

## Earth Science as themes of Science Cafe

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For earth science studies, many basic researches have been continued when they have been treated as big projects which are required enormous research funding. Their academic importance can't be reached to the public. It has been pointed that researchers as end users of tax money should achieve their accountabilities with taking the state into consideration. However, movements of science communication for the earth science field have not been enough, and probably as a result, research funding of many projects for earth science were discussed to be cut in the screening process, 2009. Now, more movements of science communication are required to promote the public to understand about earth science studies. The literacy level of them for the earth science is not so high. There is informational hiatus between the public and researchers. Moreover, more high school students are moving away from the earth science and they less choose the faculty of the earth science than the faculties of other sciences. It is difficult to heighten the literacy only with conventional education at schools and necessary to promote the public to understand the earth science with interactive science communications. One of the most practical ways is Science Cafe.

Science Cafe was held first in England in 1998, and in Japan in 2004. It is a place for the interactive communication between researchers and the public with a cup of coffee (Sugiyama, 2007). In addition, it is the place to enjoy communications, such as friendly everyday conversations, for everyone and the friendly atmosphere is important for the place. For Science Cafe, the interactive communication is put emphasis on and the creations of the place for the discussion about sciences and technologies are put in practice (Nakamura, 2008). However, various types of Science Cafes are held throughout Japan, many subjects are getting revealed. First, though the conscious of science communications among researchers gets higher, symposium-style communications are often taken. In these cases, researchers should be educated about science communications and the facilitators who trained for science communication should attend. Secondly, management problems are that many Science Cafes are held with volunteers and only staffs who have high literacy for sciences. This is because Science Cafes should be held for small groups and it is difficult to make a profit. So it will be important that huge projects should proceed with aggressive actions which a part of research fund is used for science communication.

We would like to point that not only general problems for Science Cafes but also the necessity that the traditional styles of them should be changed to suit the earth science. For example, Power Point is not used because the interactivity can be lost and mainly dialogue is used. However, Power Point should be used in some cases because themes of earth science studies often deal large dynamics in terms of time and space. Thus, science communications are essential for researches of earth science, but there are many problems even for Science Cafe. Science Cafe will be getting held more. For the future, it is needed that better models of Science Cafe which suit to the earth science will be proposed with taking past approaches on various Science Cafes into account. In this presentation, we would like to discuss for making new styles of Science Cafe.