

## Closing Talk – Toward the Next Step –

Through this symposium, we have been able to gather the latest information on museum-like activities at astronomical research institutes around the world. We have also learned about domestic and international trends and future plans related to astronomical education and science communication activities of astronomy. During the symposium we were able to identify the importance of mutual collaborations and common challenges to overcome.

On the last day, group discussions were held on three themes: Group 1 “Planning,” Group 2 “Operations,” and Group 3 “Content.” Passionate overall discussion was followed that extended over the scheduled timeframe, “The Mitaka Declaration” was announced and signed by advocates. In addition, all the participants agreed with the “Basic Concept for the NAOJ Museum (tentative name)” proposed on the first day of the symposium, and the “Operations” group suggested that we should develop well-established documented processes of the museum activities by 2020. On the basis of this suggestion I look forward to further and more detailed discussions throughout NAOJ to move forward.

In “The Mitaka Declaration,” a voluntary group of participants proposed to NAOJ and JAXA, the major research institutes of astronomical and space science in Japan, to change copyright rules for use of astronomical images and movies, like the good examples of most research institutes in Western countries such as NASA, ESO, and ESA.

In particular, many comments and requests for improvement were made during the three days regarding JAXA’s rules for the use of intellectual property. The declaration with Japanese translation was sent to the president of JAXA, and I hope this will be a trigger for future improvements.

To continue the discussions and promote further cooperative relationships among research institutes and natural history and science museums, a second symposium will be held with the same themes in the autumn of 2017 at the Leiden Observatory of Leiden University in the Netherlands. In 2019, a third symposium will be held at the Supernova Planetarium & Visitor Centre, scheduled to open in 2017 at the ESO Headquarters (in Garching, near Munich, Germany).

As this symposium was the first experience for the Public Relations Center (PRC), NAOJ, the PRC and LOC members recognized the importance the unique “NAOJ hospitality” during the symposium. On the first day of the symposium, a “moon viewing party” co-hosted by the Mitaka Picture Book House in the Astronomical Observatory Forest was held, and the foreign guests enjoyed a Japanese drum performance and a tour of the Picture Book House. On the morning of the second day, we offered opportunities for the participants to see the heart of the open facilities at Mitaka headquarters, such as the 4D2U Dome Theater with the new system and guided tours. On the second day foreign guests enjoyed the Japanese traditional tea ceremony. The guests also viewed astronomical images during the banquet with live cembalo playing in the background.

In addition to expressing thanks to the guest speakers who came all the way from overseas, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to all who participated in making the symposium a success.

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