

RECENT ACTIVITIES ON THE CURATION OF ANTARCTIC METEORITES IN NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF POLAR RESEARCH.

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Introduction: We will present the recent activities on the curation of Antarctic Meteorites at the National Institute of Polar Research (NIPR). Refer the home page (<http://yamato.nipr.ac.jp>) for the detail.

Member: The member consists of one head (HK), two curators (NI and AY), and several technical staffs (TO et al.), with two guest professors (MK and ME).

Classification of Antarctic Meteorites: The classification number of meteorites is ~1000 by year in these several years, and the result is annually published as Meteorite Newsletter (up to volume 23 in 2014). The unclassified meteorites are ~8000 at present, which are mostly small (less than 10g). Polished mounts are currently made for these samples instead of making polished thin sections (PTSs), partly because a technician making PTSs passed away recently. The electric database for the outside researchers on the classification and the relating data of Antarctic Meteorites in NIPR is under revision.

Allocation and Loan of the Antarctic Meteorites: The allocation and loan of the samples are usually judged by the curators and, if needed, with the comments by the member of the Committee of Antarctic Meteorites, at any time. The record of the allocation of the fragment and the loan of PTSs are managed by the electric database programmed by a software and also by the paper sheet files for the back up.

Facilities: Antarctic meteorites (the number ~17000) and the PTSs are all stored in a class 10000 clean room, and they are processed using three wire saws, clean benches in the next room controlled to be under the positive pressure. An electron probe micro analyzer (EPMA, JXA-8800) is used especially for classification.

Search for the Extraterrestrial Materials in Antarctica: The recent meteorite search was carried out in 2011-2012, as joint search with Belgian Antarctic Expedition (BELARE), on the Nansen Ice Field [1-3]. The next search has not been decided. The future search for the phase IX (2016-2021) of Japanese Antarctic Research Expedition (JARE 58-63) is being focused on the bare ice field around the Yamato Mountains for the collection of meteorites and on the surface snow on the top of the Antarctic Ice Sheet for collecting fresh and fragile micrometeorites.

The Importance of the Collaboration with the JAXA Curation Team: The curation of Antarctic Meteorites in NIPR and the returned samples from the asteroid Itokawa by the Hayabusa mission are both starting points for the common researchers of planetary science. Their scientific data are complementary and interrelated, and it may be thus fruitful to have communication of the independent extraterrestrial material curation teams in Japan between JAXA and NIPR.

References: [1] Imae N. et al. 2013. JGU Meeting. [2] Imae N. et al. *Antarctic Record* (in submission). [3] Debaille V. et al. 2013. *Antarctic Meteorites XXXVI*, 11-12.