

2015 INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF LIGHT AND LIGHT-BASED TECHNOLOGIES

PROGRAMME

PRESENTATION OF THE IYL 2015 FINAL REPORT
MONDAY 3 OCTOBER 2016



UNESCO HQ
Place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris, France
Room II



09:00 -10:00 Welcome and Morning Coffee

10:00 -10:10 Opening Remarks

Moderator: Romain Murenzi
Director of the Division of Science Policy and
Capacity Building, UNESCO

10:10 -10:40 IYL 2015 Report Overview

John Dudley
Chairman of the IYL 2015 Steering Committee

10:40 -12:00 Selected Topics of IYL 2015
Partner Presentations

***The UN Sustainable Development Goals: How Can
Photonics Help?***
Eugene Arthurs
CEO, SPIE

Women in Science Outreach
Lucia Marchetti
The Open University & UK IYL2015 Outreach Chair

The Year of Light in Africa
Yanne Chembo
ERC Laureate, CNRS

Off-Grid Lighting and Power for All
Barbara Kreissler
Director, B2G Professional Lighting
Global Public & Government Affairs, Philips Lighting

The Ibn Al-Haytham Legacy of IYL 2015
Azzedine Boudrioua
Université Paris VIII and President of the
Ibn Al-Haytham International Society

10:40 -12:00 Selected Topics of IYL 2015
(cont.) Partner Presentations

Refugee Outreach - Physics for All
Sara Schulz
The German Physical Society (DPG)

PHARES in Paris – light for the public
Milène Guermont
Artist & Engineer (Sculpture PHARES)

12:00 -12:10 Towards an International Day
of Light - an IYL 2015 Legacy

Ana María Cetto
Director of the Museum of Light, México
and Instituto de Física, UNAM

12:10 -12:20 The Soft Power of UNESCO and
Science for Peace

Maciej Nalecz
Director's Designated Representative for
Strategic European Programs, Nencki Institute
Polish Academy of Sciences

12:20 -12:30 Closing speech and Official
Delivery of the IYL 2015 Report

Flavia Schlegel
Assistant Director-General for Natural
Sciences, UNESCO

12:30 -14:30 Cocktail and Buffet Lunch



United Nations
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International
Year of Light
2015



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The International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies 2015

A SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP
FOR GLOBAL OUTREACH

FINAL REPORT



The International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies 2015

FINAL REPORT / EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

I. BACKGROUND

1. At the request of Ghana, Mexico, the Russian Federation, and New Zealand, an item on the proclamation of 2015 as the United Nations International Year of Light was included in the agenda of the 190th session of the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). 190 EX/Decision 47 invited the Director-General to support all efforts leading the United Nations General Assembly to proclaim 2015 as the International Year of Light. After adoption of 37 C/Res.25 at the 37th Session of the General Conference of UNESCO, the International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies 2015 (IYL 2015) was proclaimed at the UN General Assembly (A/RES/68/221) on 20 December 2013, requesting that UNESCO, mindful of the provisions of paragraphs 23 to 27 of the annex to Economic and Social Council Resolution 1980/67, inform the Assembly at its seventy-first session on the implementation of the resolution.
2. The organization of IYL 2015 was implemented through the **UNESCO International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP)** and an operational Global Secretariat hosted at the UNESCO Category I Institute, the **Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP)**. The choice of ICTP as Global Secretariat was motivated by its strong links with international optics organizations through its Trieste Optical Sciences Advisory Board, and its participation together with IBSP in UNESCO's Active Learning in Optics and Photonics (ALOP) initiative.
3. IYL 2015 provided an unparalleled opportunity to **demonstrate the importance of light science and its applications in contributing to the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**. In particular, light-based technologies contribute directly to the effective delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as they provide practical and cost-effective solutions to challenges in areas such as: agriculture and food science, energy and environment, poverty eradication, water purification, combatting diseases, and climate change. Moreover, light science is an inspiring subject to stimulate children's interest in education, and industries based on light in the field of *photonics* and are major economic drivers. A central aim of IYL 2015 was to raise global awareness of the importance of these issues and to stimulate associated capacity building and research in the basic sciences and engineering. In addition, IYL 2015 also promoted themes of visual arts and culture, architecture and light pollution, all of which resonated with the objectives set in the resolution A/RES/68/221.
26. The works of **Ibn Al-Haytham** were frequently highlighted during 2015 in events organised by national committees, an international Ibn Al-Haytham Working Group, and Founding Partner 1001 Inventions. A 2-day conference on the *Islamic Golden Age of Science for the Knowledge-Based Society* took place from 14 to 15 September 2015 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, and included an exhibition from the Qatar National Library on the preservation of the cultural heritage of Islamic manuscripts. Overall, events on Ibn Al-Haytham took place in 29 countries: Algeria, Bahrain, Brazil, Canada, China, Egypt, Eritrea, France, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, and United States of America.
27. IYL 2015 partners participated in awareness raising actions in the frame of the Climate Change Conference of Parties **COP21** held in Paris from 5 to 12 December 2015. *The Human Energy Project* installation promoted renewable energy sources to light up the Eiffel Tower; **the project Phares installed an energy-efficient beacon of light sculpture at the Place de la Concorde**; the NGO *Liter of Light* promoted ecologically sustainable and cost-free lighting in developing countries, and the *Flowers of Change* installation was a participative artwork linking ideas of light, colour, and ecology.
28. Events promoting astronomy and **dark skies** were carried out worldwide, with International Astronomical Union activities including the *GalileoMobile* outreach project which took place in 20 schools in South America, and the *Globe at Night* citizen science collection of dark sky data in 104 countries. A major open access collection of images and photographs on light themes, *Light: Beyond the Bulb*, was used in 682 exhibits held in 40 countries and translated into 12 languages. Many partners also organised observing events of the 20 March 2015 solar eclipse and the 27 September 2015 lunar eclipse as part of their IYL 2015 programme.