

# My visits to Kwasan & Hida Observatories

## —— Golden memory with glory

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Our fate is so unpredictable and so mysterious. In such a world that is becoming smaller and smaller, you may visit many places and meet with many people. However, some of them are destined to be engraved in your mind. They are a precious treasure in your memory and an indispensable part of your life. My visits to Kwasan & Hida Observatories of Kyoto University are really the golden memory to me and I benefited so much from them.

In the early summer of 1999, I got the PhD degree of astrophysics in Nanjing University. As many other young researchers, I was dreaming to do a postdoc in a famous university outside China, although I had never been abroad at that time. Coincidentally, Prof. Kazunari Shibata moved from Tokyo to Kwasan Observatory. He sent an email to my supervisor, Prof. Fang, and told us that a postdoc position was available in Kwasan Observatory. The email was like a breeze coming through me in the hot summer. I applied for the position, and then I came.



In order to save money for me, the director, Prof. Hiroki Kurokawa kindly arranged me to live in the old building (Honkan) of the observatory for free. My life in Kwasan started with a welcome party, in which I felt the purest friendship and love. At that time, there were several young postdocs and students at my age in the observatory, e.g., Sano-san, Magara-san, Yoshimura-san, Takeda-san, Ishii-san, Takeuchi-san, Morimoto-san,

Kozu-san, ..... I never had another chance to stay in a group with so many young friends who have similarly strong passion over science and who have so much common language with me. We discussed a lot, not only science, but also culture, history, news, ..... Every Monday, we went to the main campus of Kyoto University to attend the group seminar, which sparked plenty of research topics. After that, we young people almost always walked to a nearby restaurant, chatting and joking all the way. After finishing the dinner, we may step into a bar, drinking for a while. Finally, we drove back to the observatory, and worked until mid-night. In the deep evening of the last day of 1999, Sano-san, Yoshimura-san, Takeda-san and I walked to a peak of a neighboring mountain to welcome the new millennium. The whole Kyoto city was covered within our eyesight, with soft lights glittering in the mist. At the mid-night, when we heard the bell ringing from the temples, we cheered, with tears in our eyes. Most of these friends are not in Kwasan now, and the enjoyable period becomes unrepeatable history in my life, which always makes me feel melancholy.



Shibata-sensei is an excellent supervisor. New ideas always jumped out of his mind. I still remember that, whenever we had a formal discussion about research, he always wrote a full page of notes. After the discussion, I kept the original one, and he kept a copy. Far more than this, I was trained with many good academic habits by sensei. After the bounenkai in late December of 1999, Shibata-sensei did not return home. He stayed in the observatory, playing mahjong with us. The score of each game was recorded on a paper sheet, which I am still keeping. With such a friendly and easy environment, our collaboration was so productive. We published a series of papers. One of them has been cited more than 100 times, and becomes one of the most competing models in the relevant field.

I mostly stayed in Kwasan Observatory, and had two short visits to Hida

Observatory. Despite the short period, I felt the plain-Jane friendship from Kitai-sensei, Ueno-san, Nogami-san, Katoda-san, Kimura-san, ..... I would say that it was not just friendship, it was like the love from my own relatives. They were just like my relatives at first sight. Even when I first met with them, it seemed as if we had known each other for years. During my stay in Kwasan Observatory, I was also taken care of by many many other friends, e.g., the family of Kurokawa-sensei, Makita-sensei, Kubota-sensei, secretaries like Nakaoka-san and Kamobe-san .....



From then to now, I have traveled to many other countries. However, I never met a group which makes me feel no any psychological distance from them. That could be called Yuan in Chinese and Go-en in Japanese.

This year is the 80th anniversary of Kwasan & Hida Observatories, and actually is also the 10th anniversary of my visit to Kwasan & Hida Observatories. I am and also will always be proud that I have been part of the world-renowned observatories. I am proud that I was a Kyodai-jin. I am also happy to see young Kyodai-jin like Isobe-san and Asai-san have grown up. With the SMART telescope and the NPO facilities, Kwasan & Hida Observatories are being met with a prosperous future.

Kwasan-no ashita-wa Oh-Oh-Oh-Oh-Oh.....

## 花山天文台の80周年を祝って

日江井 榮二郎

東京大学名誉教授、国立天文台名誉教授、明星大学名誉教授

花山天文台に始めてお邪魔したのは、京都で日本天文学会が開催された時だったと思います。久保田諄さんの案内で太陽館を見せていただきました。ウイルソン山