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Lunar and planetary explorations in a coming decade: Current status and ongoing schedule

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Future Planetary Exploration Working Group of Japanese Planetary Science Society is discussing planetary explorations that will be strongly supported by this community. Then we started "Planetary Exploration in a Coming Decade" activity last year aiming to organize a new mission to be launched between 2017 and 2027. The first stage of the activity is ending in March, 2011. A summary of the first stage will be reported by 5 panels; (1) terrestrial solid planets, (2) terrestrial atmosphere and magnetosphere, (3) minor body, (4) Jovian planets, icy satellites, and exoplanets, and (5) astrobiology. Each panel received proposals regarding "top sciences" of each category from the community in the summer of 2010. On September 10, an open meeting was held at Kobe University to discuss top sciences among the community of planetary scientists. From the summer of 2011, the second stage begins. Proposals for new mission and instruments will be accepted by the second-stage committee who advises the applicants not only to improve the proposal, but also to raise and develop exploration groups.

Keywords: Planetary exploration