

The Mars cooperative observation using ground-based telescopes

Noritaka Tokimasa[1], Tadashi Mukai[2]

[1] Nishi-Harima Astron. Obs., [2] Space and Planetary Materials, Kobe Univ

<http://www.nhao.go.jp>

The Mars cooperative observation team was founded in 1997 in order to support the observation by the Mars spacecraft, Planet-B(NOZOMI) through the monitoring of the Mars atmospheric phenomena using ground-based telescopes. The team mainly consists of the researchers in the public observatory and the amateur astronomers. Up to now, we have carried out three campaigns for the Mars cooperative observation when the Mars comes close to the Earth since 1997.

We are actively exchanging the observed results related to the Mars atmospheric phenomena and the report of the techniques of observation and the scientific discussion through e-mails.

The next campaign will start from May 8, 2003, and will end on December 10, 2003, before the NOZOMI will reach the Mars. We expect that the results obtained by our next cooperative observations will be useful for several future projects planned in the detection by the NOZOMI. Some volunteer members will continue to observe the Mars individually, after the arrival of the NOZOMI to the Mars.