and definitions during collaborative workshops over a six-year period. The map is a major new compilation and re-interpretation of pre-existing geologic maps of the region. The map is designed to be used for several purposes, including regional tectonic analysis, mineral resource and metallogenic analysis, petroleum resource analysis, neotectonic analysis, and analysis of seismic hazards and volcanic hazards.

The map also displays the tectonostratigraphic terranes and overlap volcanic assemblages of the region. The map illustrates both the onshore terranes and overlap volcanic assemblages of the region, including cratons, tectonostratigraphic terranes and overlap assemblages, major structures, and major offshore geologic features. Geologic mapping suggests that most of the tectonostratigraphic terranes are formed after the Paleozoic, Mesozoic, and Cenozoic eras.

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### TECTONIC DEFINITIONS

The following definitions are used for the compilation, synthesis, description, and interpretation of tectonostratigraphic terranes. The definitions are adapted from Conley and others (1980), Jones and others (1983), Sengupta and others (1984), Rodionov and others (1987), Nokolberg and others (1994), B. A. Wheeler and others (1983), and Scotese and others (2001).

**Accretion** Tectonic juxtaposition of two or more terranes, or tectonic juxtaposition of terranes with a craton margin. Accretion of terranes to one another or to a craton margin also implies a major change in the tectonic evolution of terranes and craton margins.

**Accretionary wedge and subduction-zone terrane** Fragment of a mid-to-early deformed oceanic crust consisting of various turbidites, ophiolites, and other rocks, accreted to a continental margin, and oceanic material. Divided into units composed predominantly of turbidite deposits or predominantly of oceanic rocks, mainly basals. Units are interpreted to have formed during tectonic juxtaposition in a zone of major thrusting of oceanic crust and oceanic island arcs to a continental margin of a continent or an island arc. May include large fault-bounded units with coherent stratigraphy. Subduction-zone terranes are tectonostratigraphic terranes that are formed by the accretion of a complex structural history, occur in a major thrust zone, and possess blueschist-facies metamorphism.

**Craton** A large tectonostratigraphic terrane, generally formed in oceanic areas; ancient continental crust. Craton chiefly refers to metamorphosed and deformed shield assemblages of Archean and Early Proterozoic sedimentary, volcanic, and plutonic rocks, and overlying platform successions of Late Proterozoic, Paleozoic, and Cenozoic basins and tectonostratigraphic terranes.

**Craton margin** Chieffy Late Proterozoic through Jurassic sedimentary rocks deposited on a continental shelf or slope. Consists mainly of platform successions. Locally has, or may have had an Archean or Early Proterozoic cratonal basin.

**Cratonal terrane** Fragment of a craton.

**Continental margin** Fragment of an igneous belt of coastal plutonic and volcanic rocks, and associated sedimentary rocks that formed above a subduction zone or great volcanic arc. Inferred to possess a sialic basement.

**Deposit** Any lode or placer mineral occurrence, mineral deposit, prospect, and/or mine.

**Deformed terrane** Fragment of an igneous volcanic and/or sedimentary belt that formed above a subduction zone or great volcanic arc, and associated sedimentary rocks that formed above an oceanic subduction zone. Inferred to have a sialic basement.

**Metamorphic terrane** Fragment of a highly metamorphosed or deformed assemblage of sedimentary, volcanic, or plutonic rocks that cannot be assigned to a single tectonic environment because of the original stratigraphy and/or because of the original tectonostratigraphic terrane that contains intensely deformed fragments of two or more terranes.

**Metamorphosed continental margin terrane** Fragment of a passive continental margin, in places modified to highly metamorphosed and deformed or tectonostratigraphic terrane to the nearby craton margin. May be derived from either a nearby craton margin or a distant site.

**Oceanic crust, oceanic, and ophiolite terrane** Fragment of part of a suite of deep-marine magmatic and ultramafic rocks that formed above a subduction zone or great volcanic arc, and volcanic rocks and the upper mantle. Includes both inferred offshore oceanic and marginal oceanic basins, minor volcanoclastic rocks of magmatic arc derivation, and major marine volcanic accumulations (e.g., at hot spot, fracture zone, or spreading axis).

