

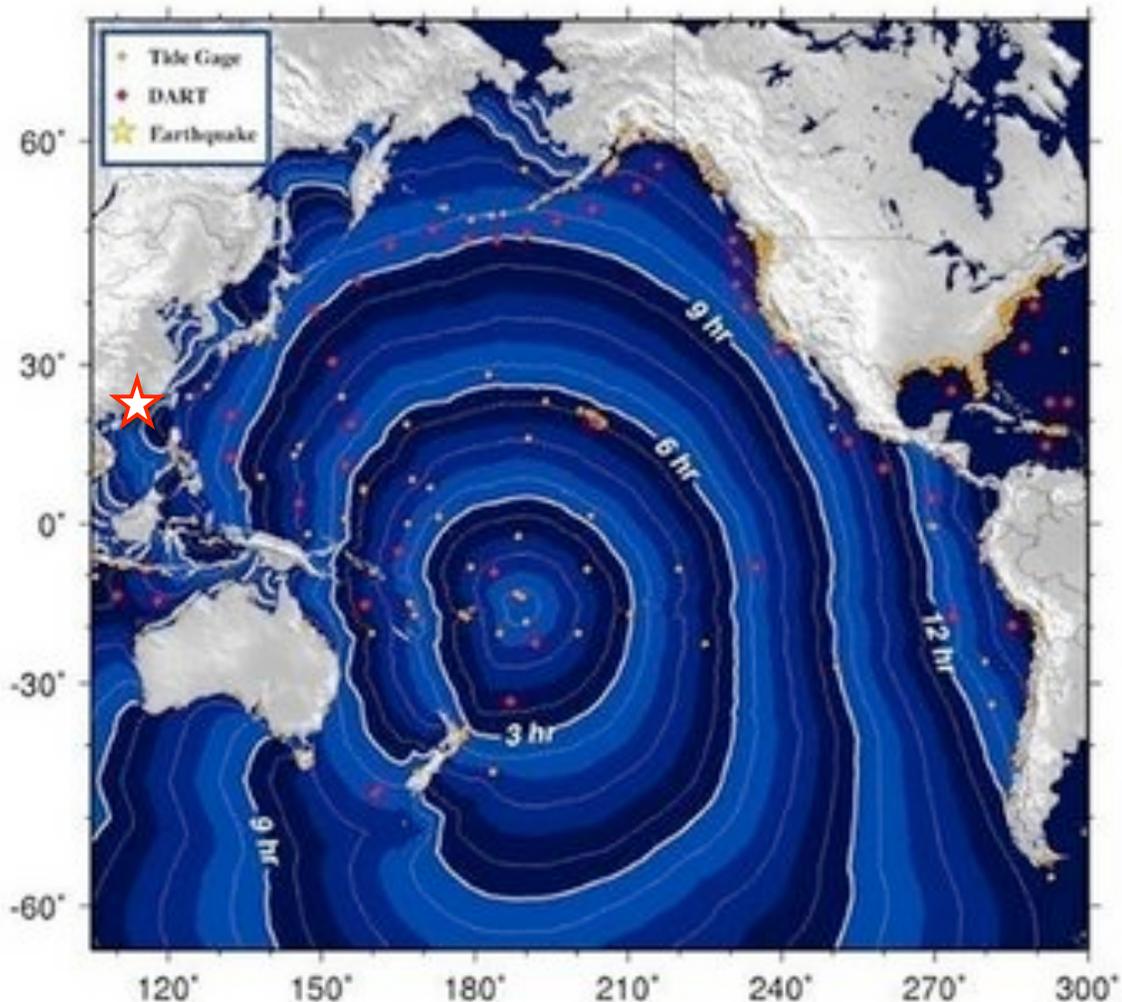
I checked the news this morning, and a couple natural disasters had Guangzhou on the map. Thankfully we have been safe so far, but here is where I am on the world map in relation to these calamities.

