

One outcome of UN/Ecuador Workshop on ISWI :

Observations and Recommendations on the future of Nobeyama Radioheliograph

*UN/Ecuador Workshop on International Space
Weather Initiative, October 8-12, 2012*

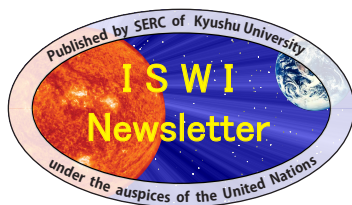
Quito, Ecuador

The Nobeyama Radioheliograph has been observing the Sun since 1992 providing high-quality images of the Sun useful for solar physics, solar terrestrial physics, space weather events, and solar impact on Earth's climate. It is a sophisticated instrument that has been producing interferometric images of the Sun every day with very high quality for the past twenty years. All data are open for research, education and outreach purposes. A symposium is being organized to mark the 20th anniversary of the Radioheliograph in Nagoya, Japan during November 20-23, 2012. The Nobeyama Radioheliograph is unique and a valuable asset that needs to be sustained for the benefit of the world scientific community. The Nobeyama radioheliograph continues to be the unique instrument in the world and makes important contributions to the study of both short- and long-term variability of the Sun.

The participants of the UN/Ecuador workshop have noted that the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan is planning to close the Nobeyama Radioheliograph by the year 2015 due to budgetary limitations. This will be a big loss to the international space weather community given the continuous and uniform coverage of the Sun and space weather events that the Nobeyama Radioheliograph has been providing.

Given the enormous contribution that Japan has made to the astronomy and space science communities, it is not impossible for Japan to continue the operation of the Nobeyama radioheliograph on a long-term basis. The international scientific community will be grateful if the Nobeyama radioheliograph is made to survive and the effort will be recorded as another outstanding Japanese contribution to the humankind.

Therefore, the participants of the UN/Ecuador workshop on International Space Weather Initiative strongly recommend the continued operation of the Nobeyama Radioheliograph either by the current institution or by a consortium of new institutions.



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