United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

International Year of Light 2015

IOP Institute of Physics
Next year marks a large number of anniversaries of significant discoveries relating to light:

- 1015 – early works on optics by Ibn al-Haytham;
- 1815 – light as a wave proposed by Fresnel;
- 1865 – Maxwell’s electromagnetic theory of light;
- 1915 – Einstein’s theory of general relativity;
- 1965 – cosmic microwave background (Penzias and Wilson); transmission of light in optical fibres (Kao)
UNESCO’s international aims are:

• To promote light technologies for improved quality of life
• To reduce light pollution and energy waste
• To promote women’s empowerment in science
• To promote education amongst young people
• To promote sustainable development

In addition, in the UK:

• To energise existing public engagement networks and create new cross-discipline collaborations that will thrive after IYL2015
Activities

Launch activities (TBC):

IYL- UK committee also hope to run activities with partners such as the British Science Association, BBC, National Science and Engineering Competition, Science Museum Lates and the Royal Institution.
Throughout 2015 the Institute will:

- Give preference to light-themed applications for our schools/outreach grant schemes
- Run light-themed Physics in the Field events
- Support the set-up of the “Light Collection” of teaching resources at the National STEM Centre
- Produce Light-related Marvin & Milo packs
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