



# East Asian Observatory

The 6<sup>th</sup> Survey Science Group Workshop, June 28-30. 2017

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## East Asian Core Observatories Association (EACOA)

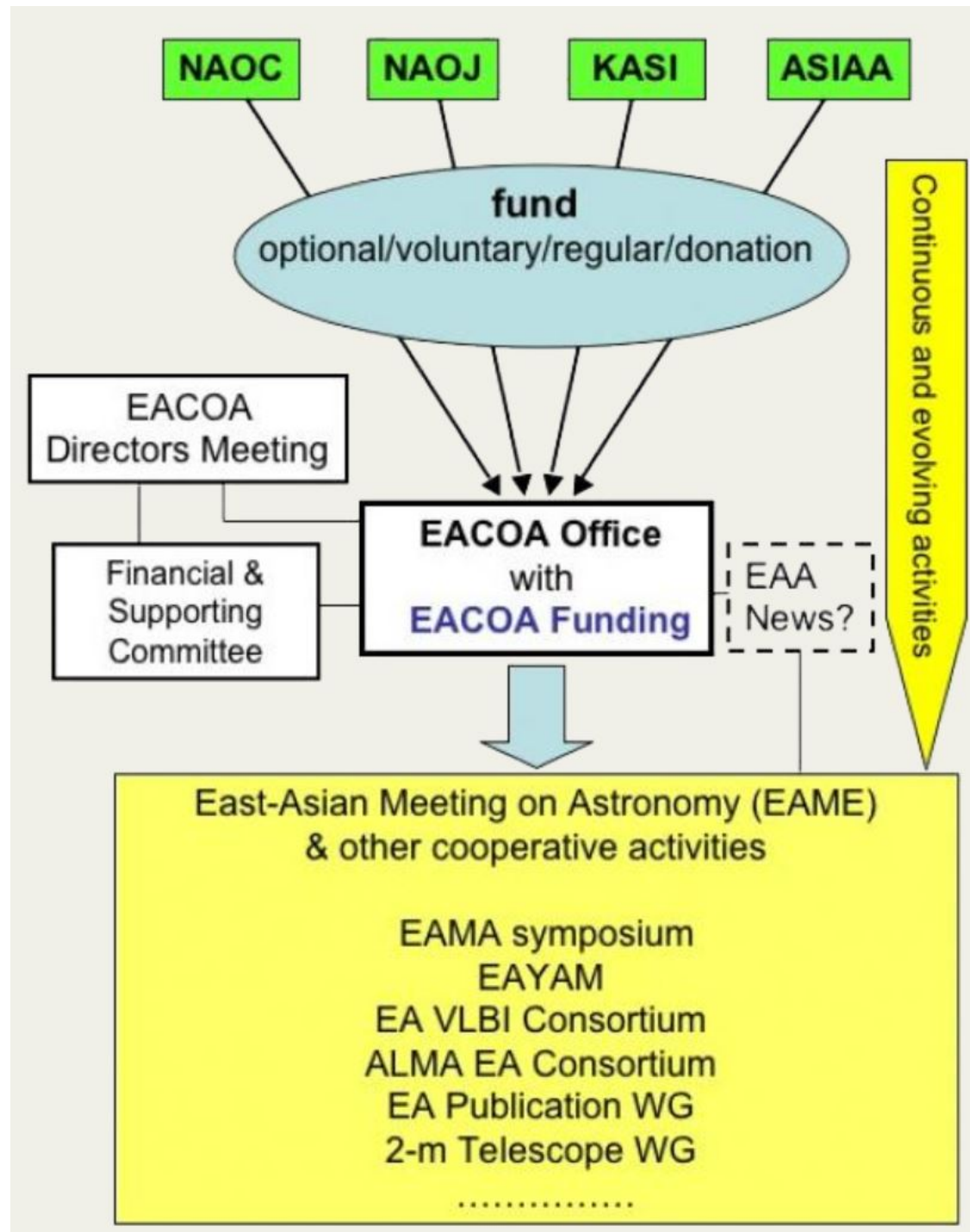
formed on Sep. 21, 2005

consists of four core observatories in East Asia:

National Astronomical Observatories of China ([NAOC](#)),  
National Astronomical Observatory of Japan ([NAOJ](#))  
Korea Astronomy and Space Science institute ([KASI](#)),  
Academia Sinica Institute of Astronomy and Astrophysics ([ASIAA](#))

formed to foster and coordinate collaborations between the major astronomical observatories in the region. The mission of EACOA includes:

- Development of alliance program in research, instruments and telescope construction.
- Coordination of the exchange and use of observation instrumental and other resources within East Asia.
- Talent exchange (especially the young astronomers) program
- Coordination of conference arrangement and other academic activities to facilitate the cooperation in astronomy research in East Asia
- Setting the developmental goal of East Asian Core Observatories Association
- Annual directory meeting to ensure the effective achievement of the scientific cooperation envisaged by EACOA



**Up coming meeting**  
EAMA

EAYAM  
@ Ishigaki city, Japan  
On Nov. 13-17, 2017

## **East Asian Observatory (EAO)**

The EAO is formed by EACOA for the purpose of pursuing joint projects in astronomy within the East Asian region.

In the era of very large scale astronomical instruments, East Asia will be competitive internationally by combining their funding resources, their technical expertise, and their manpower. The intention of EAO is to build and operate facilities, which will enhance and leverage existing and planned regional facilities. The intention of EAO is to raise funding and to build an observatory staff, separate from that of the EACOA institutions. As partners of the EAO, the EACOA institutes will help to establish the funding and to oversee the governance of EAO. The communities represented by the partners in EAO would have full access to all EAO facilities.

The EAO is chartered as a non-profit Hawaii corporation. Its first task is to assume the operation of the [James Clerk Maxwell Submillimetre Telescope](#) (JCMT) on the summit of Maunakea, Hawai`i. Pursuant to an agreement with the University of Arizona, the EAO also provides engineering and IT support to the [UKIRT Observatory](#) (UKIRT).

## **Opinions of the Korean Astronomy Community on the EAO Issues raised by EAO Director Paul Ho on Mar. 25, 2017 - Collected by Changbom Park**

Collected responses from Korean astronomers and merged them to give a summarized opinion to each issue.

**1. Should EAO sign MOU with subaru project. and if we are interested, how do we proceed. there is a suggestion that we should use the EAO time, e.g. 10 nights in 2018, to so a single focused large project, across the entire region. this is to prepare the case and interest for the EA regions to engage in large programs instead of individual PI projects. (i enclose the talks from the region for the recent subaru science and instrumentation workshop. these show the interests in the region for engaging Subaru).**

(Conclusion) There is a unanimous opinion that it is not the time to sign the MOU with the Subaru project. There exists not a single support for the idea.

(Reasons)

a. Such a decision is better to be made on top of local community support, but there has been no serious discussion within Korean astronomical community. People are very much worried that the decision procedure for JCMT is repeated for Subaru.

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b. EAO's plan for raising 3M USD should be made before signing any legal document. It is believed that EAO is not ready to sign any formal agreement with Subaru. The MOU draft should be reviewed by a lawyer as it appears to lack clarity (For example, according to the MOU there is no way to terminate the agreement by one party without agreement with the other party. Unreasonably strong binding agreement!)

c. It is difficult to justify the contribution for Subaru if the telescope time access will be made as described in the current MOU draft. There should be discussions on how to use the Subaru time within and among the communities of each country rather than pre-determining it. It is not desirable to run a large program right in the beginning.

(Suggestion) EAO could sign a kind of Letter of Interest.

(Comments) The discussion during the recent Subaru Workshop was a free discussion among non-official participants, and should not be used as a basis of official decisions.

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**2. should EAO engage on UKIRT. it is quite complicated because UA has been uncertain as to whether they have money or not.**

(Conclusion) No, at least for now.

(Reasons)

- a. Interest in UKIRT is very low in Korea. Man power of Korea is limited and there seems to be only a few people who might be able to do sciences with UKIRT.
- b. It is desirable to watch the situation of UKIRT for some time.

**4. should EAO continue to pursue EHT via JCMT.**

(Conclusion) Conditional yes (i.e. if there is no extra cost)

(Reasons)

- a. Investment on JCMT is now proved to have little benefit for Korean astronomers.
- b. Depends on the review on JCMT this summer.

**5. should EAO sign agreement with vietnam.**

(Conclusion) Conditional yes.

(Reasons) Depends on if Vietnam pays her share or gets some limited privilege/status.