

## ***Interactive comment on “On recent (2008–2012) stratospheric aerosols observed by lidar over Japan” by O. Uchino et al.***

**Anonymous Referee #2**

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Paper is well written and could be sent forward pretty much as it is currently written. It is a nice contribution on a topic of significant current interest. I do have a few minor comments which the authors and editors may wish to consider:

There is an extensive discussion of the Mt. Pinatubo eruption which, while correct, seems out of place in this paper. I understand the desire and need to place Nabro in context of a much larger event the discussion of Pinatubo which occupies 2 full pages could be significantly shortened without damaging the paper at all.

Line 23, page 22760. What do the authors mean by ‘first’ observations? Certainly the eruption of Nabro has been noted in other papers (Bourassa’s Science paper for example with OSIRIS observations thereof).

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How dependent is the IBC on the assumed extinction to backscatter ratio?

Figures 1 and 5 seem awfully crammed together. I know it is ‘traditional,’ but I don’t think that there is any reason to do this so I’d prefer to see the individual profiles (by date at least) separated more clearly.

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Interactive comment on Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss., 12, 22757, 2012.

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