

At 65 years old, the challenge of a dream. An astronomical observatory in Cebu where star lovers can interact with each other!



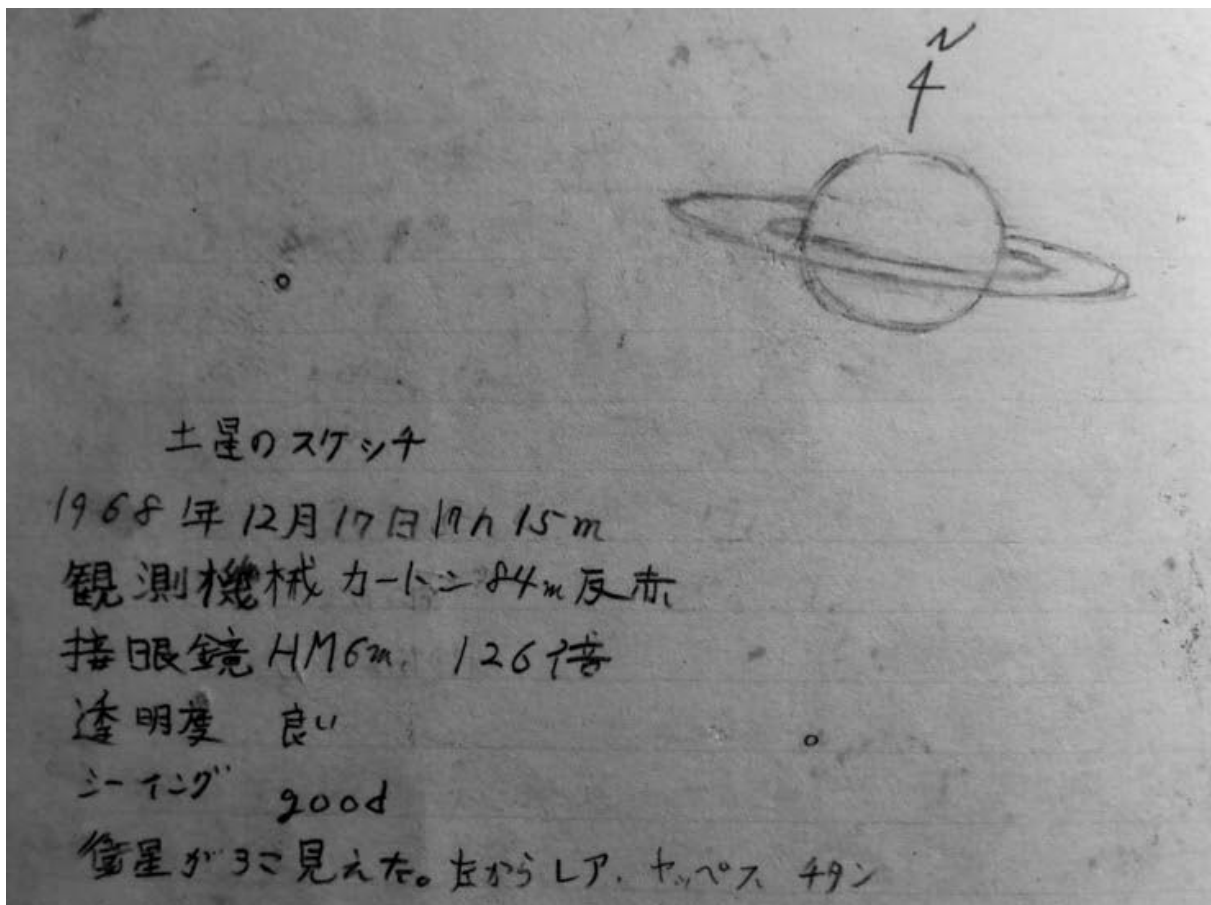
I love the stars.

So, I will move to the Philippines with one body.

A 65-year-old decision!

Nice to meet you. My name is Tomio Akutsu, and I am an amateur planetary observer. I reached 65 years of age in April this year, and I have retired.

Since I was a child, I have enjoyed watching at the stars. What triggered my interest was an astronomical telescope that I was given when I was in the first year of junior high school. The rings of Saturn that I observed at that time were so different from those in the book that they had a great impact on me.



This sketch of the first time I looked at Saturn through a telescope.

I have been observing stars for more than 50 years while working as a company employee. I have been leading a star-centered life for many years, conducting local stargazing parties and collaborating with international academic journals such as Nature for papers on my photographs.

One of the most defining moments of my life was the 10 years I spent in Cebu, Philippines, in 2003 as a dental instrument technician. While establishing the factory and working together with the local people, I was fascinated with the planetary image of the Philippines to the world.

