

Summary of community meeting on Subaru Telescope international operation

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The community meeting on Subaru Telescope international operation was held on June 15, 2016 in Mitaka NAOJ headquarter. About 60 people attended the meeting. First Nobuo Arimoto, Subaru Telescope director explained the basic ideas and the need of international partnership. Then we explained some background information about financial situation, prospects on available telescope time (for large surveys and normal open-use programs), and draft policy for international operation. We also explained current status of discussions with potential partners such as east Asian countries, Australia, and Canada. Then we asked some of key people in the community to present their opinions, and opened discussions.

As seen in the following summary, some community members expressed their preference for making decisions and transitions to international operation in more gradual, slower pace. One concern raised is the difficulty in foreseeing financial situation in coming years, due to uncertainty on the TMT. However, NAOJ management told community members that the delay in TMT construction will never help Subaru's funding situation in Japan.

On the other hand, some people expressed that this could be a good opportunity to make Japanese optical astronomy community truly open to international collaboration. Although Subaru Telescope has made international collaborations in both instrument developments and science programs, international operation of a telescope is new to Japanese optical astronomy community. It was pointed out that Japanese community should take this opportunity to enhance science productivity from Subaru Telescope and Japanese community through international partnership.

At the end of the discussion, it was agreed that Subaru Telescope will continue discussion with potential partners. In September, there will be a meeting of group of optical and infrared astronomers in Japan, and the updated status will be reported. And around January 2017 we will have annual Subaru users meeting, and that could be an opportunity to have participation of representatives of partner candidates and direct interactions between partner candidates and Japanese community.

Below is a summary of opinions and suggestions made by participants.

[Need of International Partnership]

- Subaru / NAOJ should further put efforts on reducing the operation cost. ($\times 2$)
- Should explore possibilities to contribute to Subaru operation budget by Japanese institutes / organizations. ($\times 2$)
- More efforts should be made to appeal Subaru's values to the Japanese government.

The following comments were made by management and other project leader of NAOJ, in response to community's opinions that due to the uncertainty in the TMT project they did not see the urgent need to start international operation of Subaru Telescope.

- Subaru should show evidence that Subaru takes *considerations* made by the Japanese government (which were based on notes made by the working group of Science Council of Japan (SCJ) on large projects*1) seriously and makes changes according to those considerations.
- NAOJ budget is very tight and Subaru must initiate international operations immediately.

(*1 In the report by SCJ working group on the TMT project issued in 2012, it is stated that "Subaru Telescope should clearly define its complementary role for TMT as wide-field telescope while TMT as high sensitivity telescope. Moreover, Subaru telescope should re-organize its operation to be more efficient by, e.g., simplifying its operation by concentrating to the prime focus instruments and reducing cost for Japan by international partnership.")

[**Partner candidates and negotiation process**]

- It is unclear how the candidates were chosen.
- Partner candidates should be selected very carefully, because once the partnership has started it is difficult to change the relationship quickly.
- This should have large impact in Subaru's future. You should develop the partnership gradually, by starting from small scale partnership.
- The partnership is not charity. There should be benefits for both sides.
- The telescope time cost should be evaluated fairly.
- Why partners of HSC and PFS collaboration are not included as candidates?
- It makes no sense to choose partner candidate only because of geographical vicinity or past circumstances.
- Partners should have capabilities of joint instrument development.
- Partners should be capable of collaborative science programs.
- Should consider a possibility of limited partnership solely for specific Subaru Strategic Programs (SSPs) (i.e., no involvement to the operation and decision making).
- Should consider a possibility to have partnership in limited term and limited objectives.

[**Telescope time / data access**]

- How the Japanese researchers overseas will be treated in TAC?
- Subaru proposed a plan to open SSPs to partners with limited number of faculty members (and post-docs and students) based on financial contributions. This is not a right way, and Subaru should open the SSPs fully to partners.
- PFS collaboration has been established and they have contributed for instrument development with the goal of 300-nights SSP. PFS collaboration PI strongly opposes to opening PFS SSP data access to Subaru partners without any benefit to PFS collaboration members.
- Data access could be an asset for partners (rather than providing telescope time).

[**Future direction of Subaru Telescope**]

- Opportunities for non-survey science should be kept.
- Subaru Telescope proposed closing telescope time access by PIs from non-partner institutes. This is not a right direction. Subaru should investigate how much publications has been made by non-Japanese (and non-time-exchange) PIs.
- Keeping diversity in science programs is critically important.
- Subaru/NAOJ should pay more attention to education of Japanese students. Their access to Subaru telescope time will be significantly affected by partnership.
- Subaru should enforce quality and capability of its data archive.

[**Miscellaneous**]

- How Subaru will respond if you receive request drastic change in TAC process?
- We should consider having science workshops with potential partners for better understanding of their scientific interests.
- Subaru should develop remote observation capability more.
- It is desirable to have ways to contribute to Subaru's operations from Japanese universities by instrument development.