

## Diversified approach in astronomical education 6. Collaboration between Wakayama University and local public observatories

# Akihiko Tomita[1], Masami Okyudo[2], Kentaro Yaji[3], Masato Soga[4]

[1] Education, Wakayama Univ, [2] Misato Observatory, [3] Kawabe Cosmic Park, [4] Info Design, Sys. Eng., Wakayama Univ.

<http://www.center.wakayama-u.ac.jp/~atomita/>

Wakayama University and local public observatories collaborate with each other tightly on astronomical education. We are presenting various activities of astronomical education through our collaboration. Wakayama University has groups for astronomical education: astronomy seminar group of Faculty of Education and Soga Laboratory of System Engineering developing remote telescopes. Wakayama Prefecture is rich in public astronomical observatory having a large telescope, and this is a rare case; two big observatories, Misato Observatory and Kawabe Cosmic Park having telescope with an aperture of 1 m or larger, and Oishi-Kogen Astronomical Observatory. Including astronomy staffs of Wakayama Kodomo Science Museum, all astronomy staffs in public observatories and Wakayama University astronomical education group has a monthly meeting, called 'Wakaten'. We already have had 60 meetings so far.

Based on this tight relationship, university's various experimental classes have been conducted with public observatories and science museum, and we have been developing various exhibitions and teaching materials together. Soga Laboratory is studying and developing the remote telescope vigorously and various experiments have been made with Misato Observatory. The results are highly praised both in Japan and abroad. The Wakaten member also work in studies related to movie broadcasting of astronomical phenomena and remote teaching using the high-speed and high-quality network system. Other centers of Wakayama University joined to this project to study the network system and evaluate the educational effect. The Wakaten member also work with nation-wide activities in astronomical and science education projects. There is a plan that Okayama Observatory will have a telescope with educational purpose including university undergraduate education. The Wakaten member shares its discussion. Above activities by the Wakaten consortium are done by not only staff of university and public observatories but also students, especially students in teacher's training course. In this sense, local public observatories have a function of university's educational observatory.

A global issue of astronomical and science education is being practiced with students locally. The base of all of above activities is the collaboration between university and local public observatories and science museum, the Wakaten consortium.