How was the Definition of Planet reported in the media? -Evaluation of quality and the relation between science and journalism-

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The fakes of the scientific data recently appeared in the TV program in Japan shows the lack of the moral in the journalism. However, we scientist should have a part of the responsibilities in this situation. Compared to the social scientists, natural scientists, who are contacted by the media, and feels misunderstandings or wrong on the contents in the news articles or programs released, tends to give up and to do nothing on it mainly because it is the media. We should not give up, and continue to remove miscommunication with the media, and to pay attention to the contents when contacted or related.

The definition of the planet approved last year is a typical case which was released by the media without enough background, and misunderstood in a sense. We National Astronomical Observatory of Japan concerned this situation, and tried to evaluate the quality of the contents of the 25 newspaper articles appeared in the August 25, together with 8 TV news programs. We report the results together with the suggested problems to be solved.