The Hayabusa return sample curation in JAXA and the first international announcement of opportunity of research

ABE, Masanao1**, YADA, Toru1, ISHIBASHI, Yukihiro1, UESUGI, Masayuki1, KAROUJI, Yuzuru1, OKADA, Tatsuaki1, YAKAME, Shogo1, TANAKA, Satoshi1, FUJIMOTO, Masaki1, MUKAI, Toshifumi1, YOSHIKAWA, Makoto1, FUJIMURA, Akio1

1Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency

In the Planetary Material Sample Curation Facility of JAXA, more than 200 particles have been recovered from the sample catcher extracted from reentry capsule of Hayabusa spacecraft, which had returned to the Earth on June 13, 2010. After a series of initial analyses of Hayabusa return samples has finished in November, 2011, some of the sample have distributed to NASA, based on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Japan and USA for the Hayabusa mission in December, 2011.

Then, information about most of the particles is assembled to the web site for international Announcement of Opportunity (AO) of research for Hayabusa return samples. They are in public from Jan. 21, 2012. Any researcher who has a research plan for the samples can apply to the request for the sample distribution. After a series of referee processes held by the international AO committee, about 100 (maximum) of the sample distribution for the first international AO will start around May, 2012.

Keywords: Hayabusa, Itokawa, asteroid, sample return, planetary material, curation