

How Is 'Science Partnership Program' Utilized ?

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Since 2002, the 'Science Partnership Program' has been carried out as a part of 'The Plan for Technology and Science Lovers' which MEXT sponsors. This program aims at training of the talented people, who bear the next generation of our country, by touching the essence of technology through experiments, observations, experiences, and by meeting with researchers or engineers. A lot of projects have been carried out using this system.

Long time has passed since the school subject 'Earth Science' began to decline. However, when it limits to 'Teacher Training Project' of 'SPP', the rate of adopted plan relevant to earth science and astronomy is higher than any other field. In this background, there is the present condition of the earth science education that cannot respond to the newest earth and planetary science in a teaching-materials side and in a talented-people side, moreover, it seems because of the shortage of comprehension of the teachers to the natural disaster which occurs frequently.

However, there are few adoptions about 'Researcher Invitation Lecture' or 'Educational Cooperation Lecture' of 'SPP'. It is partly because there are few numbers for which it applied. And judging from the past 'SPP' program, there were some unevenly distribution in the contents or an area. It will be thought in a deadlock stage sooner or later.

In 2006, JST would undertake 'SPP' and the name changed into 'Science Partnership Project'. Now is the chance to reconsider what should be done with 'SPP'.