

## XII Important Dates

**April 1, 2016 – March 31, 2017**

### 2016

April 2	Spring 2016 Special Stargazing Party held at Okayama Astrophysical Observatory, with 79 visitors in attendance (out of 348 applicants).
April 12	Japanese ALMA Antenna Development Team won Commendation for Science and Technology by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (Prizes for Science and Technology, Development Category).
April 17	Seventh Open Observatory event held at the Ibaraki University Center for Astronomy and the NAOJ Mizusawa VLBI Observatory Ibaraki Station, with 348 visitors in attendance.
April 21	The ALMA Observatory issued the ALMA Cycle 4 call for proposals for early scientific observations which starts from October 2016 and received by the deadline a total of 1610 observation proposals from astronomers around the world.
May 7	Subaru Telescope staff interacted with the public during the AstroDay event in a shopping mall in Hilo.
May 17	The Japan-Chile Chamber of Commerce and Industry held its monthly meeting and invited NAOJ Chile Observatory Director Seiichi Sakamoto as a speaker to give a lecture.
May 20	A NAOJ Chile Observatory staff member gave a lecture at the Japanese School of Buenos Aires, Argentina.
May 28	“Starry Sky Photo Session in NAOJ Nobeyama” was held in Nobeyama Radio Observatory. There were 31 participants from many places in Japan.
June 6~ June 10	Observation training of Radio Astronomy at Nobeyama Radio Observatory for Undergraduate Students was performed; there were 12 participants.
June 11	NAOJ and Riken Lecture “Origin of Materials told by the Universe” held at Hitotsubashi Hall with 325 guests in attendance.
Early July	Subaru Telescope staff’s visual work was part of the exhibit at the Tokyo train station during the star festival program.
July 7	A NAOJ Chile Observatory staff member gave a lecture as a Tanabata event at the Japanese School in Santiago.
July 15~ September 18	An exhibit “The Sun” held at the Information Space of Astronomy and Science.
July 17	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 200 visitors in attendance.
July 25~July 29	Facility Guide Week for Educational Organization was carried out at Nobeyama Radio Observatory.
July 30	Summer 2016 Special Stargazing Party held at Okayama Astrophysical Observatory, with 81 visitors in attendance (out of 359 applicants).
August 3~ August 5	Chura-boshi Research Team workshop for high school students held at VERA Ishigakijima Station and Ishigakijima Astronomical Observatory, with 15 participants from Ishigakijima, one participant from the main island of Okinawa and one participant from Hyogo Prefecture in attendance. The team using radio-waves couldn't discover anything but the second team using visible light observations with the Murikabushi Telescope discovered 3 candidates.
August 6~ August 14	The Star Festival of the Southern Island 2016 held together with a special open house event at the VERA Ishigakijima Station and Ishigakijima Astronomical Observatory with approximately 11,000 visitors to the whole Star Festival. Events including an astronomical observation party at Ishigakijima Astronomical Observatory, attended by 338 visitors; and a special public opening of the VERA Station attended by 252 visitors.
August 7	Special open house of VERA Iriki station held jointly with the Yaeyama Highland Star Festival 2016, with approximately 4,500 visitors in attendance.
August 8~ August 10	Tenth Z-star Research Team event held for high school students in the six Tohoku prefectures, with 15 participants attending. The participants were divided into two groups, made a astronomical observation, and analyzed data using the VERA Mizusawa 20-m radio telescope. However, neither team could find any maser celestial objects.
August 10~ September 6	As a part of the summer student program held by NAOJ and the Department of Astronomical Science of the Graduate University for Advanced Studies (SOKENDAI), two undergraduate students from Kyoto Sangyo University stayed at the Chile Observatory and conducted research with ALMA data.
August 16~ August 17	“Astronomy classes for kids in Summer 2016” held in Mitaka Campus.