And now, as I look forward to the rest of my life, I believed that there is only one thing I need to do.

I am convinced that there is only one thing I should do: hand over the wonderful of the stars to the next generation and help to connect astronomy fans around the world. I've been working hard to make planetary observations in Japan, but I think Cebu is the only place in the world that is suitable for planetary observation.

So I have decided to move to the Philippines in the spring of 2021. We've already bought a piece of land 500 meters west of Cebu City, but we don't have anything else to move to. We can have a place to live, etc.

I have to build it by hand and the only funding I have is my pension. The challenge of building new relationships and seeing how far I can go on my own has begun, but my love of the stars is supporting me.

I want Japanese astronomy fans, Filipinos, and people around the world to see the Southern Cross, the Eta-Carina Nebula, the Great Magellanic Cloud in the low sky, and the wonderful Milky Way from Cebu. I would like to start a project to build an astronomical observatory in Cebu Island to provide an opportunity for people to get interested in the stars, to interact with astronomy fans, and to spread the information.

I hope you will support me in this decision and my dream. Thank you very much for your support and cooperation.



45cm Newtonian telescope (hand made tubu assembly)



It's so beautiful, but you can't observe it ! ?

I want to make a place where we can solve those issue !

The starry skies of Cebu Island are unspeakably beautiful. I remember the first time I saw it, I thought it was not an exaggeration, but "it really looks like it can be taken in one's hand".

At first, however, I wasn't thinking of doing astronomical observation in Cebu. But I happened to meet a local astronomer who showed me an image of a nearly stationary planet, and I was astonished. This astronomer is Mr. Chirstopher Go, who is famous for taking high-resolution images of planets. So I brought my telescope to Cebu Island and started to take planetary images.

The stars in Japan's night sky look bright and shiny, but that's because we're looking up at them from beneath the strong currents of the jet stream. Really beautiful stars don't twinkle. This is because the flow of air above the sky is stable and there is little fluctuation in the air.



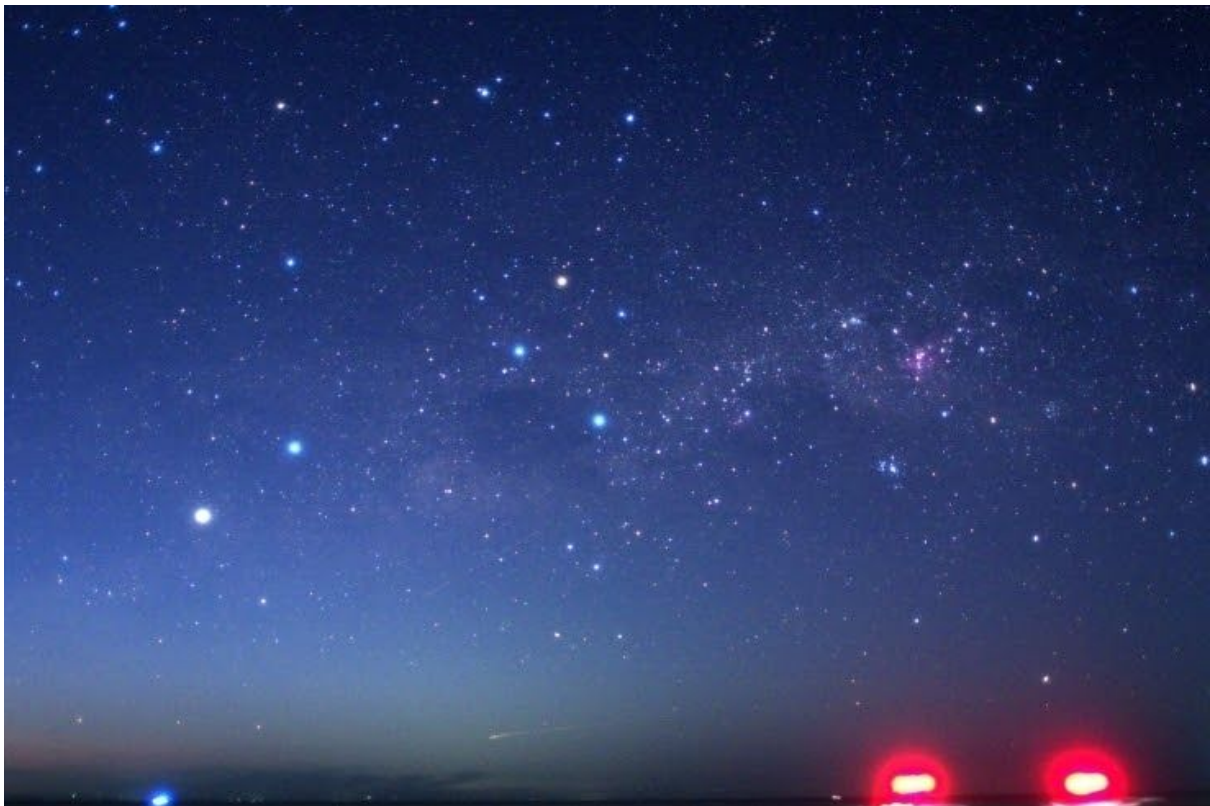
Cebu is at 10 degrees north latitude, completely free of the effects of the jet stream flowing into the northern hemisphere, with only the trade winds flowing from east to west. That's why it's the perfect place to capture the stars (planets) with a clear, unshaken image. The small change in atmospheric temperature between day and night is also an advantage for stargazing. This makes astronomical observation easy and enjoyable, even for beginners.

