

The International Day of Light



BACKGROUND

The International Year of Light 2015 was been amongst UNESCO's most successful International Years with **13,168 events in 147 countries**, reaching 100s of millions

As an enduring follow-up, the UNESCO General Assembly on 14 November 2017 declared the date of **16 May** as a permanent and annual **International Day of Light**

UNESCO Resolution C39/40



WHY THE 16 MAY? WHAT ARE THE THEMES?

The 16 May is anniversary of the day of first laser operation in 1960

Lasers have transformed society through healthcare & the internet, and laser science is internationally recognized in over 20 Nobel prizes

But the **International Day of Light** is not just about light science.
The themes are very broad.

Science: astronomy, biology, chemistry, physics, photonics ...

Lighting: design, architecture, cities, energy

Culture: art, music, poetry, history, philosophy

Development: education, energy, climate change, light poverty

LEARN MORE AT www.lightday.org

Contact Us

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF LIGHT 16 MAY



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

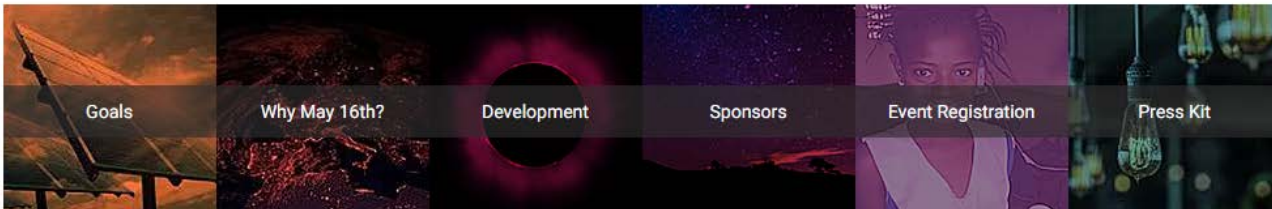


International
Day of Light

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UNESCO Proclaims May 16th
as International Day of Light



Goals

Why May 16th?

Development

Sponsors

Event Registration

Press Kit

UNESCO HQ FLAGSHIP EVENT 16 MAY 2018

Earlybird announcement

UNESCO HQ in Paris will see a high profile event on 16 May 2018 with lectures, symposia and round-tables on areas of basic science, light in architecture and culture, international collaborations, science policy, and more.

Keynote lecturers are Nobel laureates **Claude Cohen-Tannoudji** and **Kip Thorne**, and other speakers will include leaders from the fields of science, design, architecture, as well as representatives from SESAME, CERN, ICSU, and ICO.

The inauguration will include cultural interludes, light painting displays, an exhibit from the Mexican Museum of Light, a photonics science show, and will also be accompanied by both interior and exterior display installations to highlight the unifying power of light.

The event is free but requires invitation and registration. More speakers and registration details to be announced in early 2018 on www.lightday.org

UNESCO funding is not available for attendees but we can provide an invitation letter to help you seek local support from your organization

YOUR OWN EVENT - ORGANIZATION

Events need not be held only on 16 May. We expect most events will take place on the day itself but logistics may make it more convenient to choose another day (ideally in April-June 2018).

Another reason to hold an event on another date is because you may both want to attend the Paris event and organize a local event of your own.



Note: a version of the UNESCO logo exists without the date but showing the date of 16 May makes sense when wanting to link with lasers and photonics

YOUR OWN EVENT - STEPS

1. Choose a date
2. Define a speaker and activity programme
3. Different formats can work (1/2 day, full day, day-night)

If you have little funding to invite external speakers this does not really matter; universities have an excellent range of potential speakers from different areas

Presenting as an Invited speaker at an event recognized by UNESCO is very attractive for speakers

If possible keep talks from local speakers short at 20 minutes and aim for a wide range of subjects e.g. science, astronomy, engineering, architecture, art. Leverage connections in different faculties and departments

External speakers usually wish to speak for 45-50 minutes

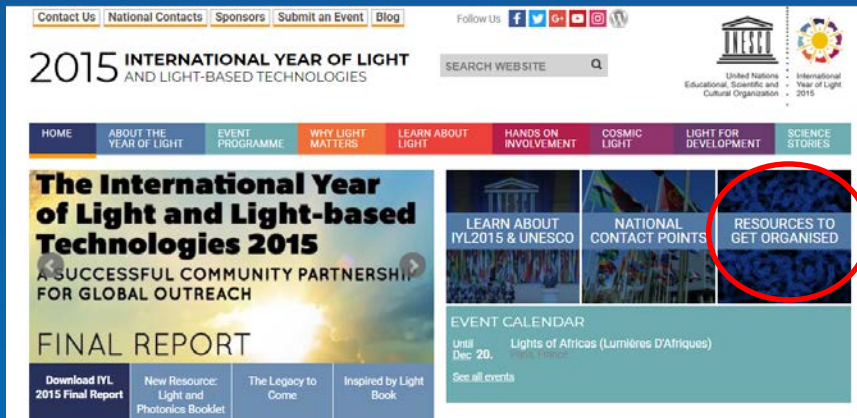
4. Contact university press office and local newspapers. Talk about light!

YOUR OWN EVENT - RESOURCES

There are many resources from the International Year of Light that can be readily reused for an International Day of Light event

New resources will be continually placed online on lightday.org

light2015.org



lightday.org



Opening an event with a video and displaying posters creates a special atmosphere

YOUR OWN EVENT - DEVELOPMENT

Consider a short presentation on the UN goals of sustainable development and how optics and photonics can help achieve them



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



YOUR OWN EVENT - DEVELOPMENT

The UN sustainable development goals are incorporated in the logo or the International Day of Light



YOUR OWN EVENT - DEVELOPMENT

There are many resources to prepare a short presentation on the subject from the International Year of Light www.light2015.org



YOUR OWN EVENT - OUTREACH

If your event extends into the evening, a public outreach event or lecture with demonstrations is a very popular means of engaging with local school children or even a public audience



UNESCO has its own schools network that we can contact

aspnet.unesco.org

Network Directories

Country Coordinators
Member Schools

SOCIAL MEDIA

Int. Day of Light
@IDL2018

Check Int. Day of Light website: lightday.org
Subscribe to Int. Day of Light Newsletter:
eepurl.com/cSKq41

International Day of Light
16 May

2:15 PM - 22 Jun 2017

42 Retweets 39 Likes

42 Likes 39 Likes

#IDL2018

SPIE @SPIEtweets · Nov 29

The first International Day of Light is May 16 2018!
Plan your celebration and get funding with an SPIE IDL Micro Grant.
Apply by December 15:
spie.org/IDLgrant
#IDL2018

7 Retweets 10 Likes

Photonics UJI @PhotonicsUji · Dec 1

¿ Nos ayudas a difundir en Castellón la importancia de la Luz en nuestra sociedad? #IDL2018 goo.gl/RymPTr dil@uji.es

Translate from Spanish

Día internacional de la Luz
Castellón, 16 de mayo de 2018
Menador espai cultural

Aprender, Compartir, Descubrir, Divulgar, Crear, Experimentar

¿te apuntas?
goo.gl/RymPTr

19 Retweets 15 Likes

A DAY OF LIGHT IS EVERY YEAR

Above all, remember that the International Day of Light will come around every year

So things that don't work well in 2018 can be improved in 2019!

An international Steering Committee ensures long term governance and so there will be assured support from UNESCO and the regular society partners in the future



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