

How to activate discussion on on-line science cafe: Case study of "Science Agora 2020"

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It has been a long time since the "science café" has been held in Japan to provide the general public with an opportunity to casually participate in and discuss science. However, despite their purpose and advantages, they often take the form of a lecture by the speaker and a question-and-answer session by the participants, and it is necessary to devise a way to facilitate discussion by both the speaker and the general participants. In recent years, various scientific events have shifted to online format, and the Science Café needs to be constructed in such a way that discussions can be held online. As for science cafés, the author and his colleagues have developed a "discussion-type science café" that aims to make discussion easier by clearly indicating the axes of discussion and having multiple topic providers (Tamazawa and Kazai 2020 jpsc accepted). We are also working on the online version. In the case of a format that does not involve an actual venue, it will be necessary to devise publicity strategies and facilitators that are unique to the online format. As an example, I will report on a science café on space development held as a part of Science Agora in November 2020.