I've observed in Australia, New Zealand, Hawaii, Indonesia, Taiwan, China and Thailand. Cebu Island is one of the best places in Asia for astronomical observation, and there are few places in the world where conditions are as favorable as those in Cebu.

Cebu is a perfect place for astronomical observation, but the economy is not so rich and there is no real observatory in the island. This is a great loss for both the world's astronomy lovers and the local people.

Therefore, I decided to build a stargazing facility in Cebu Island by using my experience of building telescopes and facilities..

I have been holding astronomical observation sessions in Japan and have seen participants fascinated by the beauty created by nature. That's why I want to bring the real stars to the children and people of the Philippines. I launched this project.



Southern Cross from Cebu Island



**Establishing the first astronomical observatory in Cebu
to show the world the fascination of the stars !**

Although Cebu is one of the most beautiful places in the world to see the stars, there is no full-scale observatory in Cebu Island. So I would like to come to Cebu as soon as possible to build an astronomical observatory and record my observations of the planets. I hope that local people and tourists alike will enjoy looking at the stars.



There are two main goals we want to achieve in this project: **to provide scientifically valuable data to the world, and to communicate the attraction of stars to many people.**

To achieve the first objective, which is to provide academically valuable data to the world, Cebu is blessed with a very favorable observation environment that allows us to collect valuable data.

Planetary observations, which capture changes, are always changing in shape and form. For this reason, 24-hour planetary observation requires worldwide cooperation. In Asia, however, there are few facilities that allow us to observe planets under favorable conditions. The observations in Cebu will be a valuable data set for future generations to obtain in Asia.

In fact, Christopher Go, the man who inspired the observation in Cebu, and who is now a close friend of the team, has been highly acclaimed for his achievements in providing the world with wonderful images of the planet.

Your support through this crowdfunding campaign will allow us to purchase a sliding-type observatory to house two large telescopes and to move the telescopes from Japan to our new location.

In order to achieve the second objective, "to introduce the fascination of the stars to many people," I would like to set up not only an observatory but also a guesthouse in the future.

Once the observatory is established, we will start with optional tours to experience the splendor of the stars, and then we will create a place where tourists can relax and gaze at the stars while enjoying the rich nature and comfortable cottages. Many people like to look at the stars, but feel that looking through a telescope is too difficult. We will provide such people with an environment in which they can easily enjoy star gazing.

(*This crowdfunding is only for the purpose of establishing the observatory. The second crowdfunding round is planned for the second goal of providing observations, where we will prepare the environment for you to observe.)



I also want local people, especially children, to know how fun it is to observe the stars. Once the project is on track, I would like to organize tours and lectures for local people, as well as visiting local schools to hold events such as visiting observatories.

I am expanding my dream to include an astronomical observatory to obtain academic data, a guesthouse where tourists can enjoy the beautiful stars of Cebu, and education for local children.



Connecting the Stars. Connect with the stars.

To bring smiles and connections through astronomical observation in Cebu Island.

Humans have been connecting the stars, drawing constellations and passing on their stories from generation to generation since long ago. I, too, have been connected to many people around the world through the stars and have had wonderful encounters with them.

I capture the beautiful stars that exist only in this moment and pass them on to the next generation. Through astronomical observations, we will connect people around the world who love the stars. This project was launched in order to realize such a dream.

The first astronomical observatory in Cebu will be the first of its kind in Cebu, and we will build a system that will allow local and international astronomy fans and school students to watch it. We would like to build a guesthouse where people can stay at the observatory and build a community of people who want to observe.

We want to be an "astronomical observatory" that connects locals, visitors, and those with a deeper interest in the stars.

