

An Attempt to Look for New Possibilities of Communication for Science ~ “Astronomy” and “Chado (the way of tea)” ~

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We have held events intended to look for a new possibility of collaboration with “Astronomy” and “Chado” (the way of tea) in August 2014 and February 2015. We report the events and give a short comment on how participants’ images of “Astronomy” and “Chado” changed through the events and how they were able to feel a deep relationship between culture and nature.

1. Introduction

Recently, various collaborations are tried in the field of science communication. Some of them are collaborations of different perspectives, for example, “Child-rearing and Astronomy”, “Art and Astronomy”, etc [1], [5]. These collaborations of different perspectives could promote mutual understanding and create a new relationship of them.

In this paper, we will report our attempt to look for a new possibility of science communication. We chose “Astronomy” and “Chado” (the way of tea) as different perspectives. This combination is not the first attempt.

Dr. Isobe (Kyoto Univ., he is an astronomer) et al. in 2011. Isobe planned the event with tea masters. The event can be said to be an approach from Astronomy to Chado.

On the other hand, our event was planned by Ms. Asami who is not only an astronomer but also a tea master. Our events can be said to be an approach from both sides of cultures.

2. “Uchu” × “Chakai”

We have held events intended to look for a new possibility of collaboration with “Astronomy” and “Chado”, in August 2014 and February 2015. We used a “Chashitsu” which is a Japanese-style room for a traditional tea ceremony as a event site. We report details of the two events as follows.

2.1. The 1st Event

The first event was held at ‘3 × 3 Labo’ (Chiyoda district, Tokyo) on August 27th, 2014, in collaboration with Tangible Earth Museum [3] and Uchida Design Inc [4]. We held tea ceremonies as 4 round, and about 20 people took part in.

We used a chashitsu 【受庵～JI-AN～】 designed by Mr. Uchida, which was exhibited at the museum as an event site (Fig.1). Mr. Uchida also provided his work, “Furo” (brazier used for heating the kettle for a tea ceremony), which was designed in an image of the Universe. In the beginning of event, Dr. Takemura who is a director of the museum gave a talk about a relationship between ‘Chado’ and ‘Earth’ using with the Tangible Earth.



Fig. 1 left; a talk by Dr. Takemura, middle; tea ceremony, right; sweets.

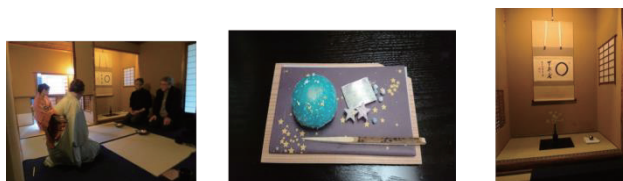


Fig. 2 left; tea ceremony, middle; sweets (looks like a Comet), right; “tokonoma” (alcove, is display place).

2.2. The 2nd Event

The second event was held at Mitaka Seishintei (Mitaka city, Tokyo) on Feb. 22th 2015. We held tea ceremonies as 4 round, and about 20 people took part in.

We used a chashitsu in Seishintei as an event site (Fig.2). This chashitsu is decorated in the traditional style, for example, there is a “Ro” which is a sunken hearth built into the floor of a chashitsu. The second event was held in more traditional atmosphere.

The main theme of this event was “time”. We expressed an image of time from dawn of the Universe to present, using implements which are designed in an image of Sun, Earth, Stars, and so on.

3. Characteristic of a Tea Ceremony

There are some characteristics of a tea ceremony which fit to philosophy of science communication. For example, “nijiriguchi” is one of those unique characteristics. Nijiriguchi is an entrance to chashitsu. All guests enter to chashitsu through the entrance. This design forces the person who come in a chashitsu to bow, even though the person is illustrious [2]. It means that anyone in the chashitsu is equal, and it is also important philosophy for science communication too.

4. Questionnaires and Results

Without going into detail our questionnaires focus on (1) giving rise to interests and concerns and (2) feeling coexistence with nature.

On the result of almost all of participants felt a deep relationship between culture and nature, we think that participants understood deeper about coexistence than before. In these events, we gave much weight to communications between organizer and the participants. The way of events could give a positive impact. Detail analysis will be reported in the next paper.

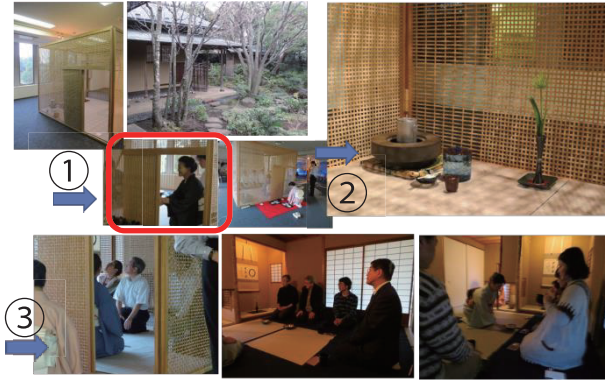


Fig. 3 The order of a tea ceremony, the square (solid line) is “nijiriguchi”.

5. Future Plan

In order to collect data, we should hold tea ceremonies. Through the event, we will observe how participants feel a relationship between culture and nature. Based on the observation, we want to find a better way to understand and enjoy the nature, and the Universe.

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