

VIII Public Access to Facilities

1. Mitaka Campus

[Open year-round]

Dates: April to March, 10:00–17:00

Every day except for New Year season (December 28–January 4)

Visitors: 19,754

Open facilities: Observatory History Museum (65-cm Telescope Dome), 20-cm Telescope Dome, Solar Tower Telescope, Exhibition Room, Repsold Transit Instrument Housing, Astronomical Instruments Museum, Gautier Meridian Circle, Old Library

[Regular Star Gazing Party]

Dates: Friday before second Saturday; fourth Saturday

Visitors: 5,161 (23 events)

Open facility: 50-cm Telescope for Public Outreach

[Special Open-House Event] Mitaka Open House Day

Dates: October 24 (Fri), 2014, 14:00–19:00

October 25 (Sat), 2014, 10:00–19:00

Topic: TMT Challenging the Frontiers of Space

Visitors: 4,768

This event is jointly sponsored by NAOJ, the University of Tokyo School of Science Institute of Astronomy, and the SOKENDAI Department of Astronomical Science. It has been held for 2 days each year, starting from 2010. The perennially popular lectures related to this year's theme were hosted by the University of Tokyo Institute of Astronomy ("Seeing the Universe in Infrared – The Advancing TAO Telescope Project" Kentaro Motohara, Associate Professor at the University of Tokyo [in Japanese]) and NAOJ ("The Search for Planets and Life Outside the Solar System" Edwin L. Turner – Professor at Princeton University [in English with simultaneous Japanese translation]); "At Last! Construction Starts for the Thirty Meter Telescope" Masanori Iye, Professor at SOKENDAI [in Japanese]).

Both days benefited from clear weather, helping attendance reach a record high. In addition to the opening of facilities normally closed to the public, interactive displays and mini-lectures, there were also games and quizzes popular with children to engage a wide range of ages.

* Custom group tours (Dantai Kengaku), 4D2U Theater showings, and Guided Tours were also offered. Refer to the Public Relations Center report for details.

2. Mizusawa Campus

[Open year-round]

Dates: April to March (except for New Year season), 9:00–17:00 daily

Visitors: 17,021

Open facilities: Kimura Hisashi Memorial Museum, VERA 20-m antenna, 10-m VLBI antenna

The open house event is held at the campus with the cooperation of the Oshu Space and Astronomy Museum (OSAM: Yugakukan) located in the campus.

Date: August 16 (Sat.), 2014, 17:00–20:00 (Pre-event)

August 30 (Sat.), 2014, 10:00–16:00 (Exhibition)

Visitors: Approximately 1,000 (Pre-event), 847 (Exhibition)

[Special Open Day] Held as part of Iwate Galaxy Festival 2014 (Hours: 10:00–21:00)

As a pre-event for the Iwate Galaxy Festival, a mission de-briefing session by JAXA astronaut Koichi Wakata was held during Part 1 of the Special Open House Day. Here he spoke about his activities in the six months he spent on the International Space Station as its first Japanese commander.

Part 2 featured "the Special Lecture on Space" panel with Koichi Wakata, Mareki Honma (Associate Professor in Mizusawa VLBI Observatory), and Koji Matsumoto (Associate Professor in the RISE Project).

Like last year, the Open Day was co-hosted with Ihatov Space Action Center/the Oshu Space and Astronomy Museum (OSAM: Yugakukan) and the city of Oshu. The Open Day included strong involvement by the local community, such as a performance by a marching band from a local elementary school at the opening, workshop corners run by local university students, and others.

NAOJ offered tours of the 20-m parabolic antenna, a commemorative photo booth, plastic bottle rockets, a quiz game, guided tours of the Kimura Hisashi Memorial Museum, and exhibits explaining the research highlights of VERA, RISE and CfCA projects.

In the Kimura Hisashi Memorial Museum, special guided tours named "Kimura Hisashi Memorial Museum guided tour" and "the guided tour of the stars tonight" held by the Young Astronauts Club - Japan Mizusawa Z- Chapter were well received.

Open Day events also included a special lecture by Shogo Tachibana, Associate Professor of Hokkaido University, entitled "Hayabusa-2 —a dream in the Age of Discovery of the Solar System—". This talk was given to a full house, with a good atmosphere.

OSAM (Yugakukan) offered such attractions as "Science's Mystery" experiments, scientific performances by a scientist, and a workshop by internship students. Due to bad weather, a lecture about the stars was held instead of the stargazing party,

to close the festival with great success.