**Overlap assemblage** A post-accretion unit of sedimentary or igneous rocks deposited on, or intruded into, two or more adjacent terranes. The sedimentary and volcanic parts are positionally overlain, or are interpreted to have originally depositedly overlain, and are genetically related to overlap volcanic rocks. Overlapping plutonic rocks, which may be coeval and genetically related to overlap volcanic rocks, link the overlapping terranes to a craton margin.

**Passive continental margin terrane** Fragment of a craton margin.

**Subterranean** A fault-bounded unit within a terrane that exhibits similar, but not identical geologic lithology to other fault-bounded units in the same terrane.

**Superterrane** An aggregate of terranes that is interpreted to share either a similar stratigraphic kindred or affinity, or a common geologic history after accretion. An approximate synonym is *compositus terrane*.

**Tectonic linkage** The interpreted association of a suite of coeval tectonic units that formed in the same region and as the result of the same tectonic processes. An example is the linking of a coeval continental margin arc and associated deposits, a back-arc basin, and a subduction-zone or great volcanic arc, all related to the underthrusting of a continental margin by oceanic crust.

**Tectonostratigraphic terrane** A fault-bounded geologic entity or fragment that is characterized by a distinctive geologic history that differs markedly from that of adjacent terranes and others. Howell and others (1985).

**Transform continental margin arc** An igneous belt of coastal plutonic and volcanic rocks, and associated sedimentary rocks that formed along the margin of a continent, and a subduction-zone or great volcanic arc, and associated sedimentary rocks that formed above a subduction zone or great volcanic arc, and associated sedimentary rocks that formed above an oceanic subduction zone. Inferred to have a sialic basement.

**Turbidite basin terrane** Fragment of a basin filled with deep-marine clastic deposits in either an oceanic or back-arc setting. May include turbidite and ophiolite terranes, and may be related to a subterranean turbidite deposit deposited on oceanic crust. May include minor epistatic and volcanoclastic deposits.

### SOURCES FOR MAP COMPILED

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### TECTONOSTRATIGRAPHIC TERRANES

(Arranged alphabetically by map label)

ACH Amu-Chirya terrane (Cretaceous turbidite) (Early to Late Paleozoic) (Goryi Altai)

AG Agard terrane (Oceanic) (Vendian and Cambrian) (Southern Tiva)

AL Amur terrane (Accretionary wedge, type A) (Late Paleozoic) (Western Sayan)

ALM Alatau terrane (Accretionary wedge, type B) (Vendian and Early Cambrian) (South Sialian and northern Goryi Altai)

AM Altai-Laduzhansky terrane (Accretionary wedge, type B) (Carboniferous and Permian) (Japan)

AN Aniva terrane (Metamorphic) (Middle Silurian and older) (South Sialian)

ANV Aniva terrane (Accretionary wedge, type B) (Middle Triassic through Early Late Cretaceous) (Southern Russian Far East)

AO Agul terrane (Metamorphic) (Pre-Paleozoic) (Eastern Tiva)

ARG Arginsky terrane (Passive continental margin) (Late Paleozoic through Late Paleozoic) (Northwestern China, Transbaikalia)

AT Archaic terrane (Metamorphic) (Precambrian and Cambrian through Devonian) (Southern Goryi Altai, Northwest China, Mongolia)

AV Amurov terrane (Granulite-supergroup) (Paleoproterozoic) (Yensiey Ridge)

AVS Amurov terrane (Granulite-supergroup) (Paleoproterozoic) (Yensiey Ridge)

BA Baikal-Khatanga terrane (Island arc) (Devonian through Carboniferous) (Northwest China, Mongolia)

BD Badkhal terrane (Accretionary wedge, type B) (Permian through Jurassic) (Southern Russian Far East)

BO Bayanlug terrane (Accretionary wedge, type A) (Ordovician to Devonian) (Gobi Altai)

BOY Bayanlug terrane (Oceanic) (Metamorphic) (Western Mongolia)

BR Buryatia terrane (Metamorphic) (Paleoproterozoic) (Eastern Sayan)

BRK Belaya-Kiyoy terrane (Metamorphic) (Archean?) (Eastern Sayan)

BL Balakha terrane (Metamorphic) (Paleoproterozoic through Ordovician) (Southern Russian Far East)

BLK Balakha-Maya terrane (Metamorphic) (Late Permian and older) (Northern Goryi Altai)

BRU Baratal terrane (Accretionary wedge, type B) (Late Neoproterozoic through Early Cambrian) (Southeastern Goryi Altai)

