

U001-01

Room: IC

Time: May 26 09:05-09:35

## On the large-scale projects of earth and planetary sciences

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The Science Council of Japan (SCJ), in last several years, has looked into the problems related to the promotion of large-scale scientific projects in Japan.

The background for this is the fact that due to the recent move to reform the universities and research institutions, it becomes increasingly difficult to secure the funds necessary to promote large-scale facilities and research programs. Last year, the subcommittee of large-scale projects of SCJ decided to produce a list of future candidates of large-scale projects much like European ESFRI and other similar roadmap lists of UK and US.

In response to this inquiry from SCJ, 29 projects related to the earth and planetary sciences were listed. The subcommittee decided to shorten the entire list considering the maturity and community commitment. The Earth and Planetary Science Committee (EPSC) of SCJ took leadership for this trial with collaboration of Japan Geoscience Union. The community response, however, was rather negative to this rapid development. Taking account of those comments, EPSC decided to broadly classified the themes into four major categories:

- (1) Space exploration program aiming for the research of solar system evolution
- (2) Coordinated observational, experimental and modeling projects for the prediction of the Earth's environmental changes
- (3) Geodynamics and geohazard research programs utilizing the state of art technologies
- (4) Deciphering the history of the Earth and life and exploration of subsurface deep biosphere.

This Union Session aims to discuss the future of large-scale projects in earth and planetary sciences including such topics as the main themes, way to promote, support system and international collaboration based on these four thematic categories.

Keywords: earth and planetary sciences, large-scale projects, Science Council of Japan