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Geothermal systems within a "pulled-apart" segment of the Philippine Fault (Central Leyte): their characteristics and relation to volcanism and strike-slip tectonics

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The trace of the Early Pliocene to Recent Philippine Fault in Central Leyte forms a 55 km x 5 km "pull-apart" structure within which five discrete hot water-dominated geothermal systems have been delineated. These are: Mahiao–Sambaloran–Malitbog, Paril–Mahanagdong, Alto Peak, Anonang and Mahagnao geothermal prospects. Each of these is characterized by a low (<20 ohm-m) resistivity anomaly that encloses active thermal manifestations, hydrothermally altered ground and a volcanic center. The preliminary microtectonic data show that this area has been subjected to a regional E-directed (092°) compression and a localized NW-NE directed (060°–172°) extension.

Three major hornblende andesite- and dacite-forming volcanic events have been identified in this region: i) the Late Miocene (11 Ma) event is represented by the highly eroded Mamban, Cancajanag and Burauen Volcanics; ii) the Late Pliocene to Early Pleistocene (~1.6 Ma) event produced several small volume partly eroded volcanic cones and domes, which now show moderate-intense solfataric activity, and iii) the Late Pleistocene (<0.5 Ma) event formed two volcanic cones with well-preserved crater structures (Mts. Janagdan and Lobi). These volcanic deposits were emplaced onto a thick sequence of Mid-Tertiary to Recent sedimentary clastics and carbonate lenses that

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overlie ultramafic and metamorphic rocks.

Hence, the geothermal systems within the "pulled-apart" segment of the Philippine Fault in Central Leyte are mainly associated with Late Pliocene to Early Pleistocene volcanism and zones of transtension. This set-up is accompanied usually by a large outflow of geothermal fluids such as in Mahiao-

Sambaloran–Malitbog, Paril–Mahanagdong and Anonang geothermal prospects. In contrast, a geothermal system dominated by compressional stresses and centered at a solfataric crater (Alto Peak) or a dome (Mahagnao) exhibits very limited outflow features and normally volcanic-magmatic signatures may be expected.