Key advancements noted in the articles:

- The development of efficient LEDs provide cost-effective lighting solutions, which are especially impactful in developing nations and lower greenhouse gas emissions worldwide;
- Fiber optics has revolutionized the way humans interact in the 21st century by easing the communication and the transmission of information;
- The science of light has created diagnostic equipment, along with incoherent and coherent light solutions for treatment of outbreaks, such as COVID-19;
- Light-based sensing technologies allow for more accurate monitoring of environmental health as countries assess climate change;
- Developments in imaging and remote sensing are enabling sustainable agriculture goals that help mitigate food shortages.

The best thing we can do is put our confidence in scientists and engineers who work with light and in many other areas of science to develop solutions to the many challenges we are facing, and to guide us towards a brighter future.

These visionary leaders have shared thoughtful articles that we hope will resonate with scientists and non-scientists alike. Each topic also connects to current and future solutions around the pandemic we are living through now. IEEE Photonics Society is proud to support this initiative.
All are encouraged to celebrate the International Day of Light through the campaign at lightday.org/seethelight, view and share the video and join the conversation on all social media channels using #SEETHELIGHT.

The date of 16 May was chosen for the International Day of Light because it was the day that Theodore Maiman demonstrated the first laser in 1960. It recognizes the visible impact of science and engineering and their contributions like the laser.

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"SPIE is proud to be one of the founding sponsors working to establish the International Day of Light. The solutions to today’s global challenges will all involve light-based technologies, either directly or indirectly. Highlighting this impact is crucial, as we must broaden the awareness of light in our lives across the globe."

John E. Greivenkamp  
SPIE President  
University of Arizona, USA

"OSA’s partnership with our fellow societies to support this campaign is essential to building public awareness of the importance of the science of light and light-based technologies. Light has to be on the forefront of minds for voters, policy-makers, STEM educators and - most importantly - the next generation of our workforce."

Stephen D. Fantone  
OSA President  
Optilas Corporation, USA

The #SEETHELIGHT campaign is brought to you by the International Day of Light Steering Committee, The Optical Society (OSA), SPIE, the international society for optics and photonics and IEEE Photonics Society.

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Resources:

1. Experience the message and articles at lightday.org/seethelight
2. Join the conversation with: #SEETHELIGHT
3. Visit the International Day of Light Press Room at lightday.org/press-room
4. Read the Fact Sheet

#SEETHELIGHT is a worldwide message for the International Day of Light on 16 May encouraging all to join a conversation and celebrate the importance of the science of light and light-based technologies in our lives. The International Day of Light is a global initiative that provides an annual focal point for the continued appreciation of light and the role it plays in science, culture, art, education, and sustainable development, as well as fields as diverse as medicine, communications, and energy. Visit: lightday.org/seethelight

Contact: seethelight@lightday.org
Press Room: lightday.org/press-room

Courtesy of HRL Laboratories, LLC