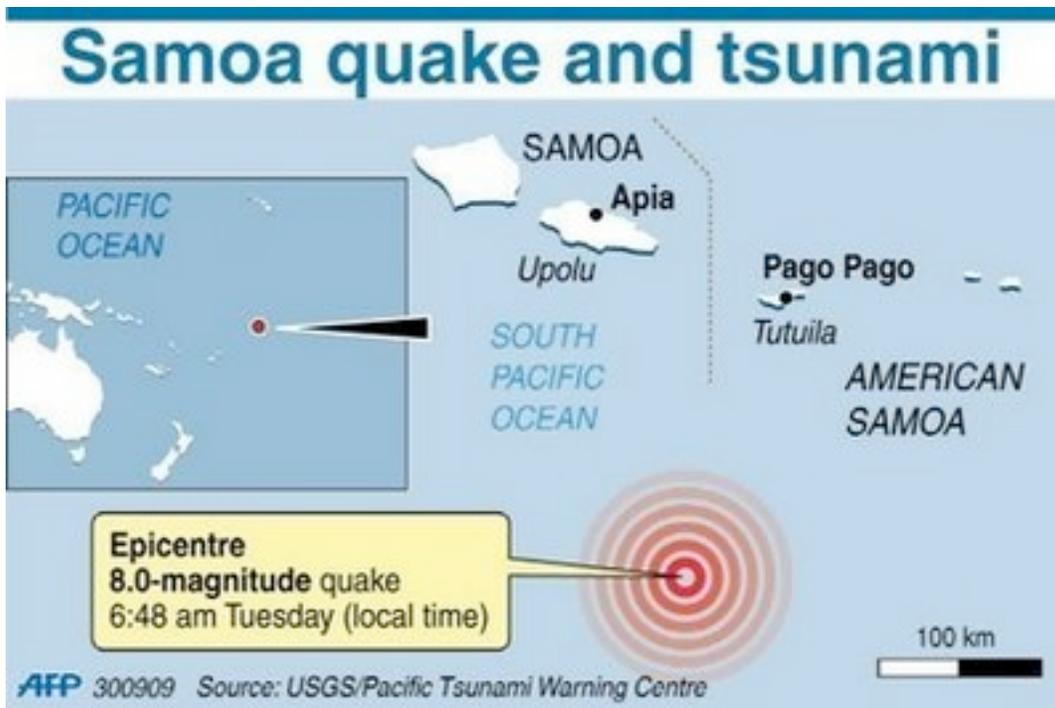
The first news story came this morning, with the report of a massive earthquake (8.0-8.3 according to the Richter) off Samoa sending tsunamis across the Pacific. Even the San Francisco Bay Area was under a small tsunami watch, which was the headline that first grabbed my attention. Clicking on the story, I learned of the plight of Samoa, described only vaguely as between New Zealand and Hawaii. The following map was displayed showing the approximate arrivals of possible tsunamis around the Pacific Rim. The red star is the location of Guangzhou.

