Proc. of the International Symposium on the NAOJ Museum
September 2015 in Tokyo, Japan

Kimura Hisashi Memorial Museum in NAOJ Mizusawa Campus

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Mizusawa VLBI Observatory, NAOJ has a small museum named Kimura Hisashi Memorial Museum, which displays history and activity of Hisashi Kimura (1870–1943) who was the first director of the Mizusawa Latitude Observatory (an old name of the Mizusawa VLBI Observatory, NAOJ). We will show telescopes and the results of the observations, and some related items.

1. Introduction

The International Latitude Observatory of Mizusawa studied polar motion of the earth and Kimura discovered "Z-term" in 1902. We will show some historically important telescopes (Visual Zenith Telescope, Floating Zenith Telescope) and the results of the observations, and some related items. It has built as the main building of the observatory in 1900. After the construction of a new main building in 1967, it started to be used as a museum and it renewal-opened in 2010 [1].

2. Display of the Museum

The museum has four rooms for display. The first room is the director's office. This room was really used by Kimura as the director's room. The disk, chair, and summer bed displaying in the room were used by Kimura. The abacus and slide rule which were used by Dr. Kimura are displayed on the disk.

The first Cultural Merit of Japan, the Gold Medal by UK are displayed in this room.

The second room is the VZT (Visual Zenith Telescope). Kimura used the VZT for observations of polar motion for many years and he discovered the Z-term in

Fig. 1 The picture of the main building (Kimura Hisashi Memorial Museum) when it was built.

Fig. 2 The picture of the open ceremony of Kimura Hisashi Memorial Museum in Oct. 27, 1967.

Fig. 3 Kimura Hisashi Memorial Museum in NAOJ Mizusawa campus (within the circle).

1902. The observation methods in details are explained in this room

The third room is on the explanation of the Z-term and how it was discovered and how the origin of it was explained. The FZT (Floating Zenith Telescope) and Seismometer are displayed in this room.

The forth room is on Kimura's personal history from his birth to death (1870–1943). He was born in Kanazawa city and died in Tokyo. You can listen his voice recorded in 1941 when he retired the observatory.

Fig. 4 The picture of Hisashi Kimura with the fist Cultural Merit of Japan for the contribution to astronomy with the finding of Z-term.

Fig. 5 The director's office

Fig. 6 The VZT room

Fig. 7 The FZT (Floating Zenith Telescope) and Seismometer

Fig. 8 The room of Kimura

3. Summary

The museum is a very unique museum because the museum building itself is 115years old and historically very important. Furthermore, it has many telescopes, instruments, medals, and pictures which are very rear and historically very important.

References

[1] http://www.miz.nao.ac.jp/kimura/ (Japanese)