

# The International Day of Light



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

• 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](http://www.lightday.org)

---

Contact Us

**INTERNATIONAL DAY OF LIGHT**  
16 MAY

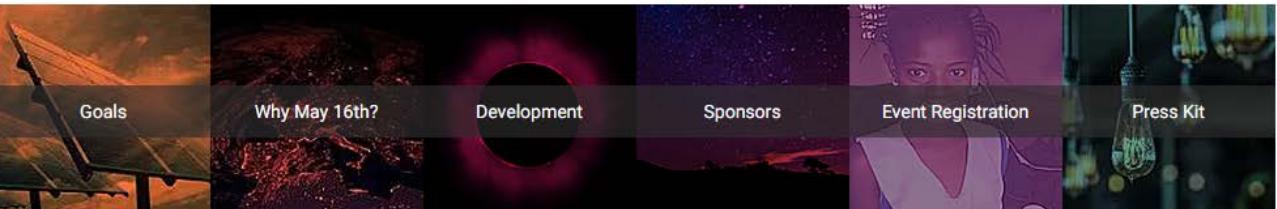
[Home](#) [About](#) [News](#) [Events](#) [National Nodes](#) [Resources](#) [Press Room](#)

  
United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

  
International  
Day of Light



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](http://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](http://lightday.org)

light2015.org

The International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies 2015

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF LIGHT

16 MAY

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF LIGHT Resources

IDL Resources

Educational

Images

Videos

Books

Reports

Flyer

16 May

International Day of Light

lightday.org

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF LIGHT

16 MAY

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF LIGHT Resources

IDL Resources

Educational

Images

Videos

Books

Reports

Flyer

16 May

International Day of Light

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



# YOUR OWN EVENT - DEVELOPMENT

---

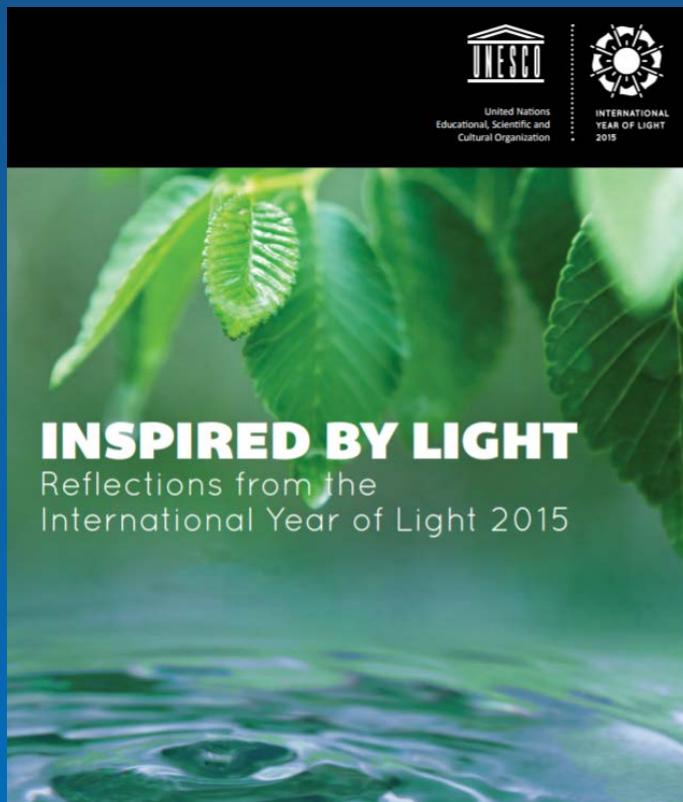
The UN sustainable development goals are incorporated in the logo or the International Day of Light



# 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](http://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](http://aspnet.unesco.org)

[Network Directories](#)

Country Coordinators  
Member Schools

# SOCIAL MEDIA

Int. Day of Light  
@IDL2018

Following

Check Int. Day of Light website: [lightday.org](http://lightday.org)  
Subscribe to Int. Day of Light Newsletter:  
[eepurl.com/cSKq41](http://eepurl.com/cSKq41)



International Day of Light  
16 May

2:15 PM - 22 Jun 2017

42 Retweets 39 Likes

Comment 42 Share 39 Like Email

SPIE PR @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:  
[#IDL2018](http://spie.org/IDLgrant)



Comment 7 Share 10 Like 10 Email

Photonics UJI @PhotonicsUji · Dec 1  
¿Nos ayudas a difundir la importancia de la Luz en nuestra sociedad? #IDL2018 [goo.gl/RymPTr](http://goo.gl/RymPTr) [dil@uji.es](mailto:dil@uji.es)

Translate from Spanish

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



Comment 19 Share 15 Like 15 Email

#IDL2018

# 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



**International  
Day of Light  
16 May**