

Light pollution in Kochi - The result of observation for three years-

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Our astronomy club decided to investigate how much the sky in Kochi had become bright due to light pollution five years ago. Since then we have been observing the brightness of the night sky by using a device called Sky Quality Meter, SQM. On top of that, we have been using another device called SQM -LE, which was set up in our school three years ago, to observe the sky in Kochi. The research shows us that the brightness of the sky tends to change according to seasons.

We collected the data from 217 spots around Kochi -city using SQM and made a brightness map of the night sky in Kochi-city. Having examined the data, we estimated the altitude of layers to which light emitted from the surface on the earth.

In February 2016, working with the students of the club and other teachers, we investigated how many stars around Orion we can see with our naked eyes. We had actually conducted a similar investigation in February 2013. Then we compared those results and found that the visibility in the night sky became better than before. This result accorded with the one we had observed it using SQM-LE for three years.

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