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Public Education and Communication

PUBLIC EDUCATION ACTIVITIES FOR PLANETARY DEFENSE IN JAPAN

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ABSTRACT

The Japan Spaceguard Association (JSGA) was founded in 1996 and since then has been involved in near-Earth objects observation and educational outreach for planetary defense. Specially, the JSGA has organized the lecture event on “Internal Asteroid Day on 30 June” in Japan since 2016. The events addressed the topics of “How to discover asteroids?”, “Impact hazard of NEOs”, “Hayabusa 2 mission”, and “The DART mission”. All the topics were lectured by specialists and discussed with citizens. In addition to Asteroid Day's event, five internet live streams were delivered on the collaboration with a Virtual YouTuber (commonly known as VTuber) Madoka Hoshimi. She acts as a virtual character using a virtual avatar mainly on the Internet. The purpose of these live streams is to encourage younger people not normally interested in space or astronomy to learn and think about planetary defense by collaborating with the VTuber. Some specialists among JSGA members gave talks to the public about topics of planetary defense in live streams. In addition to talks, these events had been also expected to have interactive communication with quizzes and question periods in which viewers could participate via YouTube chat. In the final live stream, the same exercise unveiled at the Planetary Defense Conference 2017 in

Tokyo was imposed on viewers. Viewers participated in the exercise by choosing from some options we prepared. The total number of views reached to about 5000. We had hoped viewers would think about planetary defense by participating, not just watching. In this presentation, we presents the public educational activities for planetary defense in Japan.

Comments:

(Oral or Poster : Both are possible.)