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Science Communication for Earth and Planetary Sciences - New concept and practice -

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Earth and planetary science is one of the most famous academic disciplines in general. However it is difficult to say that the attractions, essences and familiar examples of earth and planetary science have become widespread into public well. In addition, there are only a few opportunities to meet and talk with scientists directly for general people. We propose that science communication is a better way to know and understand about earth and planetary sciences for public. Science communication is a means for communications between academic communities and pubic on an equal basis. Many activities of science communication are run today. However, almost all of the activity aims to enlighten people who are usually not interested in science about the interest of science. That is very important, but not enough because the interests for sciences or scientific knowledge are different from understanding science and being able to contribute to society.

In earth and planetary sciences, sampling and analysis are costly in many cases. Accordingly, research fund is important to study, and accountability of study is too. Science communication is needed in the accountability. However, The activities of science communication in earth and planetary sciences should be promoted not only for accountability for tax money used as research fund, but also for education and having public think about global problems (e.g. global warming, resource depletion, etc.). Few studies of earth and planetary sciences are technologically applied for the engineering now, but such problems will be resolved with taking into account the perspective of earth and planetary sciences. Thus, earth and planetary sciences should be dealt more in many contexts related with social and industrial activities.

Therefore, we suggest that science communicators should provide a "next step" for public to solve these backgrounds. As the "next step", First of all, we propose a concept to categorize activities of science communication into three steps. First step is "enlightenment for public", second is "discussion between scientists and public", and third is "consensus-building about problems between scientists and public". Second, we form a group, named "Universal Earth" ("Yuniasu", in short) for mainly running "second step" as written above. The members are all students and but belong to many faculties. That is good not only for providing many perspectives to the group but also divisional corporation. Now Yuniasu hold science cafes titled "Earth and Planetary Sciences Bar" about once two months in Jiyu-gaoka, Tokyo. The concepts of Yuniasu's activities are as follows; i) Themes have to be related in earth and planetary sciences, ii) Works are for "discussion between scientists and public", and iii) "Earth and Planetary Sciences Bar" have to be held in Jiyu-gaoka, Tokyo. These concepts are for intensifying the connection between earth and planetary scientist and public, and forming a model case which the local public entertain the science into their life. In this presentation, we show our work and the result.

Keywords: Earth and Planetary Sciences, Science Communication, Science Cafe, Science bar