Guangzhou is a good 75 kilometers up the Pearl River, so it is not likely to feel much of the effects. Hong Kong could though depending on how the waves wrap around the northern Philippines. Hong Kong happens to be where I am planning to go tomorrow!

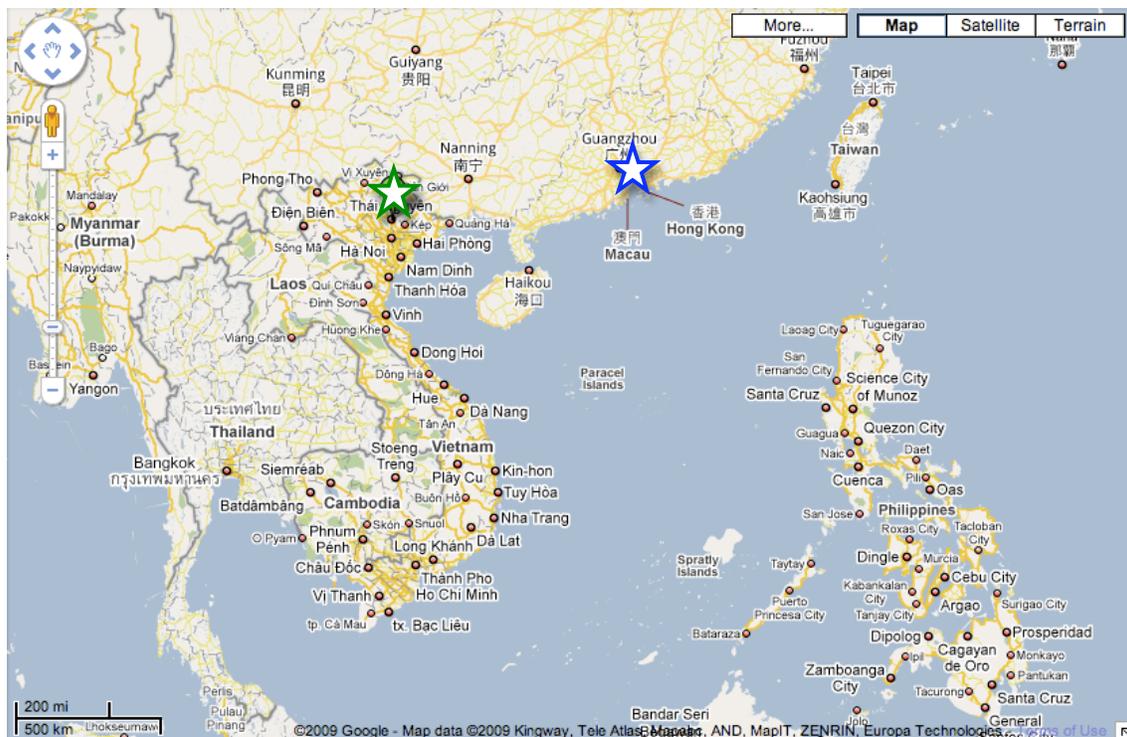
[http://news.yahoo.com/nphotos/Strong-quake-triggers-tsunami-Samoa/ss/events/wl/092909samoquake#photoViewer=/090930/photos\\_wl\\_afp/5358c670180efe89b49f4d22f494b219](http://news.yahoo.com/nphotos/Strong-quake-triggers-tsunami-Samoa/ss/events/wl/092909samoquake#photoViewer=/090930/photos_wl_afp/5358c670180efe89b49f4d22f494b219)

