Join us as we travel to the Summit of Mount Kwasan in Yamashina ward of Kyoto city to visit Kyoto University’s Astronomical Observatory. Kwasan observatory was only the second university to be established in Japan in 1929, and you can learn about the 90-year history of research that has taken place here. Even though these Japanese Western-style buildings were most commonly seen during the twentieth century, this is still a place of cutting edge scientific research. Thanks to Professor Kazunari Shibata of Kyoto University, you’ll be able to access a fascinating site not usually open to the public.

Kwasan Observatory: This astronomical observatory, is nicknamed the “The Home of Amateur Astronomy” as it is considered to be the foundation of modern astronomy in Japan today. Inside the Main Building equipped with a dome spanning 9m diameter, it has a 45-cm-diameter telescope—the third-largest refracting telescope in Japan. You can also visit the history museum and other places that display observation materials and items of interest. It is usually private and only accessed for academic purposes, but is being opened especially for ICOM Kyoto 2019 participants.