

# UNESCO's INTERNATIONAL DAY OF LIGHT DÉBUT

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## International Day of Light



Light and recognition of its innate power across multiple disciplines is now recognized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Beginning in 2018, the UNESCO *International Day of Light* will be held on May 16th every year, the anniversary of the first successful operation of the laser in 1960. One of the goals of UNESCO's May 16th event is to highlight and explain the intimate link between light and art and culture, enhancing the role of optical technology to preserve cultural heritage.

Light has always had significant impact on the visual and performing arts, literature, and human thinking. This theme provides an important bridge between science and culture and will aid in breaking down the boundaries between these fields.

### **An International Program**

The UNESCO *International Day of Light* will consist of coordinated activities on national, regional, and international

levels. Activities will be planned so that people of all ages and all backgrounds can gain an appreciation for the central role of light in science as well as art, culture, and entertainment.

### **International Day of Light Flagship Event**

An official inauguration ceremony will take place at the headquarters of UNESCO in Paris, the City of Light, in the afternoon and evening of May 16, 2018. It will involve presentations from Nobel laureates and other scientists and industry leaders, as well as a wide range of other partners from sectors including art, architecture, lighting, design, and NGOs.

The Portuguese company OCUBO, a member of the International Light Festival Organization (ILO), will participate in the flagship event in Paris according to Nika Perme, Head of International & Curatorial Relations for OCUBO. The company specializes in light festival content and design, such as video mapping, with a special emphasis on interactive application development which enables public interactivity and participative installations. OCUBO is a platinum sponsor of the flagship event.

Reminiscent of worldwide Millennium celebrations, one potential for light festivals and events is the possibility to create an international "First Light" series of light events linking the world through light on May 16th. If you wish to organize an event yourself under the UNESCO umbrella, please note that it must respect the general goals of the *International Day of Light* in promoting science, education, art, culture, etc., related to the broad themes of light and light-based technologies.

For further information, or to request registration of your May 16th Day of Light event for inclusion in the official *International Day of Light* 2018 calendar, please contact: Jorge Rivero González, IDL Outreach Officer, International Day of Light, Email: [jorge.rivero@eps.org](mailto:jorge.rivero@eps.org). For more information, go to: <https://www.lightday.org/press-room>.