

§38. Science Communication and NIFS Kids Fusion Science Museum

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Public understanding of research (PUR) is required to progress national scientific projects. NIFS has been engaged in expound a research of fusion science for the public. To make public interest in fusion science, the method of science communication is start to develop.

NIFS Kids Fusion Science Museum is open on Oct. 25, 2008 (Fig. 1). The museum has exhibition room in a lobby space of research building. In opening ceremony, several exhibitions are prepared, thus parabola walls, virtual reality system, measurement of universal gravitation, etc. (Figs. 2 and 3). However, the important thing is not only exhibitions but also to meet cutting-edge science and technology and meet scientist. Thus, LHD tour and Simulation center tour make a big impact and impression. Visitors interested in the earth environment and fusion energy after visiting NIFS.

Science communication is performed as outreach programs in 2008. The relationship between museums and Schools become active by developing science communication programs.

(1) Cooperation with science museums

National museum of immerging science and innovation (Miraikan, Tokyo) makes a new exhibition of the earth environment theme. It has information about fusion science and NIFS. By using the exhibition, a school program is developed and tested by museum and school collaboration.



Fig. 1. Opening ceremony of NIFS Fusion Science Museum on Oct. 25, 2008.

(2) Visiting school program

To make students interest in cutting-edge science such as fusion science, school lessons by NIFS staff are performed by visiting school. Before discussing about fusion science, school required the tools for teach presentation and communication.

(3) Collaboration with teachers

Science communication programs for understanding fusion science are also performed for teachers. If teachers understanding of a research of science, a leading edge technology and a science communication make a good education for the student. It also make chance to coordinate scientific activities in society, which include fusion science.

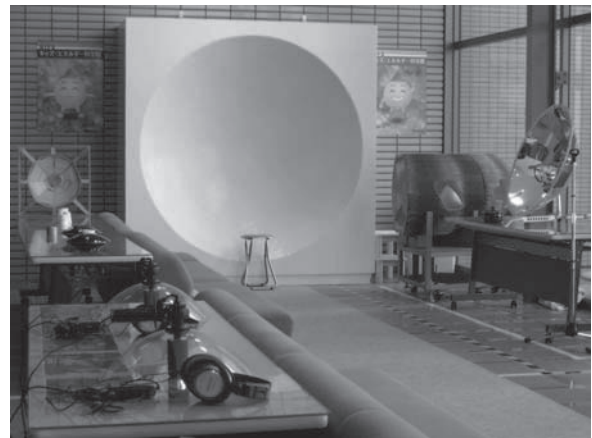


Fig. 2. A part of Exhibition room. Parabola is used to understand a method of plasma heating and diagnostics.

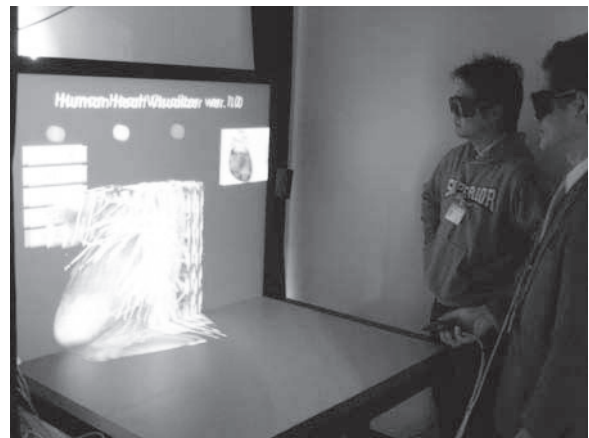


Fig. 3. An exhibition of virtual reality system.