SPECIAL



Learning roots and future through moon research

By Shihou Sasaki The North American Post

elebrating the 400th anniversary of the first astronomical observation through a telescope by Galileo Galilei, an Italian astronomer, and the 40th anniversary of the first moon landing by Neil Armstrong of Apollo 11, the Seattle Cherry Blossom and Japanese Cultural Festival will feature moon exploring with Japanese astronomical technology.

Shinichi Sobue, Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)'s SELENE project associate senior engineer, will present its project of moon exploring and update information with informative images taken by a lunar explorer SELENE, known as Kaguya, during the festival on Apr. 19.

"Learning about the moon can give us opportunities to know the history of the earth, how the solar system was created and even where our roots are from," Sobue said in Japanese.

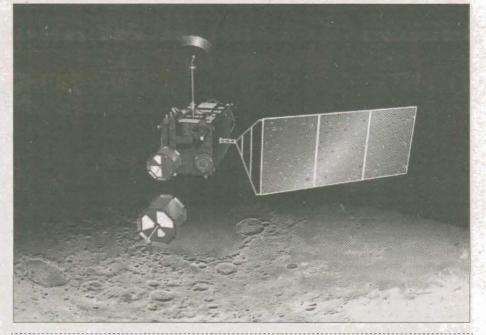
According to JAXA, SELENE was

launched on Sept. 14, 2007 to gather information on the moon to understand its origin and evolution and future astronomical activities. This is the largest lunar mission since the Apollo program initiated by National Aeronautics and Spaces Administration (NASA).

Sobue said that the moon was formed about 4.5 billion years ago, which is almost the same as the earth age. But compared to the earth, the moon has not been active but still retains the information of the origin as it was

In the future of human astronomical activity, the moon would be the first base of the out of earth orbit, and SELENE has an important role to gather moon data for the project. During the presentation, Sobue also plans to share some images from SELENE including a full earthrise over the moon surface.

"I think the full earthrise will provide us a valuable message about the preciousness and vanity of the earth," he said. "Through the presentation, I hope



lunar explorer SELENE 月周回衛星「かぐや (SELENE)」

Photo courtesy of Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) 写真提供=宇宙航空研究開発機構 (JAXA)

we can share the thought that the earth is our precious home to be protected."

Japanese astronomical technology may be one of the top levels in the world. JAXA's H-IIA rocket is an expendable launch system for launching satellites, which made 14 successes in 15 projects as of January 2009. Its launching point

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is located in Tanegashima Space Center in Tanegashima, a southern island of Japan. The latest launch included GOSAT, known as "Ibuki," the first satellite for greenhouse-gas-monitoring to measure carbon dioxide and methane for the environmental research.

Topic:

The Moon and Earth observed by Japan's

lunar explorer "KAGUYA" (SELENE)

Lecturer: Shinichi Sobue

When: Sunday, Apr. 19 (1 - 2 pm) Where: Center House Room A

周回衛星「かぐや」は07年9 いる月探査を目的に打ち上げ月、まだ多くの謎に包まれて

そぶえ) 真一さんがシアトル チーム主任開発員

月」にちなみ、宇宙航空研究 を始めて400年、 レイが望遠鏡による天体観 EXE(かぐや)プロジェク 年の桜祭のテーマとなる 面に降り立ち40年を迎える 2009年はガリレオ・ガ (JAXA) OSE

日本が誇る宇宙探査 人間の進歩

月が有力だ。太陽電池によけ、地球周回外における有談が進む中、その先を見れるが進む中、その先を見れる。 型ロケット「H2A」。全長 る効率的なエネルギー確 いる主力大

学専攻、8年に修士課程修了 において地球観測に関するさ ンステム運用、 クト主任開発員として、地上 まざまな職務に従事。 橋技術科学大学で情報工 89年に宇宙航空研究開発機 、広報に従事。65年生まれ LEZE (かぐや) プロジェ 人物略歷 祖父江真 (JAXA) に入社。日米 サイエンス促 06年5

と呼ばれる大きなクレー とも個人的には思います」 いくことができる一里塚か 的なところまで話を繋げて 地球の歴史などを 人量の隕 性を指摘する。 月の歴史を知ることは、 かという根源 その当時 われがど

ふるさとをこれ 講演は19日午後1時 っております トルで)共有でき たった1つの ハウス・Aルー

る「地球の出」の映像や観 が捉えた月の地平線から昇 展、そして過去にない情報 される有形、無形の技 及術力は世界有数といえる 宇宙開発によってもたら

て打ち上げられた温室効果 はじめ、日本の宇宙

星の起源と進化を探る情報

祖父江さんは

大気がほとん



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