

The International Day of Light 2024



International
Day of Light

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East African Summer School on Optics and Lasers, 2024

Background

The International Year of Light 2015 saw 13,168 events in 147 countries, reaching a total audience (physical and via all media) estimated at 100s of millions worldwide.

As an enduring follow-up, the UNESCO General Conference in 2017 declared the 16 May as the International Day of Light. The International Day has multiple objectives:

- promote the importance of the science and applications of light.
- address challenges in sustainable development, health, education.
- explain the importance of science education.
- strengthen existing collaborations and stimulate new partnerships.

The 2024 edition is the 7th celebration of the International Day of Light. This is a perfect opportunity to review our progress and share our experiences.

A key aim is to promote science for sustainable development



Optical science can contribute to achieving all the sustainable development goals

Photonics for sustainable development



Remote sensing & imaging
Spectroscopy for monitoring



Diagnostics for imaging
Sterilization and water purification



Affordable lights in remote communities
Communications infrastructure



Solar power
Energy efficient and smart lighting



Photonics for sustainable development



Structural monitoring of roads and bridges

Communications infrastructures



Photonics enabled Internet of Things

Intelligent & energy-efficient urban lighting

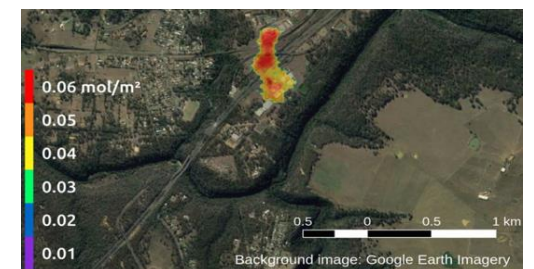


Remote sensing & environmental monitoring

High-performance computing infrastructures



Photonics is a leader in creating a wide range of partnerships for societal benefit



Announcing the theme for 2024

LIGHT IN OUR LIVES

#LightDay2024

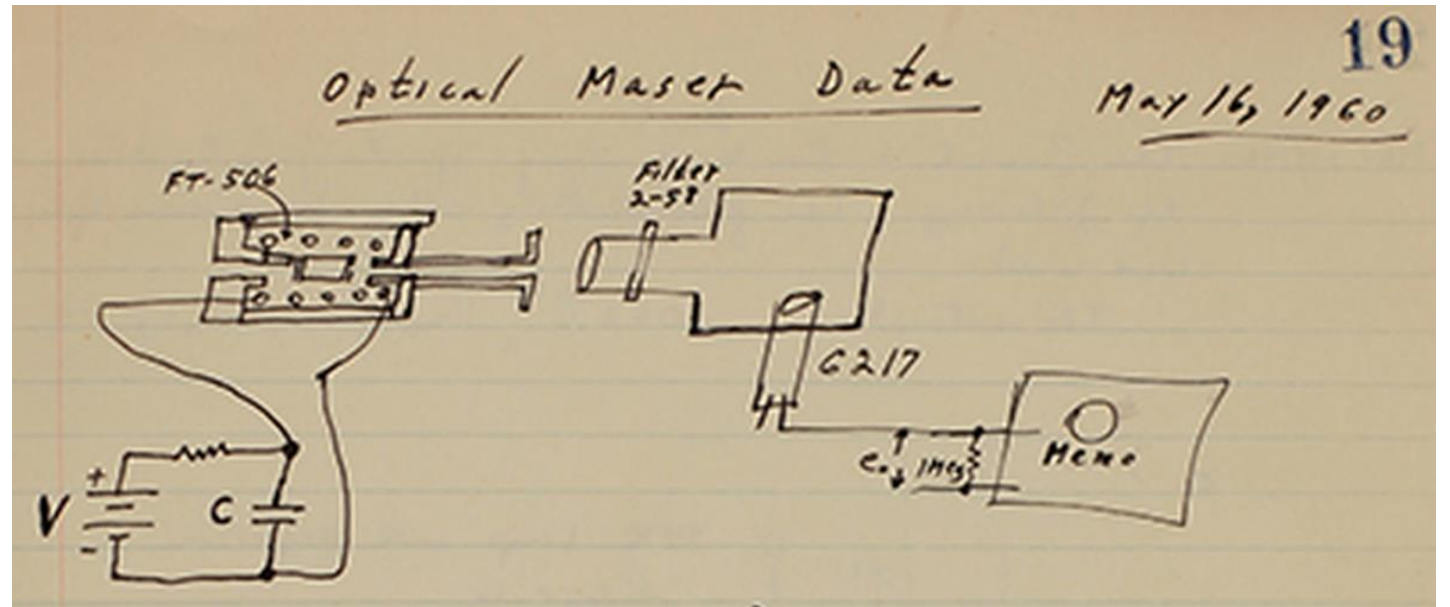
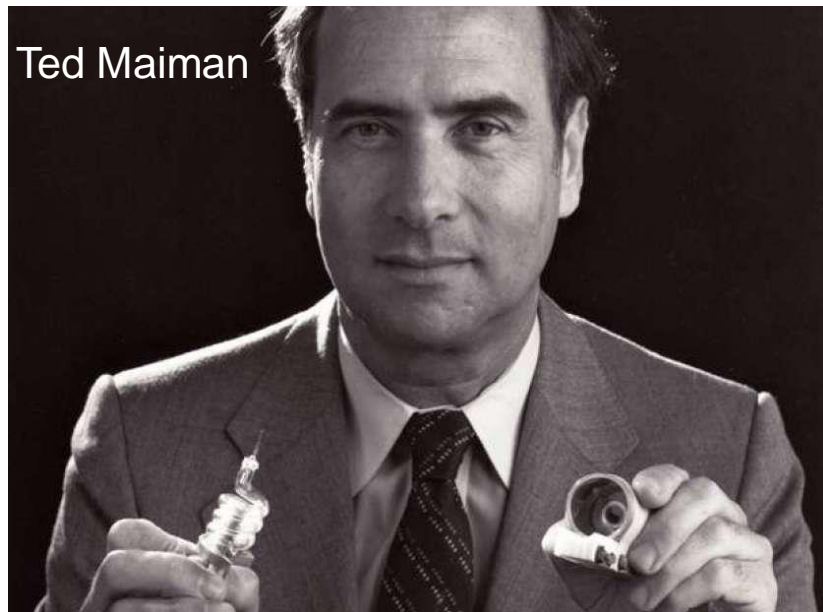


