

AES Assists Japanese TV Crew

Nippon Hoso Kyokai (NHK) — the Japanese National Broadcasting Company — is producing a twelve-part television series about the geological evolution of planet Earth to be called *The Miracle Planet*. The series will explore particularly the fragility of the Earth's atmosphere. Last June, an NHK video crew arrived in Canada to film the seventh episode of the series — the remnants of the Ice Age in the High Arctic.

Special NHK program director was Kenichi Maruyama. Besides filming the majestic but impassive geological features, Maruyama wanted to film the people at work in AES's ice surveillance and weather observing stations. AES wrestles with the reality of the High Arctic atmosphere and converts it into data of use to both North America and the entire world.

Government permission to film was requested and granted and the NHK video crew benefited from AES knowledge and expertise. The AES-NHK link was coordinated by senior communications advisor Brenda O'Connor and Arctic Operations regional superintendent Dennis Stossel.

The program included filming at Eureka and Resolute weather stations. At Resolute the weather office, upper-air station, airport, Inuit settlement, and the new AES hangar were filmed.



Standing in front of an AES ice reconnaissance aircraft, are Kanichi Maruyama (left) NHK television crew leader, cameraman Shigeru Shimizu and Dennis Stossel, Arctic coordinator, AES Central Region.

Film was also shot from an ice observing aircraft. As June is off-season for ice observing in the High Arctic, a Lockheed Electra had to be specially requisitioned and flown into Resolute. The 8-hour flight included Axel Heiberg, Ellesmere, Cobourg, Devon, Bylot, and north Baffin islands. NHK were very pleased with the results. Superintendent Stossel says that at a height of 2000 metres, in mostly cloud-free skies, textbook examples of the evolution of the Earth's crust were shot.

Participants in the *Miracle Planet* filming were electronic technician Jerry Keable, and ice observers Graham Campbell, Donald Isaacs, Cheryl Layton and Bill

Webb. Comments Stossel: "It was rather unique to hear Messrs. Isaacs and (video crew member) Sakitsu discussing some of the operational facts in French." ACIR's Tom Kilpatrick also contributed to the success of the operation.

AES should receive a complimentary copy of the unedited NHK video tapes, which should prove useful for recruiting meteorological technicians for various High Arctic employment duties.

Adapted from a report by Dennis Stossel.