

## New Haleakala Observatory Dedicated to Observation of Planets

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In order to investigate physical processes taking place on solar system bodies, we have been making optical observations at the Haleakala High Altitude Observatory in Maui, Hawaii, annually on campaign basis, in addition to our routine basis observation at our Iitate Observatory in Fukushima prefecture. The campaign observation at Haleakala is complementary to observation at Iitate, and has been providing successful results.

To advance the study of planets based on optical observations, continuous observation at a location with high rate of clear sky and favorable seeing condition is desired. Therefore, we are going to establish a new observatory at the summit of Mt. Haleakala in March 2006, with a permission of Institute for Astronomy, University of Hawaii, on which data of good quality have been obtained in the past. The new Haleakala observatory will be dedicated to observation of planets, and it is consisted of a 40 cm Schmidt Cassegrain telescope mounted on a German equatorial which is housed in a 2.6 m stainless steel made motor-driven astronomical dome.

In the presentation, an outline of the new facility and the results of initial operation will be given. Those who desire to utilize this new observatory are encouraged to contact with us.