

# The Mitaka Declaration

## Preamble

The space science and astronomy outreach community represented by undersigned at the International Symposium on the NAOJ Museum on September 27-29, 2015, discussed how to improve the recognition of the outstanding Japanese space science and astronomy.

This gathering at NAOJ is concerned with how best to increase public education, awareness and appreciation of important science results in Japan and internationally. This is an important issue especially given the nature of national expenditure for science, which is essentially a matter of public ownership and providence, and cultural heritage.

**Following** the UNESCO’s Open Educational Resources Paris Declaration which encourages the open licensing of educational materials produced with public funds: *“Governments/competent authorities can create substantial benefits for their citizens by ensuring that educational materials developed with public funds be made available under open licenses (with any restrictions they deem necessary) in order to maximize the impact of the investment.”*

**Recognizing** the success of providing universal open access to education and public outreach resources by organisations and projects like NASA, ESO, the International Year of Astronomy 2009, Universe Awareness and others.

**Recognizing** the excellence and importance of Japan in producing world class scientific results in space and astronomy from organisations such as ISAS/JAXA and NAOJ/NINS.

**Recognizing** the great potential for international public recognition of the front-line Japanese space science and astronomy projects and results.

**Recognizing** that broadening the access to educational and public outreach products, such as images and videos, from the science being conducted and facilitated by organisations like ISAS/JAXA and NAOJ, will have a positive feedback on the recognition of the organisation and of Japan.

**Recognizing** that Japan has produced some of the most important scientific images and videos of humankind resulting from these data.

**Recognizing** the need of the scientists to preserve a proprietary period of the data for e.g. 12 months to conduct their research.

**Recognizing** that these Japanese public resources cannot currently be used as widely as they deserve, for instance on Wikipedia and also not by journalists, textbook authors and others without a lengthy and time-consuming process.

**Urging** that universal access to the results of science in the form of images and videos from ISAS/JAXA and NAOJ should be given, after the scientific pro-

prietary period, for the purpose of open public sharing under a simple Creative Commons licensing.

This petition for a formal policy change of the licensing of images and videos is signed by the following representatives:

- Pedro Russo, Leiden University, the Netherlands
- Carter Emmart, American Museum of Natural History, USA
- Hidehiko Agata, NAOJ, Japan
- Hakim L. Malasan, Bosscha Observatory, ITB, Indonesia
- Marta Entradas, London School of Economics/Cornell University, UK/USA
- Sze-leung Cheung, IAU Office of Outreach, Japan
- Hussein Jirdeh, Space Telescope Science Institute/NASA, USA
- Chisato Ikuta, ISAS, Japan
- Ramsay Lundock, NAOJ, Japan
- Kumiko Usuda-Sato, NAOJ, Japan
- Lars Lindberg Christensen, European Southern Observatory, Germany/Europe