

# Discovery study in the Museum -through the Mars event at the National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation-

# Mayumi Arai[1]

[1] MeSci

<http://www.miraikan.jst.go.jp/>

The National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation is a new type of museum that has a purpose of telling cutting-edge technology and science to the general public. The Museum has the MM concept: 'The sharing of scientific creativity and activity of people is our focus', 'We will support researchers by becoming an open and disclosed research hub', and 'Working on communication and networking is our job' and so on. We made a plan of an exhibit of Mars from various perspectives, and held the Mars event in 2003. In this study, I introduce our activity that provides opportunities of interacting with the cutting-edge technology and science and of discovery of something, taking the Mars event as an example.

We highlighted some Mars researchers and asked them to give some lectures to let audience feel closer about researchers of planetary sciences. Moreover, we prepared a web site to provide not only their study, but also some interviews and some messages to young generations to feel closer about their personalities. Although our museum targets junior high school and high school students basically, I examined this event to join a wide range of generations including elementary school students and adults. Furthermore, I presented recent status of cutting-edge technology and science from various angles in this event. For example, we exhibited Martian sand, blocks, a big Martian globe, a model of Japan's Mars Explorer 'NOZOMI', and some lives that will grow on the Mars in the future. In addition, we carried out a workshop of Mars and a demonstration of rover, and set up a book corner about Mars and a special scientific present of neatly packed Martian sand in collaboration with the museum shop. The present includes a message from the planner, chemical components of the sand, and our big subject 'To know the Mars is to know the Earth'. In autumn of 2003, we held the exhibition The Journey of Beagle 2: From Earth to Mars-Space Probe for Life on Mars, which was sponsored by Innovation UK (Hosted by the British Embassy, British Council and the British Chamber of Commerce). In this event we introduced history and sciences of Britain, and this was also artistic exhibition. At same time, we renovated the wall gallery on the 3rd floor for the huge Mars photo-gallery.

For instance, talking with a volunteer staff has a large weight in providing an opportunity to interest in science, because they can explain it very kindly. Workshops and demonstration also impress participants. Furthermore, I discuss how people, who are not so interested in science, interest themselves in science from the artistic perspective. I tried to familiar way to understand science topics at nice time from child to adult. Finally, I suggest that a museum can be the place where school students feel science closer, think about social roles of science, and discover something there.