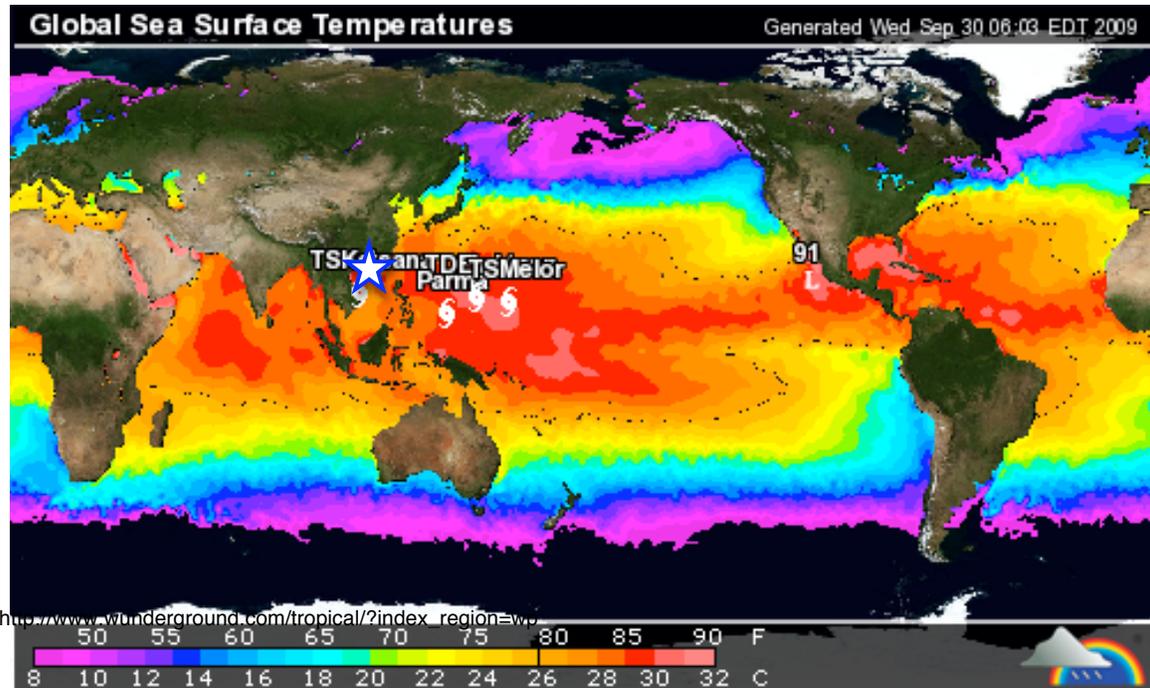
## Tsunami Travel Times



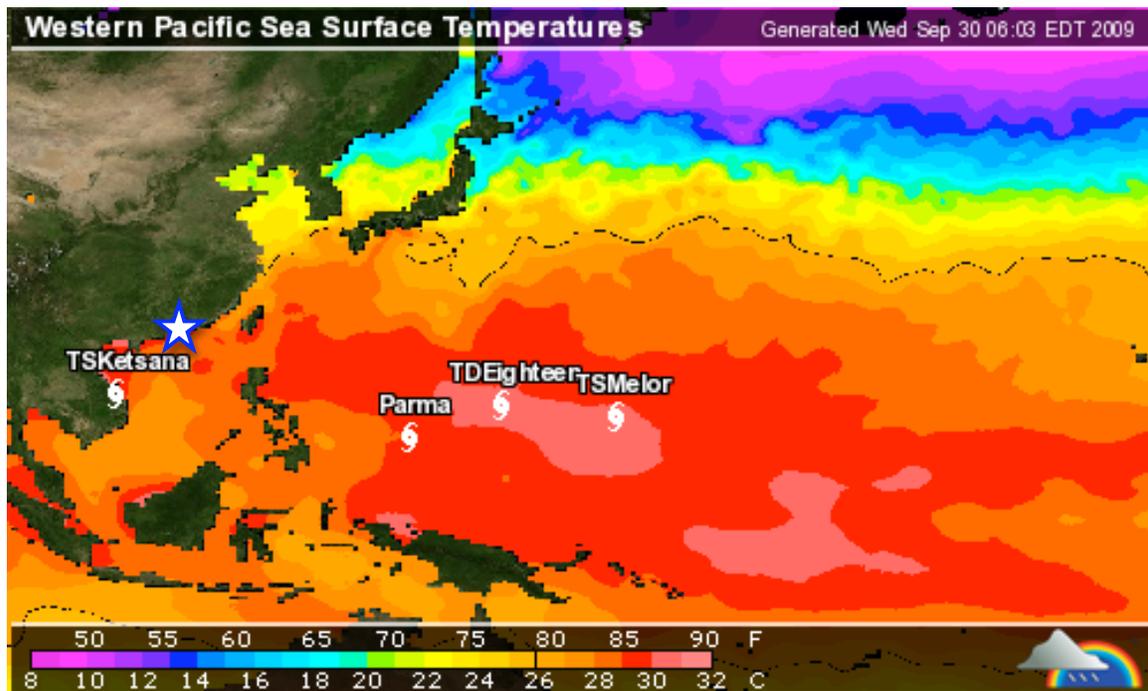


This afternoon, when I checked the news again, I learned that a huge typhoon (a hurricane in the Pacific) had just hit the Philippines have causing the worst flooding in 40 years, and then carrying on to flatten parts of Cambodia and Vietnam. The Vietnamese boarder is only a couple hundred miles from where I am in southeastern China. To show just how close I am to northern Vietnam, Guangzhou is the blue star, and the green star is Vietnam! Cambodia is along the southwest boarder of Vietnam (Laos is on the northwest boarder).



