

Code of Conduct for Researchers

National Astronomical Observatory of Japan

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National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (NAOJ), which is striving to solve the mysteries of the Universe, has three missions: to develop and construct large-scale cutting-edge astronomical research facilities and promote their open access aiming to expand our intellectual horizons; to contribute to the development of astronomy as a world leading research institute by making the best use of a wide variety of large-scale facilities; to support civic life and bring benefits to society through astronomy public outreach, is committed to three missions: to explore the unknown Universe and provide new insight into astronomy; to make our research outcomes widely known to society and pass on our dreams to future generations; to mentor next-generation researchers for their role on the world-stage.

In order for science to contribute to realizing a more affluent human society through its own sound development and growth, researchers shall strictly control their own conduct, while fulfilling their obligation of accountability to society and consciously taking part in building and maintaining sound relationships between science and society, policy and decision makers. This Code of Conduct is established in reference to the Code of Conduct for Scientists (Revised January 2013) proposed by the Science Council of Japan, and based on Code of Conduct for Researchers of National Institutes of Natural Sciences.

(Basic Responsibilities of Scientists)

- 1 Scientists shall recognize that they are responsible for assuring the quality of the specialized knowledge and skills that they themselves create, and for using their expert knowledge, skills and experience to contribute to the health and welfare of humankind, the safety and security of society and the sustainability of the global environment.

(Attitude of Scientists and Relationship with Society)

- 2 Scientists shall always make judgments and act with honesty and integrity, endeavoring to maintain and improve their own expertise, abilities and skills, and shall make the utmost effort to scientifically and objectively demonstrate the accuracy and validity of the knowledge they create through scientific research.

Also, Scientists shall recognize that scientific autonomy is upheld by public trust and the mandate of the people, understand the relationships between science, technology, society, and the natural environment from a wide-ranging perspective, act in an appropriate manner, and answer to the wishes of society to investigate into truths and to achieve various issues.

(Accountability and Disclosure)

- 3 Scientists shall strive to disclose and actively explain the roles and significance of their own research, evaluate the possible effects of their research on people, society and the environment as well as the changes that their research might engender, neutrally and objectively disclose the results of this evaluation, and build a constructive dialogue with society.

(Dual Use of Scientific Research Outcomes)

- 4 Scientists shall recognize that there exist possibilities that their research results, contrary to their own intentions, may be used for destructive actions, and shall select appropriate means and methods as allowed by society in conducting research and publicizing the results.

(Research Activities)

- 5 Scientists shall act with integrity according to the spirit of this Code of Conduct in drafting, planning, applying for, implementing, and reporting their own research. By reporting their research results through such means as papers, scientists shall take responsibility as well as obtaining recognition for their achievements in accordance with the role that they played. Scientists shall ensure that research and survey data are recorded, stored and rigorously handled, and not only refrain themselves from any misconduct such as fabrication, falsification or plagiarism, but also refrain from aiding or abetting such misconduct.

(Establishing Sound Research Environments)

- 6 Scientists shall recognize that establishing and maintaining fair research environments where responsible research can be conducted is one of their important duties, and shall work continuously to improve the quality of research environments in the scientific community and their own institutions, and toward educational enlightenment preventing misconduct. Moreover, they shall also seek the understanding and cooperation of the public in achieving these goals.

(Consideration for Research Subjects)

- 7 Scientists shall respect the dignity and rights of individuals who cooperate in their research, and shall safeguard and give proper consideration to their welfare. They shall also treat animals and other research subjects with all due care and respect.

(Relations with Others)

- 8 Scientists shall constructively criticize the results of other scientists' research, humbly listen to the criticism of others, and exchange opinions with an attitude of sincerity. Moreover, they shall properly give credit to other scientists' intellectual findings and achievements, as well as respecting the honor and intellectual property rights of others. They shall also participate actively in mutual assessment among scientists in the scientific community, particularly of their field of expertise.

(Rejection of Discrimination)

- 9 In their research, education, and academic activities, scientists shall respond to others fairly on a scientific basis, respect individual freedom and character, and not discriminate against individuals based on race, gender, status, ideology and beliefs, or religion.

(Avoiding Conflicts of Interest)

- 10 In their research, reviews, evaluations, judgments, scientific advice and other scientific activities, scientists shall pay sufficient heed to the presence of conflicts of interest between individuals and organizations, or between different organizations, and shall properly address problems paying all due attention to the public interest.

(Proper Use of Public Research Funds (*))

- 11 In using public research funds, Scientists must comply with the relevant laws and regulations, the rules of NINS and each organization, and the conditions and rules for use stipulated in various external funds, and must act fairly so as not to cause distrust or suspicion among the public in our relationships with suppliers. In addition, they must actively participate in research and other activities related to the proper handling of public research funds, and strive to acquire the necessary knowledge and understand the rules.

*Public research funds refer to all expenses handled by National Institutes of Natural Sciences, which are financed by Management Expense Grant, Donations, Subsidies, Foundations, Commissioned Funds, etc.