

A003-002

Room: IC

Time: May 20 15:30-16:15

Definition of Planet and the Pluto- A new point of view on the expanding solar system -

Jun-ichi Watanabe[1]

[1] PR Center, Nat.Astron. Obs. Japan

The change of the status of the Pluto became a big news in general public last year. At last we astronomers decided not to call the Pluto as a planet. However, this decision does not mean that we degrade the Pluto from the planet. We made a new category of the 'dwarf planet', and put the Pluto as a representative body on the new category. This also means that the Pluto becomes more important than before.

Why did we astronomers make this decision on the definition of the planet? What is the new category? What is the astronomical significance in this action? Due to new technology on the observational instruments, our solar system has been still expanding. In this talk, we will introduce the new view of our solar system, together with the new definition of the planet as a member of the Planet Definition Committee of the International Astronomical Union.