Iriki: VERA Iriki Station

[Open year-round]

Dates: April to March (except for New Year season)

Visitors: Approximately 2,000

[Special Open Day]

Date: August 10 (Sun.), 2014, 10:00–21:00

This year’s special open house event was canceled due to a typhoon.

Ogasawara: VERA Ogasawara Station

[Open year-round]

Dates: April to March (except for New Year season)

Visitors: 7,535

[Special Open Day]

Date: February 15 (Sun.), 2015, 10:00–17:00

Visitors: 213

A special open house event was held again this year under the name “Star Island 14”. Like last year, the free shuttle buses were appreciated by the visitors. The number of visitors was more than 200. NAOJ offered such attractions as exhibits about the research results of VERA, RISE and Okayama Astrophysical Observatory projects, mystery experiment corners and quiz games, as well as a 4D2U digital planetarium show, which was very popular among visitors. On February 14, NAOJ also cooperated in a stargazing session hosted by the local astronomy club. It was held in favorable weather conditions, and the event was an unprecedented success. Space lectures were also given by Sawada from the Mizusawa VLBI Observatory and Yamada from the RISE Project at the Ogasawara Visitor Center on the night of February 15.

Ishigaki-jima: VERA Ishigaki-jima Station

[Open year-round]

Dates: April to March (except for the New Year’s season); premises are open to the public 24 hours/day, and the observation rooms are open during the hours of 10:00–16:30.

Visitors: 2,754

[Special Open day]

Dates: August 3 (Sun.), 2014, 10:00–17:00

Visitors: 264

Held in conjunction with the Star Festival of the Southern Island.

As in previous years, attractions included antenna tours, Purikura (photo booth stickers), merchandise, commemorative lectures, and exhibits.

Ishigaki-jima: Ishigaki-jima Astronomical Observatory

[Open year-round]

Dates: April to March

Open Hours: Wednesdays through Sundays Except for the New Year’s season. (When Monday/Tuesday is a

national holiday, it is opened and closed on the next day) 10:00–17:00

Stargazing sessions: Evenings on Saturdays, Sundays, Holidays, and Star Festival weekdays (19:00–22:00), two 30-minute sessions per evening (four in August)

4D2U screening: from 15:00 to 15:30 every day that the observatory is open

Visitors: 12,790 (877 during the Star Festival of the Southern Island)

Open facilities: Murikabushi 105-cm optical/infrared telescope, Hoshizora Manabi no Heya (featuring the 4D2U “four dimensional digital universe”), interior of observation dome (including exhibits of astronomical images)

The “Hoshizora Manabi no Heya”, constructed adjacent to the observatory in 2013 by the city of Ishigaki, was very popular, welcoming 3,488 guests.

[Star Festival of the Southern Island 2014]

Dates: August 2 (Sat.) to August 10 (Sun.), 2014

Visitors: 10,950

This year is the 13th anniversary of both the completion of VERA Ishigaki-jima Station and the Star Festival of the Southern Island. Approximately 8,000 visitors attended the dimmed-light stargazing event even though it was cloudy.

In addition, the first meteorite exhibition in Okinawa prefecture was held in cooperation with the Nayoro Municipal Astronomical Observatory. The number of visitors was 754. And 734 people visited the annual planetarium show (from August 7 to 10).

The activities at Ishigaki-jima Astronomical Observatory boosts regional promotion like school education, lifelong learning and sightseeing. The cooperation agreement between NAOJ and the Tourism Association of the city of Ishigaki has been finalized concluded. And it is widely recognized that starry sky can be used as a tourism resource. Considering this situation, we will continue to strengthen our ties with other associations.

3. Nobeyama Campus

[Regular Open]

Open Time: 8:30–17:00 (every day except the New Year’s season (Dec. 29 to Jan. 3), open until 18:00 during the summer (Jul. 20 to Aug. 31))

Visitors: 48,837

Open facilities: 45-m Radio Telescope, Nobeyama Millimeter Array, Nobeyama Radioheliograph, etc. (just viewing)

[Open House Day]

Date: August 23 (Sat), 2014, 9:30–16:00

Visitors: 2,698

The Nobeyama branch was crowded with 2,698 visitors on the 2014 Open House Day. The theme of the Day was “Radio Astronomy, from Nobeyama to the World!” Like every year, we had two lectures on the theme, which attracted large audiences. One was “From Nobeyama to the World: 45 years of Solar Radio Astronomy” by Dr. Hiroshi Nakajima (NAOJ). The other was “The Radio Universe: Results From Nobeyama and ALMA in South America” by Prof. Ken’ichi Tatematsu (NAOJ). We had some established events such as touch the main reflector panel of 45-m Radio Telescope, radio detector handicrafts, short lectures, and a stamp rally. In addition, the antenna handicrafts and original calendar events by NRO alumni, other project staff members, and volunteers took place. Also the participation of the Nagano Pref. PR character, ARUKUMA, made Nobeyama more festive on that day.

