

**PDC2017  
Tokyo, Japan**

**IAA-PDC-17-02-P09**

*Please send your abstract to iaapdc (at) iaamail.org*

*You may visit [www.pdc.iaaweb.org](http://www.pdc.iaaweb.org)*

*(please choose one box to be checked)  
(you may also add a general comment - see end of the page)*

- Key International and Political Developments**
- Advancements and Progress in NEO Discovery**
- NEO Characterization Results**
- Deflection and Disruption Models & Testing**
- Mission & Campaign Designs**
- Impact Consequences**
- Disaster Response**
- Decision to Act**
- Public Education & Communication**

**ORGANIZATION AND PROMOTION OF  
ASIA-PACIFIC ASTEROID OBSERVATION NETWORK (APAON)**

**Shin-ichiro Okumura<sup>(1)</sup>, Seitaro Urakawa<sup>(1)</sup>, Jun-ichi Watanabe<sup>(2)</sup>,  
Makoto Yoshikawa<sup>(3)</sup>, and APAON members**

<sup>(1)</sup>*Bisei Spaceguard Center, Japan Spaceguard Association,  
1716-3 Okura, Bisei, Ibara, Okayama 714-1411, Japan, [okumura@spaceguard.or.jp](mailto:okumura@spaceguard.or.jp)*

<sup>(2)</sup>*National Astronomical Observatory of Japan,  
2-21-1 Osawa, Mitaka, Tokyo 181-8588, Japan*

<sup>(3)</sup>*Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA),  
3-1-1 Yoshinodai, Chuo-ku, Sagamihara, Kanagawa 252-5210, Japan*

**Keywords:** *Asteroid Observation, Near Earth Object, Observation Network*

**ABSTRACT**

The importance of Planetary Defense (Spaceguard) came to be recognized more than before by the collision of the Chelyabinsk meteorite in February 2013. As for survey observations of asteroids/NEOs (Near Earth Objects), they are very active in the United States, Europe, and several regions at present, and there are many new discoveries. Since the Asia-Pacific region is located between the United States and Europe, observations in this region will geographically contribute much to discovery and follow-up of NEOs.

We proposed an asteroid observation network in APRSAF (Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum) held in December 2013. After that, we have organized and promoted the network. The observation network was named APAON (Asia-Pacific Asteroid Observation Network). The purposes of APAON are to enhance

asteroid/NEO observation activities and outreach/education activities about Planetary Defense in Asia-Pacific region, by utilizing and sharing the observation resources in this region.

We have been calling for participation for many facilities including Japanese public (open) astronomical observatories and amateur observers, not only research facilities. As of January 2017, 11 organizations in Japan, and 16 organizations in 10 other countries (regions), mainly in Asia, totally 27 organizations have become the members of APAON.

We are now discussing about how to make the observation network and how to promote our activities. We have already started observations of some NEOs at their close approaches, as examples of practice. We are going to make the action of APAON more active so that it can contribute to Planetary Defense.

\*\*\*\*\*