

The measures and the future plans of Japan Spaceguard Association to the small solar system body collision to the Earth

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The term “spaceguard” means the activity to discover and study Near Earth Objects (NEOs), which have the potential to collide with the Earth. In Japan, the spaceguard activity has been enhanced since a non-profit organization, Japan Spaceguard Association (JSGA), was established in 1996. Bisei Spaceguard Center was constructed in 1999 in Bisei town, Okayama prefecture, for the purpose of NEOs and space debris observations. It started to observe asteroids since the beginning of 2000. During this 13 years, we have discovered more than 1000 provisionally designated “unnumbered” asteroids, including about 300 newly numbered asteroids. We have also performed confirmatory astrometric follow-up observations of more than 900 Near Earth Objects. In addition to these discoveries and astrometric follow-up observations, we think that research activity and public outreach activity of the spaceguard are also important. Here, we introduce our general activity of the Japan Spaceguard Association, and our measures, our future plans based on fall of the meteorite to Russia, such as the examination of a new observation system and collision prediction.

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