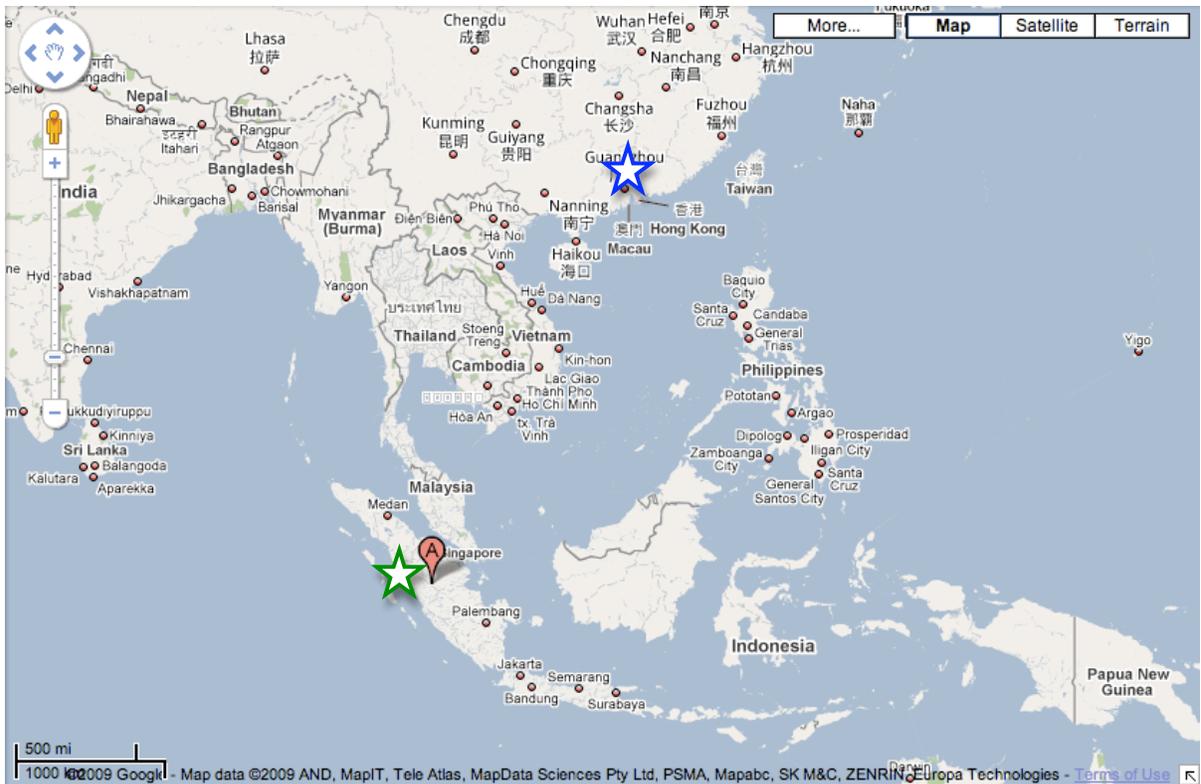


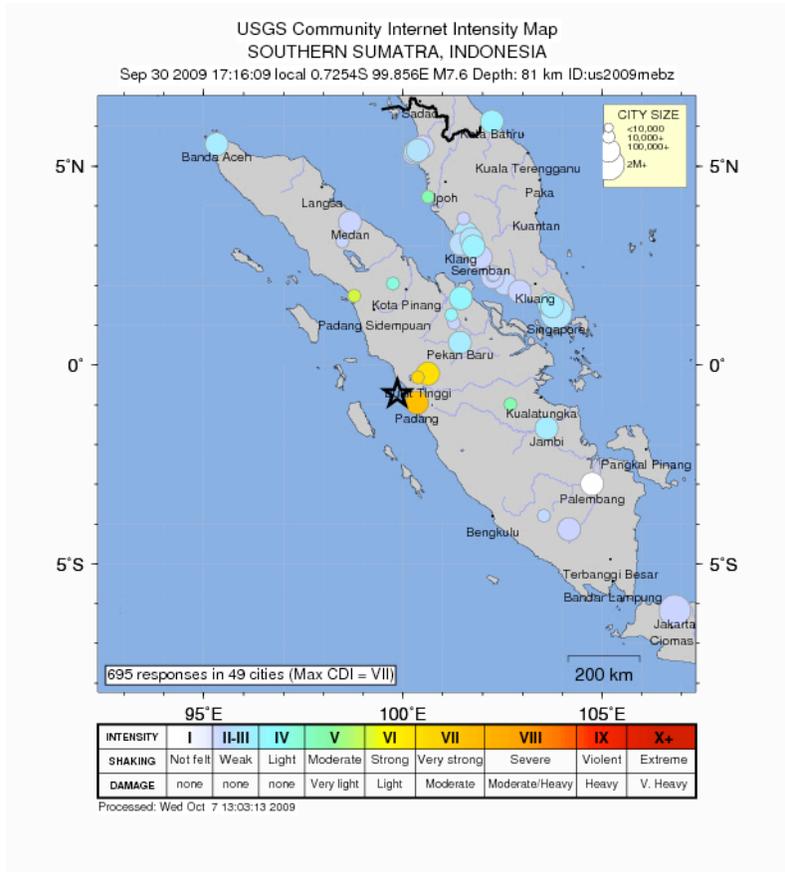
When I checked out the storm tracker for the Pacific, I was surprised to learn there were four storms not far from Guangzhou, including the one that had just hit Vietnam and three more still within striking distance. Looking at these two maps, one can see the vast area of hot ocean water in the tropics to the east of southeast Asia, which makes breeding these storms easy. This area is much larger than in the Atlantic.



Also, there have been several powerful earthquakes near Sumatra, Indonesia. Here is some information courtesy of the United States Geological Survey. As an airplane flies, I'm really not too far, but as most geologic calamities move, especially tsunamis generated by earthquakes, I am safe from the geologic activity of Sumatra.

<http://earthquake.usgs.gov/eqcenter/recenteqswm/Quakes/us2009mebz.php#maps>





**Thu Oct 8 04:00:03 UTC 2009**  
2 earthquakes on this map

