

## Developing a web-based network to exchange information of astronomy education: Hosizora Net and Forum of Starry Sky Observing Net

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<http://www.hosizora.miyakyo-u.ac.jp/>

Considerably numbers of astronomy educational tools have been developed in diverse area. Students of Miyagi University of Education have jointly developed astronomy, planetary, and environmental education programmes with teachers in primary or secondary school teachers. Suggestions or opinions from actual teachers are necessary for them to improve the programmes and to be used in classrooms. Teachers are challenged to take time for astronomy and planetary education by its understanding difficulty and lack of time for observation under reduction of astronomy section in the school guideline. The collaboration would generate synergetic effects between students and teachers in classrooms. There are individuals who are studying astronomy education as well. High potentiality for astronomy education would be recognized on a nationwide scale. Networking them, providing a site for exchange information, and giving out the education programmes as accessible resources on a website would have many beneficial effects. They would encourage more collaborative developments among people in diverse field. They would enable teachers to utilize the programmes in their actual classrooms. That would produce more effective programmes and they would enhance teachers' ability to motivate and guide students. From its inception, we have organized a group Hosizora Net which is composed of people involved in education field including others being interested in it, and opened a website Forum of Starry Sky Observing Net aiming at the spread of educational programmes reflecting its work and making them accessible to teachers in classrooms.

Hosizora Net is composed of people from variety of fields, students in colleges, teachers in primary or secondary schools, staff in other public educational institutions such as public astronomical observatory or science museum, and others who are interested in astronomy and planetary educations. They report their ongoing projects and exchange information through mailing list, workshops, and monthly newsletters.

On the website Forum of Starry Sky Observing Net ([http://www.hosizora.miyakyo-u.ac.jp/index\\_e.html](http://www.hosizora.miyakyo-u.ac.jp/index_e.html)), ideas and resources for astronomy class including their practical reports have been shown, which are sorted by levels and objects. From September to December, being timed with the school curriculum, real-time images of Venus captured by Internet Telescope in Miyagi University of Education were distributed in Venus Live during daytime which can be used in classrooms. In addition, the method of light pollution research by Night Sky Darkness Meter, which one of our members developed, has been shown for nationwide observation.

More practical reports and educational materials are required to make the site more user-friendly. Setting up evaluation form or reporting form would help collecting teachers' opinion.