

XII Important Dates

April 1, 2015 – March 31, 2016

2015

April 2	Accompanying the reopening of the 4D2U Dome Theater, a private showing was held for the press, with 26 guests in attendance.
April 11	Spring 2015 Special Stargazing Party held at Okayama Astrophysical Observatory, with 112 visitors in attendance (out of 544 applicants).
April 19	Sixth Open Observatory event held at the Ibaraki University Center for Astronomy and the NAOJ Mizusawa VLBI Observatory Ibaraki Station, with approximately 230 visitors in attendance.
April 23	The Joint ALMA Observatory issued the ALMA Cycle 4 call for proposals for early scientific observations which starts from October 2015 and received by the deadline a total of 1,582 observation proposals from astronomers around the world, which exceeded the number of proposals for Cycle 2 that counted 1,382. A total of 3,608 astronomers are engaged in the submitted proposals for Cycle 3 as either principal investigators or co-investigators.
May 2	Subaru Telescope staff provided a 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.
May 7~8	Mr. Kosaburo Nishime, State Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications and his party visited the Operations Support Facility (OSF) and Array Operations Site (AOS) of ALMA for a study tour.
May 25~28	“Artists in Residence in NAOJ Nobeyama” was held in Nobeyama Radio Observatory by Siga-Kogen Roman Museum (Yamanouchi-machi, Nagano). There were 5 participants who were artists related with Nagano Prefecture.
June 1~5	Observation training of Radio Astronomy at Nobeyama Radio Observatory for Undergraduate Students was performed; there were 12 participants.
June 23~24	“Summer Break Junior Astronomical Classes + You are Galileo!” held in the Mitaka area.
July 4	The Star Festival held using the 6-m antenna at the NAOJ Mizusawa VLBI Observatory Kagoshima station in Kagoshima city Kinko Bay Park, co-hosted with Kagoshima city and Kagoshima University, with approximately 100 visitors in attendance.
July 7	NAOJ Chile Observatory staff members gave a lecture as a Tanabata event at the Japanese School in Santiago.
July 21	Subaru Telescope staff gave a lecture for the PAES (Pacific Astronomy & Engineering Summer Summit) program at the University of Hawaii at Hilo.
July 21~24, July 27	Facility Guide Week for Educational Organization was carried out at Nobeyama Radio Observatory.
July 27	The National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (NAOJ) and the Academia Sinica Institute of Astronomy and Astrophysics (ASIAA) in Taiwan signed an agreement concerning ALMA, following the conclusion of a prior agreement concerning the operations and development of ALMA which was entered into as of July 21 between the National Institutes of Natural Sciences of Japan (NINS) and Academia Sinica (AS) in Taiwan. These agreements will further strengthen cooperation between Japan and Taiwan for the operations of ALMA.
August 1~3	Ninth Z-star Research Team event held for high school students in the six Tohoku prefectures, with 11 participants attending. The participants were divided into two groups and searched new water vapor masers using VERA Mizusawa 20m radio telescope. One team found 3 maser candidates from variable stars and the other team found 3 maser candidates from star forming regions.
August 1~3	The VLBI experiment was successfully carried out connecting ALMA's antennas and six VLBA's antennas of the National Radio Astronomy Observatory.
August 1 ~September 30	Sixth International Festival of Scientific Visualization — International Year of Light 2015 — held with over 1 million visitors attending during the festival period.
August 8	Special Open House of VERA Iriki station held jointly with the Yaeyama Highland Star Festival 2015, with approximately 4,000 visitors in attendance.
August 12~14	Chura-boshi Research Team workshop for the local Yaeyama high school in Ishigaki-jima held at VERA Ishigaki-jima Station and Ishigaki-jima Astronomical Observatory, with 18 participants in attendance. One team using radio-waves discovered 1 maser. A second team using visible light observations with the Murikabushi telescope discovered 3 asteroids.