BRG Barga terrane (Metamorphic) (Paleoproterozoic) (Transbaikalia)

BS Bousya terrane (Accretionary wedge, type B) (Early Cambrian) (Northwest Sayan)

BU Buryatia terrane (Metamorphic) (Neoproterozoic and older through Triassic) (Southern Russian Far East)

BY Bayling terrane (Cretaceous) (Neoproterozoic and older) (Northwest Mongolia)

WAD West Argun terrane (Passive continental margin) (Neoproterozoic) (Yensiey Ridge)

WZ Weizang-Baran terrane (Island arc) (Ordovician through Permian) (Northwestern China, Mongolia)

WSD West Sialian terrane (Accretionary wedge, type B) (Mesoproterozoic through Middle Ordovician) (Northwestern China, Mongolia)

WST West Stanovoy terrane (Metamorphic) (Archean through Mesoproterozoic) (Transbaikalia, Mongolia)

WSY West Sayan terrane (Continental margin turbidite) (Late Neoproterozoic through Devonian) (Western Sayan and eastern Goryi Altai)

YN Yanshan terrane (Paragneiss) (Paleoproterozoic) (Yensiey Ridge)

YZ Yanshan terrane (Continental margin arc) (Late Neoproterozoic) (Mongolia)

ZD Zhenyuan terrane (Metamorphic) (Archean through Devonian) (Northwestern China)

ZO Zhenyuan terrane (Continental margin turbidite) (B) (Ordovician?) and Devonian) (Mongolia)

ZRA Zhuravlev-Amur River terrane (Continental margin turbidite) (Late Jurassic and Early Cretaceous) (Southern Russian Far East)

ZS Zhanjiang terrane (Oceanic) (Late Cambrian and Early Ordovician) (Northwestern Goryi Altai)

DB Dibinsky terrane (Accretionary wedge, type A) (Late Neoproterozoic) (Eastern Sayan)

DL Dal'nyy terrane (Granulite-supergroup) (Middle Archean) (Yakutia)

DN Dniepr-Kharkov terrane (Island arc) (Cambrian through Middle Devonian) (China, Mongolia)

DR Dorba terrane (Passive continental margin) (Late Neoproterozoic) (Eastern Sayan)

AG Adyia intermediate sedimentary basin (Miocene and Pliocene) (Yakutia)

AGI Agul intermediate sedimentary basin (Middle Devonian through Early Carboniferous) (Eastern Sayan)

AS Argun sedimentary basin (Early Paleozoic) (China)

ASJ Asia-Japan backarc basin on extended continental crust (late Tertiary and Quaternary) (Offshore area between East Asia and Japan)

ASL Asia-Japan continental shelf (late Tertiary and Quaternary) (Offshore area between East Asia and Japan)

ASB Asia-Japan backarc basin on rifted continental crust (late Tertiary and Quaternary) (Offshore area between East Asia and Japan)

AKA Akitkan volcanic-plutonic belt (Paleoproterozoic) (Transbaikalia)

AVS Amurov volcanic-plutonic belt (Devonian and Early Carboniferous) (Goryi Altai, Sialian, Mongolia, Northwest China)

AVM Amur volcanic-plutonic belt (Late Jurassic to Quaternary) (Southern Russian Far East)

ALM Alatau volcanic-plutonic belt (Silurian) (Northwest China)

AMM Alai-Mongolia intermediate basin (Paleogene, Neogene, and Quaternary) (Altai-Sayan)

ANB Anabai anorthositic belt (Archean) (Northwest China)

AVS Amur-Sayan back-arc basin (Vendian and Cambrian) (Eastern Goryi Altai, Kuznetsk Alatau, eastern Sayan)

AKA Akitkan-Sayan back-arc basin (Biyu-Katan unit) (Late Neoproterozoic and Cambrian) (eastern Goryi Altai)

AMM Alai-Sayan back-arc basin (Kiya unit) (Late Neoproterozoic and Cambrian) (northern Mongolia, Altai)

ASKM Alai-Sayan back-arc basin (Kizhikhim unit) (Late Neoproterozoic) (southwestern Mongolia, Altai)

ASMB Alai-Sayan back-arc basin (Murov-Batani unit) (Late Neoproterozoic and Cambrian) (Goryi Altai, Sialian, Kuznetsk Alatau, Eastern Sayan)

