

## Educational and general public measures and actions of the Science Council of Japan corresponding to the IAU definition of planets

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The first definition of planets was adopted in the 26th IAU General Assembly held in August 2006, based on the recent discoveries of the TNOs. Pluto was categorized as a dwarf planet among the TNO, not as planet. The definition is epoch-making from point of view of clarifying new enriched image of the solar system. The definition of planets especially the destiny of the Pluto also attracted remarkable interests of general public, children and school teachers, therefore appropriate and timely measures corresponding to the planetary definition and related IAU resolutions are required to meet their interests, expectations and questions.

The Science Council of Japan, as Japanese adhering organization to the IAU, has decided to organize the Solar System Bodies Subcommittee under the IAU Branch of the Physical Science Committee in cooperation with the Astronomical Society of Japan, the Japanese Society for Planetary Sciences, the Society for Teaching and Popularization of Astronomy etc. The subcommittee started in November 2006 with twenty members and two advisers designated from wide variety of fields including astronomy, planetary sciences, education, public outreach, journals and publications. The chair of the subcommittee is Dr. Norio Kaifu.

The subcommittee has been densely discussing the meanings and educational places of new categories of the solar system bodies including dwarf planets, small solar system bodies etc. which were adopted in the IAU GA. In addition a clear novel view of our solar system for the general public based on recent discoveries in the solar system, the exo-solar planets, and developments of origin of the solar system is another important mission of the subcommittee.

The subcommittee is to get an interim report in March, so we like to present our discussion and interim report as well as the further direction of the subcommittee including the possible proposal to the IAU.