[Jimoto Kansha Day (Thanks Day for the locals)]

Date: November 8 (Sat), 2014, 13:30–19:00

Visitors: 65

The local people have said that they have difficulty participating in the the Open House Day, which occurs during the farming season and they do not have a clear understanding of what we (not only NRO but also Tsukuba and Shinshu Universities) study in Nobeyama. In response these comments, we established this event in cooperation with Tsukuba University, Agricultural and Forestry Research Center, Yatsugatake Forest and Shinshu University, Faculty of Agriculture, Education and Research Center of Alpine Field Science. We had an introduction lecture from each institute and a guided tour of the NRO. In addition, we tried a star gazing party, which was not held due to bad weather. We got a sense of achievement from the event, hearing a comment “This is the first time I’ve known what they study here.”

4. Okayama Campus

Okayama Astrophysical Observatory

[Open year-round]

Dates: 9:00–16:30 daily

Visitors: 10,867

Open facilities: Window view of 188-cm reflecting telescope

[Special Open House]

Date: August 30 (Sat), 2014, 9:30–16:30

Visitors: 632

The special open house event for FY 2014 was co-hosted with the Okayama Astronomical Museum on August 30 (Sat).

We had two special lecture at 188cm reflecting telescope in the dome. The first lecture, by NAOJ vice-director general Junichi Watanabe, was “Why deviate?”

Predicting comets. - Comet ISON as an example -”. The second lecture, by Professor Tetsuya Nagata of Kyoto University, was “Kyoto University 3.8-m telescope, the start of construction”. The two lectures attracted nearly 140 audience members. The lectures were broadcast over the Internet with assistance from the Public Relations Center. The always-popular tours of the main mirror of the 188-cm reflecting telescope were conducted in the morning and afternoon with maximum capacities of 120 participants. The exhibition of the 50-cm reflecting telescope was conducted in two Tokyo Institute of Technology students. Planetarium showings, solar observations by 15-cm telescope, astronomy-related crafts, constellation/ astronomy bingo, and an astronomy quiz rally were held at the Okayama Astronomical Museum. We think many visitors enjoyed themselves. The special open house event was co-hosted with the Asakuchi City Board of Education, with support from the Yakage Town Board of Education. In particular, the Observatory would like to thank the members of the Asakuchi City Board of Education for their considerable assistance in arranging complimentary shuttle bus service between the Observatory and Kamogata Station on the JR San’yo Main Line.

[Special Stargazing Party]

Date: April 4 (Sat), 2014, 18:00–22:15

Visitors: 92

159 applications for 519 applicants were received.

Date: November 1 (Sat), 2014, 17:00–21:15

Visitors: 78

121 applications for 328 applicants were received.

Special stargazing parties co-hosted with the Okayama Astronomical Museum were held twice over the course of the year, in spring and fall. Maximum participation for each special session was 100. As applications exceeded capacity for both sessions, participants were selected by lottery, with 120 winners being selected to allow for cancellations. Due to rain, both of the special stargazing parties conducted facility tours instead.

5. Subaru Telescope

[Summit Facility]

Dates open for public tour: 99 (these dates are listed in the public tour program page at the Subaru Telescope's web site, the tour was suspended in December due to the telescope work)

Public tour visitors: 559

Special tour visitors: 111 visits, 717 visitors

As some special tours were conducted during public tour programs, the total number of actual visitors was 1,252.

[Base Facility]

Special tour visitors: 41 visits, 451 visitors

[Public information]

Primary means of public information is posting at the official website <http://subarutelescope.org>

- Science results from the Subaru Telescope – 10 Japanese and 11 English articles
- Depicting special activities or making announcement on CfA, recruitment – 24 Japanese and 21 English articles

Supplemented by the social media via official accounts such as Twitters, Facebook page, and YouTube – 197 Japanese and 138 English posting

- Twitter accounts – SubaruTelescope (for Japanese), SubaruTel_Eng (for English)
- Facebook pages – 国立天文台 (for Japanese), National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (for English, started February 2015)
- YouTube channels – SubaruTelescopeNAOJ (for Japanese), SubaruTelescopeNAOJe (for English)

1. Gave a lecture at the Subaru Telescope's base facility in Hilo

2014

May 29: Subaru Telescope staff gave a lecture at the Subaru Telescope's base facility in Hilo for the "Senior University Net".