Photonics, Technology, Healthcare, Imaging, Art, Culture, Natural Light, Lighting, Photosynthesis and Life, Light Pollution, Astronomy, Light and Colour in Nature ...

Why 16 May?

Ted Maiman first reported laser oscillation on 16 May 1960

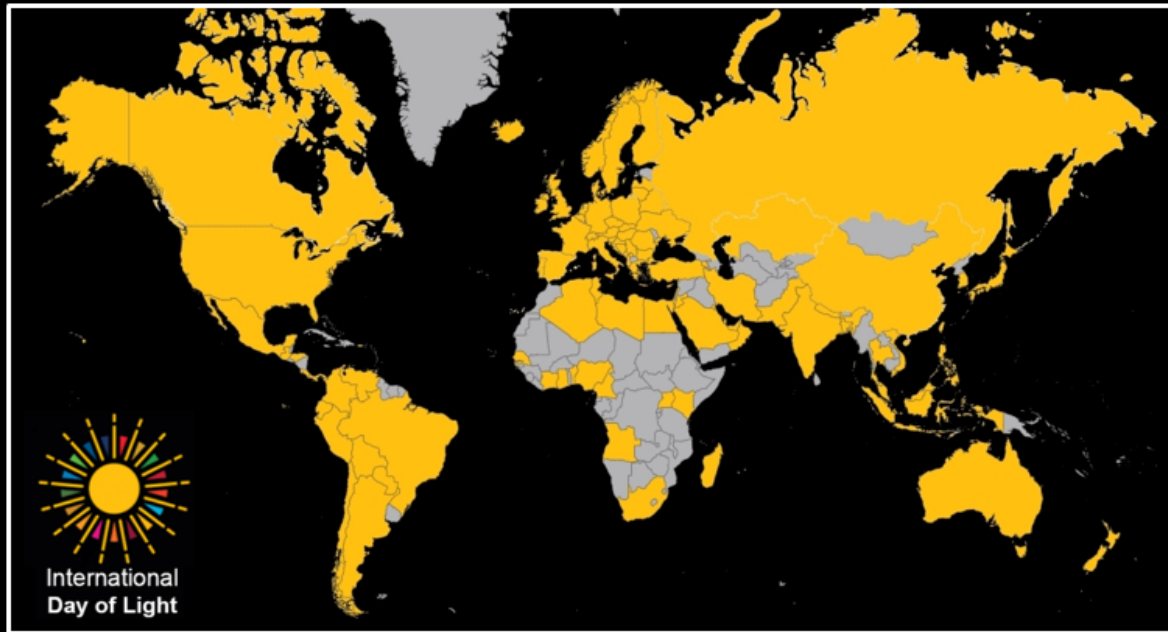
The story of the laser is a reminder that the technologies we enjoy today have arisen both from basic curiosity-driven research and applied development in industry