AVS Amur-Yanshan plutonic belt (Protectorate) (Northwest China)

AVS Amur-Yanshan plutonic belt (Protectorate) (Northwest China)

ASJ Amur-Zeya sedimentary basin (Late Jurassic to Quaternary) (Southern Russian Far East)

ASL Amur-Zeya sedimentary basin (Cambrian and Ordovician) (Northwestern China)

BSL Bakal sedimentary basin (Cenozoic) (China)

ZB Zhenyuan-Bakal sedimentary basin (Cenozoic) (Northwest China)

AVS Amur volcanic-plutonic rift belt (Oligocene through Quaternary) (Transbaikalia)

BLK Balakha-Khatanga volcanic-plutonic belt (Early Permian through Early Jurassic) (Altai, Mongolia, China)

BYL Bayanlug volcanic field (Early Cretaceous) (Yakutia)

BSL Bakal volcanic-plutonic belt (Cenozoic) (China)

BU Buryatia sedimentary basin (Early Jurassic to Early Cretaceous) (Southern Russian Far East)

BYL Bayanlug volcanic-plutonic belt (Cenozoic) (Yakutia)

BRG Barga volcanic-plutonic belt (Early Carboniferous) (Transbaikalia)

CA Central Asian plateaus basalts belt (Neogene and Quaternary) (Russia, Mongolia, China, India)

CHS Chongol-Chukardak basalts belt (Cenozoic) (Yakutia)

CHA Chaur-Uul rift system (Paleoproterozoic) (Korea)

UKL Ukokan basin (Paleoproterozoic) (Yakutia)

CUK Chuguchuk volcanic-plutonic belt (Paleogene, Neogene, and Quaternary) (All areas)

DA Dabcho granitic belt (Early to Late Jurassic) (Korea)

DK Dabcho granitic belt (Devonian and Early Carboniferous) (Northwest China)

DB Dabchudakh volcanic field (Cretaceous) (Yakutia)

DS Daxingziling sedimentary overlap assemblage (Carboniferous through Permian) (Northwest China)

DA Daxingziling anorthositic belt (Paleoproterozoic) (Yakutia)

DAO Dabcho volcanic-plutonic belt (Early Cretaceous) (Yakutia)

EA East Asian volcanic-plutonic belt (Triassic through Cretaceous) (China)

EJ East Jilun volcanic belt (Silurian) (Northwest China)

EL East Jilun volcanic belt (Late Jurassic through Quaternary) (China)

EAS East Sikhote-Alin volcanic-plutonic belt (Late Cretaceous through Miocene) (Southern Russian Far East)

ES Volcanic part

EAJ East Tiva back-arc basin (Late Neoproterozoic and Cambrian) (Eastern Tiva and southwestern Eastern Sayan)

ESL East Sialian volcanic-plutonic belt (Cenozoic) (Northwest China)

GA Gazimur sedimentary basin (Late Neoproterozoic through Early Ordovician) (Transbaikalia)

GBS Gobi-Khanikha-Daxingziling volcanic-plutonic belt (Permian) (Mongolia, Transbaikalia, Southern Russian Far East)

GV Volcanic part

GT Great Lakes sedimentary basin (Jurassic and Cretaceous) (Mongolia)

HS Hasam-Amurian volcanic-plutonic belt (Paleocene to Early Miocene) (Korea and Russian Far East)

HL Volcanic part

HSJ Hasam-Amurian sedimentary overlap assemblage (Late Neoproterozoic through Middle Permian) (Cenozoic) (Eastern Sayan)

HG Huangshui sedimentary basin (Mesozoic through Cenozoic) (China)

HR Hiroshima granitic plutonic belt (Cretaceous and Paleogene) (Japan)

HN Hainan volcanic-plutonic belt (Devonian and Early Carboniferous) (Eastern Mongolia and Northeastern China)

HRG Hinggan granitic (Protectorate) (Triassic) (Russian Southeast)

HY Hyesan granitic (Permian to Triassic) (Korea)

HSJ Hasam-Amurian volcanic-plutonic belt (Paleogene, Neogene, and Quaternary) (All areas)

IB Incheon volcanic-plutonic belt (Devonian and Early Carboniferous) (Northwest China)

IC Ichir terrane (Neoproterozoic through Ordovician) (Eastern Sayan, Mongolia)

IL Injinyang