

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF LIGHT

INFORMATION MEETING UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS NEW YORK, USA 16 MAY 2013

PROGRAMME

The partnership coordinating the International Year of Light 2015 proposal will be represented by a five-person delegation with competences spanning all areas relevant to the project's aims: fundamental science and technology; science in developing countries; interaction with industry; multidisciplinary; education and public outreach. The delegation members and their short biographies are given overleaf.

A series of four short 10 minute presentations is envisaged.

- 1. Overview and Aims:** this presentation will summarize the aims of the International Year of Light, and will describe the international partnership that has been assembled, its experience, its coordination and its organization.
- 2. Activities during the International Year of Light:** this presentation will describe a selection of the planned activities during the International Year of Light, explaining how they will improve public understanding of the importance of light and light-based technologies.
- 3. Cross cutting Themes:** Light is a subject that is accessible to all ages and all cultures. This presentation will describe cross-cutting themes relating to education, history, and young people. A particular focus will be to explain how light technologies can support goals of global development and sustainability.
- 4. Perspective on Education:** Light is a tremendous subject to motivate education at all levels. This presentation will consider how an International Year of Light will open up new possibilities for education in both developed and developing countries, and enhance international cooperation in research & development and education.

The presentations will be kept brief. A written Prospectus will also be made available.

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DELEGATION MEMBERS

Ana Mariá Cetto, representing the International Year of Light Steering Committee

Ana Mariá Cetto is a Mexican physicist from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). She has held senior positions at UNAM and chaired the project for the creation of its Museum on Light inaugurated in 1996 and is presently leading its future development phase. She has served as Deputy Director-General of the IAEA and has held positions in a number of international organisations including the Interciencia Association, the Third World Organisation for Women in Science and the International Council for Science (ICSU), the International Foundation for Science (IFS) and the Governing Board of the United Nations University.

Yanne Chembo Kouomou, representing the African Physical Society

Yanne Chembo Kouomou is an early-career researcher in optics who studied at the University of Yaoundé, Cameroon. He obtained his PhD from the University of Yaoundé in 2005 and, after additional doctoral and postdoctoral studies in Europe, was named Laureate of a prestigious European Research Council Fellowship at the French CNRS in 2011. As well as his research in advanced optical science and technologies, he works with the African Physical Society whose seat is in Ghana, has participated in the Physics for Development programme of the European Physical Society, and is involved in a range of conference and outreach activities in Africa.

John Dudley, representing the International Year of Light Steering Committee

John Dudley received his PhD from the University of Auckland in New Zealand before taking up a professor position at the Université de Franche-Comté in France in 2000. His research lies at the interface between fundamental research and industrial development. He holds several patents and is a Fellow of the Optical Society (OSA) and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). He serves as President of the European Physical Society and sits on the steering committee of the World of Photonics Congress, one of world's major events bridging the gap between optical science and industry.

Anthony M Johnson, representing the International Year of Light Advisory Board and the ICTP

Anthony M. Johnson is Director of the Center for Advanced Studies in Photonics Research (CASPR), Professor of Physics and Professor of Computer Science & Electrical Engineering at the University of Maryland Baltimore County. He previously worked in industry at Bell Labs for 14 years, he is a Fellow of the Optical Society (OSA), the American Physical Society (APS), the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the African Scientific Institute (ASI), and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). He served as President of OSA in 2002, has worked with the outreach and education program of the International Centre for Theoretical Physics UNESCO-ICTP since the 1980s, and has participated in schools and workshops held in Africa and in other international locations.

H. Philip Stahl, representing the International Year of Light Advisory Board

H. Philip Stahl is a senior optical physicist at NASA specializing in the optical technologies associated with advanced space telescopes. He has previously worked in the optics and photonics industry, has been founder and CEO of an optics consulting company, and will serve in 2014 as the President of SPIE, the international society for optics and photonics. He is actively involved in promoting interactions between research and industry, and has founded an association to facilitate technology development and to encourage young people to pursue careers in science and technology.