

XII Important Dates

April 1, 2013 – March 31, 2014

2013

April 14	Fourth Open Observatory event held at the Ibaraki University Center for Astronomy and the NAOJ Mizusawa VLBI Observatory Ibaraki Station, with approximately 1,000 visitors in attendance.
April 22	Subaru Telescope staff gave astronomy demonstrations in English at an Earth Day event in Waimea.
April 26	All 16 of the ALMA antennas developed by Japan were installed at the Array Operations Site by the Joint ALMA Observatory. These are named the "Morita Array" after the late Professor Morita for his contributions.
May 5	A total of 25 Subaru Telescope staff members provided a big booth of information and demonstrations about the Subaru Telescope and new discoveries from it at the AstroDay event in Hilo and interacted with hundreds of families in the local community.
May 15	The ALMA Inauguration Commemorative lecture was held at Hitotsubashi Hall with 203 participants.
June 9	A NAOJ/Subaru Telescope lecture meeting "Pursuing the Biggest Explosions in the Universe" held in Hitotsubashi Hall with over 300 visitors in attendance.
June 17	Subaru Telescope staff gave a Japanese presentation via remote conferencing system from the Subaru Telescope's base facility in Hilo to Koyodai Elementary School in Miyagi (as part of supporting the recovery effort from March 11, 2011 disaster.)
June 29– June 30	Pre-event workshop held for 5 high school students scheduled to attend the Seventh Z-star Research Team event using the radio telescope at the VERA Mizusawa station to search for masers, to improve the understanding of the participants.
July 7	The Star Festival using 6m antenna was held at the NAOJ Mizusawa VLBI Observatory Kagoshima station in Kagoshima city Kinko Bay Park, co-hosted with Kagoshima city and Kagoshima University, with approximately 300 participants in attendance.
July 25	On Hawai'i Island, the scientific authorities of each participating country signed a Master Agreement for the construction of TMT (Thirty Meter Telescope.) From Japan, NAOJ Director Masahiko Hayashi signed the agreement.
July 25– July 26	"Summer Break Junior Astronomical Classes + You are Galileo" and "Summer Break Junior Astronomical Observation Sessions" held in Mitaka.
July 29– August 2	Facility Guide Week for Educational Organization was carried out.
August 1– September 29	Fourth International Festival of Scientific Visualization—Connecting with Others Through Science—held with over 1 million visitors attending during the festival period.
August 3– August 5	Seventh Z-star Research Team event held for high school students from Iwate Prefecture including tsunami-struck areas, with 5 participants attending. Team succeeded in detecting an astronomical object.
August 3– August 18	The Southern Island of Star Festival 2013 held together with a special open house event at the VERA Ishigakijima Station and Ishigakijima Astronomical Observatory with approximately 8,500 visitors to a dimmed-light stargazing event; an astronomical observation party at the Ishigakijima Astronomical Observatory, attended by 851 visitors; and a special public opening of the VERA Station attended by 246 visitors.
August 7– August 9	Chura-boshi Research Team workshop for high school students in Okinawa Prefecture and Fukushima Prefecture held at VERA Ishigakijima Astronomical Observatory, with 21 participants in attendance. One team using radio-waves discovered 2 masers for the first time in 3 years. A second team using visible light observations with the Murikabushi telescope discovered 5 asteroids.
August 10	Special open house of VERA Iriki station held jointly with the Yaeyama Kogen Star Festival 2013, with over 1,500 visitors in attendance.

August 24	Iwate Galaxy Festival 2013, a special event for the Mizusawa region, held with approximately 3,000 visitors in attendance.
August 24	Open House day of Nobeyama Observatory. There were 2,735 visitors for this event.
August 31	Special open house event held at Okayama Astrophysical Observatory, with 515 visitors in attendance.
September 17– September 21	Observation training of Radio Astronomy at Nobeyama Radio Observatory for Undergraduate Students was performed; there were 12 participants.
October 8	19th Astronomy Lecture for Science Reporters held, with 41 participants from 30 organizations in attendance and 50 viewers through internet broadcast.
October 12	Fall 2013 Special Stargazing Party held at Okayama Astrophysical Observatory, with 108 visitors in attendance (out of 360 applicants).
October 17	The number of visitors to the NAOJ Nobeyama Campus reached 3 million.
October 18– October 19	Mitaka Open House Day held, with 4,176 visitors in attendance.
November 7– November 9	Star Island 2013 open house event of VERA Ogasawara Station held jointly with JAXA Space Education Center for the first time, with 433 visitors in 3 days.
November 18– November 21	Staff of the Subaru Telescope and NAOJ conducted two observation programs together - one for SOKENDAI graduate student course work and the other for undergraduate students chosen from universities in Japan for their experience.
November 19	Subaru Telescope staff gave Japanese presentations via remote conferencing system from the Subaru Telescope on Mauna Kea to Kavli IPMU for Ichita Yamamoto, Minister of State for Special Missions.
November 20	A ceremony for FY 2013 continuous service recognition held. Six NAOJ staff members were recognized: Toshitaka Kajino, Hiroshi Matsuo, Naohisa Sato, Susumu Miura, Kazuhiro Murakami and Yoshihiro Kato.
December 5	The ALMA Morita Array was awarded the Gold Award of Good Design Award 2013. The Special Award Ceremony was held at a hotel in Tokyo with the attendance of Professor Hasegawa, Director of the Chile Observatory.

2014

January 15	Subaru Telescope staff gave a Japanese presentation via remote conferencing system from the Subaru Telescope's base facility in Hilo to Aizu Wakamatsu 3rd Junior High School in Fukushima (as part of supporting the recovery effort from March 11, 2011 disaster.)
February 16	Ishigakijima Astronomical Observatory concluded exchange agreement with Nayoro municipal astronomical observatory, Hokkaido.
March 6– March 14	For the Journey through the Universe program, 21 staff members of the Subaru Telescope went to 69 classes in the local public schools (from Preschool to 12-th grade) and delivered presentations, hands-on experiences, and other demonstrations in English.
March 7	5 staff members of the Subaru Telescope made presentations in English at the Master Educator Workshop.
March 28	A ceremony for FY 2013 continuous service recognition for retiring staff members held. Two staff members were recognized: Shinichi Ishikawa and Noriyuki Kawaguchi.