

Preface

The teaching contents of science for the elementary school children and the junior and senior high school students with visual impairment are essentially same with those for the general school children and students.

However, the coaching of general school is visual-centered, therefore the same teaching methods can not be used for the children and the students with visual impairment.

On the other hand, the information from the nature science targets at is diverse and we can get rich information by using various senses even without eyesight.

In order to give the lessons of science to the children and the students with impaired vision, we need to consider the characteristics of the handicap and find out the best way of experiments and observations and the organized build-up methods of experiences and so on. By these considerations, the children and the students with impaired vision can be proactive in doing the experiments and the observations and can learn the system of the nature.

Science education for the children and the students with impaired vision made a major progress since the 1950s, and in the 1970s, the idea that the science lessons of those children and students should include many kinds of experiments and observations has become basic one. However, at that time, there were some blind schools where the teachers decided that their students could not do any experiments and observations, and some schools just told the stories of the science to their students. Then, in order to overcome this situation, the teachers and the researchers that were involved in the science education for the students with visual impairment arouse the momentum to establish a workshop where the members could join regularly and exchange the information.

In August, 1980, Science Section of National Conference on the Education of the Blind School made a proposal of the establishment of the conference and was adopted.

Under the condition, in November 21st, 1980, a meeting was held to establish the conference at the Special Needs Education School for the Visually Impaired, University of Tsukuba.

At that meeting, the Conference was named “ Japanese Association of Science Education for the Blind” in English, and it was commonly called “JASEB” from the initials of each word. It was decided that November 21st is a memorial day of the establishment of the Conference. Also, it was decided that the yearly Conference was held and the bulletin “JASEB NEWS LETTER” was published. After that, the members of the Conference tried to advertise the establishment of the Conference throughout the nation. As a result. On August, 1981, the first Conference was held in Tokyo, and since then the yearly conference has been held.

The bulletin “JASEB NEWS LETTER”, the first issue, was published in June, 1982.

Since then the NEWS LETTER has been issued once a year.

36 years have passed since the inauguration of the Conference and the thirty-fifth issue was

published this July.

“JASEB NEWS LETTER” is originally for the exchanges of the researches by the members. In March, 2007 (Heisei 19), the back numbers of the NEWSLETTER can be browsed in the form of PDF format by the home page of Special Needs Education School for the Visually Impaired attached to Tsukuba University.

This is because not only members but non-members and those who are concerned with science education for the children and the students with impaired vision and people who are interested in the science education with five senses can share the wide experiences and knowledges.

And this time our dream has come true. The homepages of JASEB has been opened.

The PDF formats of the newsletters published so far are posted there. In the future this site will be updated every time JASEB NEWS LETTER is published.

AT present our homepage is available only in Japanese. But in future years, we hope the main contents will be searched also in English.

May, 2017 (Heisei 29)

Yoshiko Toriyama

The president of JASEB