June 10: Subaru Telescope staff gave a lecture at the Subaru Telescope's base facility in Hilo for the "Higashi Hiroshima Chamber of Commerce" and "Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Hawaii".

June 26: Subaru Telescope staff gave a lecture at the Subaru Telescope's base facility in Hilo for the NASA Explorer Team (teachers from Key Peninsula Middle School).

July 21: Subaru Telescope staff gave a lecture at the Subaru Telescope's base facility in Hilo for the Ritsumeikan High School students from Kyoto and Waiakea High School students in Hilo.

July 25: Subaru Telescope staff gave a lecture at the Subaru Telescope's base facility in Hilo for the Sumoto High School students from Hyogo.

August 12: Subaru Telescope staff gave a lecture at the Subaru Telescope's base facility in Hilo for the junior high school students from Nago City of Okinawa.

August 22: Subaru Telescope staff gave a lecture at the Subaru Telescope's base facility in Hilo for the Kawagoe High School students from Saitama.

September 12: Subaru Telescope staff gave a lecture at the Subaru Telescope's base facility in Hilo for the Tokyo City University students.

September 16: Subaru Telescope staff gave a lecture at the Subaru Telescope's base facility in Hilo for the Toho University students.

September 23: Subaru Telescope staff gave a lecture at the Subaru Telescope's base facility in Hilo for the Sapporo Nihon University Senior High School students from Hokkaido.

September 26: Subaru Telescope staff gave a lecture at the Subaru Telescope's base facility in Hilo for the University of Ryukyus students.

October 8: Subaru Telescope staff gave a lecture at the Subaru Telescope's base facility in Hilo for the Masuda High School students from Shimane.

October 13: Subaru Telescope staff gave a lecture at the Subaru Telescope's base facility in Hilo for the Meijo University High School students from Aichi.

October 17: Subaru Telescope staff gave a lecture at the Subaru Telescope's base facility in Hilo for the Namiki High School students from Ibaraki.

November 10: Subaru Telescope staff gave a lecture at the Subaru Telescope's base facility in Hilo for the Kunori Gakuen High School students from Yamagata.

November 13: Subaru Telescope staff gave a lecture at the Subaru Telescope's base facility in Hilo for the Group from Germany (MPIA, "Sterne und Weltraum").

December 2 & 3: Subaru Telescope staff gave a lecture at the Subaru Telescope's base facility in Hilo for the Senri High School students from Osaka.

2015

January 5: Subaru Telescope staff gave a lecture at the

Subaru Telescope's base facility in Hilo for the Wakimachi High School students from Tokushima.

January 8: Subaru Telescope staff gave a lecture at the Subaru Telescope's base facility in Hilo for the Seisho High School students from Nara.

January 27: Subaru Telescope staff gave a lecture at the Subaru Telescope's base facility in Hilo for the Sanbonmatsu High School students from Kagawa.

March 6: Subaru Telescope staff gave a lecture at the Subaru Telescope's base facility in Hilo for the Iiyama-Kita High School students from Nagano.

March 8: Subaru Telescope staff gave a lecture at the Subaru Telescope's base facility in Hilo for the Ritsumeikan High School students from Kyoto and Waiakea High School students in Hilo.

March 10: Subaru Telescope staff gave a lecture at the Subaru Telescope's base facility in Hilo for the Ritsumeikan Uji High School students from Kyoto.

conferencing system from the Subaru Telescope's base facility in Hilo to the Saji Astro Park in Saji City of Tottori.

July 28: Subaru Telescope staff gave a presentation via remote conferencing system from the Subaru Telescope's base facility in Hilo to Wakayama Shin-ai High School in Wakayama.

August 1: Subaru Telescope staff gave a presentation via remote conferencing system from the Subaru Telescope's base facility in Hilo to the Galaxy in Adachi Ward of Tokyo.

September 5: Subaru Telescope staff gave a presentation via remote conferencing system from the Subaru Telescope's base facility in Hilo to the Galaxy in Adachi Ward of Tokyo.