Summary statistics for the six editions of IDL from 2018-2023

Registration includes an estimate of “participation” and a broad descriptive category

2500+ events in 100+ countries & worldwide



Also a message from the International Space Station

Breakdown by event type

- 68% Science-themed conferences & online webinars etc
- 12% Art-themed events, exhibitions & festivals
- 8% Events specifically targeted to schools
- 7% Competitions
- 5% Open Days & Citizen Science

2 global IDL campaigns #SeetheLight & #TrustScience

Breakdown by UN regional groups

- 10% Events held worldwide
- 3% Africa
- 22% Asia-Pacific
- 8% Eastern Europe
- 18% Latin America & Caribbean
- 39% Western Europe, North America & Others

Total audience for 2023: 60,000+ (small events) ; 550,000+ (global events, festivals)

Total audience for 2018-23: 350,000+ (small events) ; 2,000,000+ (global events, festivals)

Announcing the theme for 2024

LIGHT IN OUR LIVES

300+ events taking
place in 2024



Photonics, Technology, Healthcare, Imaging, Art, Culture, Natural Light, Lighting, Photosynthesis and Life, Light Pollution, Astronomy, Light and Colour in Nature ...

2021 #TRUSTSCIENCE

During 2020 and 2021 we ran social media campaigns – this had been planned in any case and it greatly helped in maintaining visibility during the pandemic.



The graphic features the text "TRUST SCIENCE" at the top in a large, multi-colored font. Below it is a grid of 18 black and white portrait photographs of diverse individuals. At the bottom of the grid, the text "and supporters from 95+ countries" is written in white, followed by the URL "www.lightday.org/trust-science-2021" in orange.

The 2021 campaign focused on Trust in Science

Confidence in science has become a partisan political issue, so our aim was to promote discussions on the topics within the photonics community.

Support from Nobel laureates & other major prize winners, science communicators, science advocates etc led to 4500+ signatories.

Led also to political visibility.

Other themes and highlights ...

2022 *Our future is light. Play your part* (IPS, Optica, SPIE)
Einstein Nobel Prize Centenary
75 years of synchrotron science
Lighting the Charles Bridge (Prague) in Ukraine Colours
Optica Foundation 20th anniversary Challenge
James Webb Space Telescope activities
Total lunar eclipse 16 May 2022

2023 *Possible Through Light* (IPS, Optica, SPIE)
Liter of Light Pyramid Display associated with COP27
IAU Dark & Quiet Skies Survey
International Year of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development
LUCI Declaration on the Future of Urban Lighting
Gdansk Festival of Light
One Dollar Glasses and Goodvision
D/A Daylight Talks



DA DAYLIGHT TALKS				
	#12	#13	#14	#15
TALK	DAYLIGHT: SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT ON CHANGING PERCEPTIONS	USING NATURAL LIGHT AS A TOOL FOR SOLAR AND ARCHITECTURAL QUALITY	NORTHERN LIGHT	GEOGRAPHY OF HOPE
DATE/TIME	06 JUNE 2023 08:30-10:00	07 JULY 2023 08:30-10:00	08 JULY 2023 08:30-10:00	13 JULY 2023 10:30-11:45
SPEAKER	PIER OLAV FJELD ARCHITECT NORWAY	OMAR SAADINE ARCHITECT CANADA	SORTE MANDRUP ARCHITECT DENMARK	YVONNE FARRELL & SHELLEY WENHAM SCULPTOR ARCHITECTS IRELAND
	FACIO	Royal Danish Academy	Royal Danish Academy	Royal Danish Academy



Regular promotion of partner actions via the lightday.org newsletter



Optical care and affordable eyeglasses



Liter of Light exhibiting solar art installation at the Pyramids of Giza



Celebrate the International Day of Women and Girls in Science




International Day of Light at ISBAT University, Kampala, Uganda

DA DAYLIGHT TALKS

WATCH FOR FREE

RELEASE DATE
02 MARCH 2023

FUENSANTA NIETO,
NIETO SOBEJANO
ARCHITECT



PRESENTED BY VELUX

Daylight Talk Series 2023



Student branches of the Chinese Optical Society mobilise for IDL2023

Thanks to all members of the Steering Committee since 2018



International Day of Light

Steering Committee



Endorsing Organizations



Platinum Sponsors



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