August 20	Iwate Galaxy Festival 2016, a special open house day of Mizusawa Campus, held with approximately 2,500 visitors in attendance.
August 20	A lecture “What is the Sun?” held at the Information Space of Astronomy and Science.
August 27	Open House day of Nobeyama Radio Observatory. There were 1,675 visitors for this event.
September 10	Hinode 10th anniversary lecture “Exploring the Universe and the Earth through Solar Observations” held at Nagoya University with 228 guests in attendance.
September 12~ September 17	8 undergraduate students participated in the observation experience program at the Subaru Telescope.
September 15	Mr.Toshiei Mizuochi, State Minister for Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology visited the Santiago Central Office of the Joint ALMA Observatory.
September 23~ November 6	An exhibit “Mitaka Solar System Walk - Let’s Realize the Size and Distance of Each Planet -” opened at the Information Space of Astronomy and Science.
September 24~ September 26	NAOJ, International Astronomical Union Office for Astronomy Outreach, and Japanese Society for Education and Popularization of Astronomy co-hosted “The 3rd Symposium on Universal Design for Astronomy Education” with 131 guests (including 25 handicapped persons and 15 foreigners).
October 2~ October 4	The 12th Workshop for Popularizing Cutting Edge Astronomy held with the theme of “Gravitational Wave Astronomy” at University of Toyama and the Institute for Cosmic Ray Research, University of Tokyo.
October 12~ November 6	An exhibit “Solar Tower Telescope” opened at the Information Space of Astronomy and Science.
October 21~ October 22	Mitaka Open House Day held, with 4,534 visitors in attendance.
November 17	The Management Agreement Concerning Operations of ALMA was signed by the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan, the Associated Universities Inc., and the European Southern Observatory in the Santiago Central Office of the Joint ALMA Observatory.
November 21	A ceremony for FY 2016 continuous service recognition was held. 10 NAOJ staff members were recognized: Hitoshi Yamaoka, George Kosugi, Satoshi Miyazaki, Fumitaka Nakamura, Tadafumi Takata, Hiroshi Araki, Tomofumi Umemoto, Yoji Seto, Hiroyuki Narisawa, and Tatsuya Todoriki.
November 23	The first “Nagano is Astro-Prefecture” meeting was held in Matsumoto Campus of Shinshu University by the executive committee consisting of staff members of Nobeyama Radio Observatory, Kiso Observatory in the University of Tokyo, Shinshu University, and so on. There were about 100 participants.
November 23	The Subaru Telescope/Shinshu University public lecture “From Shinshu via Hawai`i, a galactic Research Journey” held at Shinshu University with 350 guests in attendance.
November 26	NAOJ lecture meeting/22nd ALMA public lecture “The Birth of Stars and Planets Explored by ALMA” held at Nagoya City Science Museum with 225 guests in attendance.
November 27	“The Subaru Telescope/Hiroshima University public lecture” held at Hiroshima Children's Museum.
<b>2017</b>	
January 6~ January 10	Graduate students from the Department of Astronomical Science, SOKENDAI (Graduate University for Advanced Studies) and astronomy major students from the University of Hawai`i at Hilo worked together to observe with the Subaru Telescope.
January 14	Honorable Hirokazu Matsuno, the minister of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology - Japan, visited the Subaru Telescope’s facilities at Hilo and Maunakea.
January 26	NAOJ Chile Observatory staff members visited a summer camp held by Santiago Japanese School to give a lecture.
January 28	Staff of the Subaru Telescope held science workshops and put on an interactive booth at the annual Onizuka Science Day at the University of Hawai`i at Hilo.
February 11	“Jimoto kansha Day (Thanks Day for the locals)” was held at the Vegetaball With hosted by Shinshu University. It was carried out by 3 Nobeyama Institutes (Tsukuba and Shinshu Universities and Nobeyama Radio Observatory). There were 45 participants.
February 12	Star Island 16 open house event of VERA Ogasawara Station held, with 227 visitors in attendance (more than the average year).
March 2~ March 3	NAOJ/The International Planetarium Society (IPS) and others co-hosted the “Data to Dome Workshop” with 52 guests from 8 oversea countries in attendance.
March 5	The 23rd NINS Symposium “Frontiers of Modern Astronomy: a Second Earth and the Dark Universe” held at Tokyo International Exchange Center (TIEC) with 273 guests in attendance.
March 13~ March 17	Staff of the Subaru Telescope and TMT-J Project Office visited classes in the public schools in Hilo and vicinity during the Journey through the Universe program.

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March 31	A ceremony for FY 2016 continuous service recognition for retiring staff members was held. 5 staff members were recognized: Yoshihiko Mizumoto, Nobuo Arimoto, Yukiyasu Kobayashi, Motokazu Noguchi, and Matsuo Watanabe.
Throughout the year	NAOJ staff participated in the “Fureai (Friendly) Astronomy” program by visiting schools to talk about their work and the telescope. This outreach program started seven years ago and was spearheaded by Dr. Nobuo Arimoto, the Director of the Subaru Telescope.

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