

International Cooperation in NAOJ Mizusawa : Result of Kaguya, and possibility in the future.

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In the Japanese lunar explorer SELENE (Kaguya), which was launched on September 14th, 2007, VLBI observations were made for the purpose of improvement of the lunar gravity field model, through an international network as well as Japanese VERA (VLBI Exploration of Radio Astrometry) network. The international network consists of Shanghai and Urumqi (China), Wettzell (Germany) and Hobart (Australia) stations. They participated in VLBI observations, data reduction and data analysis based on the MOU for cooperative research, and the cooperation contributed not only to the success of Kaguya mission but to produce more scientific results.

RISE project of NAOJ (National Astronomical Observatory of Japan) were continuing the cooperation with Shanghai Astronomical Observatory, Xinjian Observatory (China) and Kazan Federal University (Russia) before Kaguya mission in the field of space geodesy, selenodesy, geodynamics and geophysics, astronomy and astrophysics. The International Earth Rotation and Reference Systems Service (IERS) which Mizusawa observatory contributed for long years is one of the basis of these cooperative researches. These cooperative researches are continuing for future lunar and planetary missions by exchange researchers and students and having international meetings.

Keywords: International cooperation, MOU, VLBI, Earth rotation, Space geodesy, Lunar mission