Furthermore, I hope that I can provide opportunities for Filipinos to develop an interest in astronomy through star-gazing, and this will lead to a friendship between Japan and the Philippines.



The observatory is scheduled to open in December 2021. At that time, we are planning to hold an event for the Japanese Association of Cebu Island and local people, including children, to see the observatory.

The good thing about stars is that they are common to the whole world. That's why it's easy to identify, communicate, and interact with people all over the world. Astronomical observation is a tool for sharing beyond racial and national boundaries.

Of course, we look at the stars when we observe, but I believe that it's not so much what we see as who we share it with that has a big impact on our lives. The attraction of astronomical observation is that it allows me to enjoy my life through the stars and through people. I am determined to create a place in Cebu where many people can experience the fascination of astronomical observation and learn about the beauty of the stars.

I would like to ask for your support for the realization of my dream.



※The project is now complete when Tomio Akutsu opens his astronomical observation facility in Cebu, Philippines by December 31, 2021.

However, there may be a delay in travel due to the effects of the new coronavirus and other factors. In such cases, the project will be postponed according to the circumstances.

For more information on the conditions of the return of this project, please refer to the "Notes on Returns" at the link (https://readyfor.jp/terms_of_service#appendix) .

※About returns

Please note that the following are not included in this crowdfunding return

- Co-ownership of the astronomical facility
- Use of the observatory/ observation tour (This is the second crowdfunding project, and we will provide a safe and secure environment for you to observe.)

As the purpose of this project is to build the foundation of the observatory, the amount of other facilities will be minimal.

We are planning another crowdfunding campaign in order to be able to take you to the observatory next time (next year). Thank you for your continued support.

Experience beautiful stargazing in Cebu

We would like you to see the stars that can be observed in Cebu.

- **【Postcard Course】** ¥5,000

- (1) Thank you letters.
- (2) Put your name on the roof and the Astronomy Media website as a supporter of the project.
- (3) Postcards of celestial objects taken in Cebu

We will send you a postcard of the stars you can see in Cebu.

- **【Photo Book Course】** ¥10,000

- (1) Thank you letters.
- (2) Put your name on the roof and the Astronomy Media website as a supporter of the project.
- (3) A booklet of photographs of celestial objects taken in Cebu.

We have put it into this book that we want you to feel that you are connected under the starry sky.

- **【Event Invitation Course】** ¥30,000

- (1) Thank you letters.
- (2) Put your name on the roof and the Astronomy Media website as a supporter of the project.
- (3) Invitation to an astronomical event in Japan

It is scheduled for summer 2021 in the Kanto area.

We hope you will be able to observe it once in Japan, and feel the difference when you see it in Cebu someday.

- **【Online Event Course】** ¥50,000

- (1) Thank you letters.
- (2) Put your name on the roof and the Astronomy Media website as a supporter of the project.
- (3) Special videos taken in Cebu + Exclusive online events (e.g., lectures and live streaming)

Hard to get there this time, but

We are going to hold a limited online event where you can experience astronomical observation in Cebu Island.

- **【Support Course】 ¥5,000**

(1) Thank you letters.

(2) Put your name on the roof and the Astronomy Media website as a supporter of the project.

To the extent that we do not charge a return fee, we will allocate most of your support to the implementation of the project.

- **【Support Course】 ¥10,000**

(1) Thank you letters.

(2) Put your name on the roof and the Astronomy Media website as a supporter of the project.

To the extent that we do not charge a return fee, we will allocate most of your support to the implementation of the project.

- **【Support Course】 ¥30,000**

(1) Thank you letters.

(2) Put your name on the roof and the Astronomy Media website as a supporter of the project.

To the extent that we do not charge a return fee, we will allocate most of your support to the implementation of the project.

- **【Support Course】 ¥50,000**

(1) Thank you letters.

(2) Put your name on the roof and the Astronomy Media website as a supporter of the project.

To the extent that we do not charge a return fee, we will allocate most of your support to the implementation of the project.

- **【Support Course】 ¥100,000**

(1) Thank you letters.

(2) Put your name on the roof and the Astronomy Media website as a supporter of the project.

To the extent that we do not charge a return fee, we will allocate most of your support to the implementation of the project.

- **【Support Course】 ¥300,000**

(1) Thank you letters.

(2) Put your name on the roof and the Astronomy Media website as a supporter of the project.

To the extent that we do not charge a return fee, we will allocate most of your support to the implementation of the project.

- **【Support Course】 ¥500,000**

(1) Thank you letters.

(2) Put your name on the roof and the Astronomy Media website as a supporter of the project.

To the extent that we do not charge a return fee, much of your support will be used to implement the project.