August 15~23	The Southern Island of Star Festival 2015 held together with a special open house event at the VERA Ishigaki-jima Station and Ishigaki-jima Astronomical Observatory with approximately 10,930 visitors to the whole Star Festival. Events included an astronomical observation party at the Ishigaki-jima Astronomical Observatory, attended by 257 visitors; and a special public opening of the VERA Station attended by 238 visitors.
August 22	Iwate Galaxy Festival 2015, a special open house day of Mizusawa Campus, held with 660 visitors in attendance.
August 22	Open House day of Nobeyama Radio Observatory. There were 2,429 visitors for this event.
August 29	Special Open House event held at Okayama Astrophysical Observatory, with 366 visitors in attendance.
September 26 ~October 25	“Information Space of Science and Astronomy” (Mitaka Station, South Exit, Chuo Street) opened. Special exhibit “Commemorating the International Year of Light, Cosmic Light” opened with 5,482 guests in attendance. * Established as a joint establishment with the Mitaka City Planning Board in cooperation with Mitaka City and Mitaka Network University, this space distributes information about astronomy and the Universe. In the half-a-year before the end of the fiscal year, it welcomed 9,981 guests.
September 27 ~September 29	“International Symposium on the NAOJ Museum” held with 96 guests attending from 9 countries; 7 guests participated via internet relay from Japan and other countries.
October 10	“Jimoto Kansha Day (Thanks Day for the Locals)” was held at Tsukuba Univ. Forest. It was carried out by 3 Nobeyama Institutes (Tsukuba and Shinshu Universities and Nobeyama Radio Observatory). There were 76 participants.
October 14	The Joint ALMA Office (JAO) welcomed 30 students of the Japanese School in Santiago including those at the third grade or higher and gave a tour for their out-of-school activity.
October 18	The third “three selections of Japanese starry sky summit” was held in Minamimaki-mura by the executive committee consisting of Minamimaki tourist association, Minamimaki-mura, and Nobeyama Radio Observatory. This summit also cooperated with Ishigaki and Bisei astronomical observatory.
October 23 ~October 24	Mitaka Open House Day held, with 5,036 visitors in attendance.
November 3	Fall 2015 Special Stargazing Party held at Okayama Astrophysical Observatory, with 103 visitors in attendance (out of 192 applicants).
November 24	22th Astronomy Lecture for Science Reporters “In what does Rikanenpyo tell us now?” held, with 39 participants in attendance.
November 25	A ceremony for FY 2015 continuous service recognition held. 5 staff members were recognized: Takashi Ito, Tomoyuki Onishi, Ikuko Yoshikawa, Hiroko Kikkawa, Yukiko Kamata.
December 3~4	As part of the reconstruction support for the children in the areas affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake, the NAOJ Chile Observatory provided distance learning connecting ALMA Operations Support Facility (OSF) with a junior high school in Fukushima Prefecture and an elementary school in Miyagi Prefecture.
December 12	ALMA public lecture/Osaka Science Museum Special Night “Exploring with ALMA” held, with 200 guests in attendance.
December 13	NAOJ lecture meeting “The challenge which exceeded space-time: General Relativity’s 100th Anniversary and Gravitational Wave Astronomy” held at Hitotsubashi Hall, Hitotsubashi University with 400 guests in attendance.
December 15	The National Institutes of Natural Sciences of Japan (NINS), the European Southern Observatory (ESO), and the National Science Foundation (NSF) signed an agreement concerning the operations of ALMA in Tokyo.
2016	
January 7 ~February 21	Photo exhibit “Observatory Landscapes” opened at “Information Space of Science and Astronomy” with 1,404 guests in attendance.
January 28	The NAOJ Chile Observatory gave talks at a summer camp for students from the first to fourth grades of the Japanese School in Santiago.
January 30	Subaru Telescope staff made presentation about the Subaru Telescope at the Onizuka Science Day event at the University of Hawai’i at Hilo and interacted with hundreds of families in the local community.
February 14	Star Island 15 open house event of VERA Ogasawara Station held, with 222 visitors in attendance (more than the average year).
March 7~11	For the Journey through the Universe program, Subaru Telescope staff went to 55 classes in local public schools and delivered presentations, hands-on experiences, and other demonstrations.
March 30	A ceremony for FY 2015 continuous service recognition for retiring staff members held. 4 staff members were recognized: Takashi Sakurai, Goro Sasaki, Yasuo Torii, Yoshizo Iizuka.