

Summary of Symposium

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The following is a report on my experience at the 37th annual Symposium on Engineering in Astronomy. I have included key areas of interest for your review. Mahalo!

This year I was lucky enough to attend "The 37th Symposium on Engineering in Astronomy" that took place in Kurashiki Okayama. I Attended a symposium years ago in Matsumoto so I thought I knew what to expect from this one but it was very different but in a good way. Although the main part of it was what I expected I was pleasantly surprised by the addition of things like group discussions and presentations and display boards. I did my presentation on an introduction to our top unit exchange. I gave a fifteen minute condensed explanation on the removal process of a secondary mirror and also what safety measures we have in place for fall protection and rescue. I Also mentioned some of the other exchanges we do like the LLT and FEU exchanges and how much people it takes to complete these tasks. Although I did have some comments on the actual exchange portion itself the thing I noticed most after I was finished presenting was that I was asked more questions related to the fall arrest and fall rescue portion than to the TUE. It seems like more people may have an issue with just having a fall protection system in place but no rescue plan available. I'm not sure what the working rules are in Japan but I hope the people who were asking these questions can find helpful information to get them set up with a fall rescue system. Next years presentation maybe?

I got to meet many new people and also see people who I worked with in the past at Subaru at this symposium. Through group discussions I realized that they have very similar issues and concerns that we have here at Subaru especially when dealing with other staff members and project deadlines. I thought this symposium was very well put together and the people who coordinated it did a fantastic job. The location of the symposium was very nice and easy to find and was also surrounded by a town that seemed as though it was still set in older Japan which was great for me to play tourist after our work was completed. The first day of the symposium consisted of fifteen minute presentations done by each person and some display boards that were available for some people to use. I was very nervous to do my presentation because I felt the audience would not understand what it was that I was trying to talk about but as I found out later many of the people attending spoke english and understood me very well. As a spectator to everyone else's presentations it was a little difficult at times to understand what was being explained do to the language barrier but although almost all of the presentations were done in Japanese I was still able to understand the majority of what they had to say through pictures and english captions describing some of the slides. Once all of the presenters had finished we then had a group discussion that ended the first day and carried on into the next. During the group

discussion portion we all got into groups of about five or six people and discussed some of the issues we are facing at work and what kinds of solutions we came up with to solve these issues. We also gave each other feedback on what we thought might help each other to solve their problems and reach their goals. That night we all went to a restaurant and had more bonding time. I enjoyed this time because I got to talk to people I had not been able to talk to at the symposium itself. The food was delicious and we all had lots of fun. This experience also taught me the valuable lesson of doing leg stretches because if you sit on a floor for long periods of time and you do not normally do this then you are in for some back pain and leg pain. Still it was completely worth it though. The next day consisted of group presentations in the morning to go over what we had discussed the day before during group discussions and a special presentation by the director of the Okayama telescope and another special presenter. After lunch we boarded a bus and took a nice scenic drive to the Okayama observatory for a field trip. The field trip to the Okayama observatory was amazing and it was interesting to see how their telescope functions and we were able to compare some of the similarities and differences between this telescope and Subaru. We got to visit both the old telescope and also the new one that is still under construction. The new telescope was pretty much complete except for the mirror which was not attached yet. The frame of the telescope was amazing to see because it reminded me of a Leggo type Kinect set. It was a very simple yet genius looking design.

The trip itself was a great cultural experience and has shown me a little about where my fellow workers come from and how they live when they're not in Hawaii. It was nice to see people who I worked with in the past and great to meet new people. As an employee of Subaru telescope it is an amazing incentive to know that these business trips are available. Being from a small town I never dreamed of going to a place like Japan but working for Subaru has shown me this is possible. I was able to arrive a few days before the symposium and this allowed me and my co-worker Jonah Conol a chance to see a little more of Okayama including the Castles and the Korakuen garden. I hope this continues in the years to come so that all the daycrew members have a chance to experience this as well. Thanks!