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INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF LIGHT: FRENCH-JAPANESE SEMINAR ON EMERGING MATERIALS FOR OPTICS

The United Nations declared 2015 as the International Year of Light. The UN has stimulated events worldwide celebrating the role of light-based technologies in global sustainable development. The Nikon and Essilor International Joint Research Center (NEIJRC) was one of several academic and scientific research organizations that organized a special seminar on emerging materials for optics.

Light-based technologies represent a huge potential to address many challenges to humanity and to improve quality of life worldwide. Optics and photonics – the science of generating, controlling, and detecting particles of light – impact a wide range of human activities with applications spanning many markets and industrial fields. This includes technologies in daily life from smartphones, laptops to medical instruments and lighting.

On 3 June, a French-Japanese seminar, hosted by the French Embassy in Japan, attracted over 70 scientists and technologists from private and public sectors who reviewed recent advances in materials such as nanophotonics and smart surfaces that could contribute to future optical solutions. France and Japan have well established scientific and industrial competences in optics and photonics fields which both countries consider to be a major economic driver.

The event was jointly organised by NEIJRC, the National Institute for Materials Science (NIMS), the Institute of Industrial Science (IIS, University of Tokyo), the Laboratory of Integrated Micro Mechatronic Systems (LIMMS) and the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS) in Tokyo.

NEIJRC – created by Nikon and Essilor in 2009 – is a fairly unique example of an international industrial joint research centre. It grew out of a desire to invest in long-term innovation to explore advanced applications for optics and materials. This year Nikon and Essilor celebrate 15 years of partnership.



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