September 6: Subaru Telescope staff gave a presentation via remote conferencing system from the Subaru Telescope's base facility in Hilo to the Science Museum in Tokyo for its "Universe" live show.

December 5: Subaru Telescope staff gave a presentation via remote conferencing system from the Subaru Telescope's base facility in Hilo to Arakawa 3rd Junior High School in Tokyo.

2. Remote presentation

2014

May 22 & 23: Subaru Telescope staff gave a presentation via remote conferencing system from the Subaru Telescope's base facility in Hilo to the Nagoya City Museum in Aichi.

June 17: Subaru Telescope staff gave a presentation via remote conferencing system from the Subaru Telescope's base facility in Hilo to Izumo High School in Shimane.

June 27: Subaru Telescope staff gave a presentation via remote conferencing system from the Subaru Telescope's base facility in Hilo to the DNA Expedition Service Lab/ Seodaemun Museum of Natural History in Korea.

July 3: Subaru Telescope staff gave a presentation via remote conferencing system from the Subaru Telescope's base facility in Hilo to the Masuda City for its Science Town event in Shimane.

July 11: Subaru Telescope staff gave a presentation via remote conferencing system from the Subaru Telescope's base facility in Hilo to Tokyo Mirai University in Tokyo.

July 22 & 29: Subaru Telescope staff gave a presentation via remote conferencing system from the Subaru Telescope's base facility in Hilo to University of Ryukyus in Okinawa.

July 25: Subaru Telescope staff gave a presentation via remote

3. Lectures, demonstrations, workshops etc. in the vicinity

2014

July 21-25: Subaru Telescope staff provided astronomy workshop during the Pacific Astronomy and Engineering Summit (including high school students from Japan, U.S.A, Canada, China, and India).

September 13-14: Subaru Telescope staff gave a lecture and panel discussion at the HawaiiCon in Waikoloa.

November 15: Subaru Telescope staff made a presentation at the Office of Mauna Kea Management talk for volunteers at Hale Pohaku.

2015

January 24: Subaru Telescope staff provided astronomy four workshop during the Onizuka Science Day at the University of Hawaii at Hilo.

February 7: Subaru Telescope staff gave a lecture for the Universe Tonight at Visitor Information Station, Maunakea.

March 1-5: For the Journey through the Universe program, Subaru Telescope staff went to 26 classes in local public schools and delivered presentations, hands-on experiences, and other demonstrations.

4. Lectures in Japan

2014

April 2: Subaru Telescope staff gave a lecture at the.Nambu Iryo Center in Okinawa.

April 4: Subaru Telescope staff gave a lecture at the.Nago City Museum in Okinawa.

May 19: Subaru Telescope staff gave a lecture at the.Ishima Junior High School in Tokushima.

June 7: Subaru Telescope staff gave a lecture at the.Asahi Culture Center in Yokohama.

June 26: Subaru Telescope staff gave a lecture at the.Tohodai Elementary School in Osaka.

July 16: Subaru Telescope staff gave a lecture at the University of Ryukyus in Okinawa.

September 19: Subaru Telescope staff gave a lecture at the. Mitaka 5th Elementary School in Tokyo.

November 15: Subaru Telescope staff gave a Special public lecture at Sendai Astronomical Observatory in Miyagi.

2015

February 12: Subaru Telescope staff gave a lecture at the. Seibudai Niiza Junior High School in Saitama.

March 14: Subaru Telescope staff gave a lecture at the. Across in Fukuoka.

March 15: Subaru Telescope staff gave a lecture at the. Kokura High School in Fukuoka.

March 16: Subaru Telescope staff gave a lecture at the Kokura Junior High School Attached to Fukuoka University of Education in Fukuoka.

5. Others

2014

April 26: Subaru Telescope staff participated in Merrie Monarch Festival Parade with observatory group of Mauna Kea and interacted with local community.

May 3: Subaru Telescope staff provided a big booth with many hands-on activities about the Subaru Telescope at the AstroDay event in Hilo and interacted with hundreds of families in the local community.

2015

January 27: Subaru Telescope staff made presentation about the Subaru Telescope at the Onizuka Science Day event at the University of Hawaii at Hilo and interacted with hundreds of families in the local community.

March 1: Subaru Telescope staff provided an exhibition with many hands-on activities about the Subaru Telescope at Imiloa Astronomy Center's open house and interacted with hundreds of families in the local community.

6. Media coverage

Japanese 28, English 8