



Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad

Public Lecture

Speaker: Prof. Majid Ebrahim-Zadeh
The Institute of Photonic Sciences (ICFO), Barcelona, Spain

Title: "A Brief History of Light"

Time: Friday, 02 September 2016, 18.00 hrs.

Venue: K. R. Ramanathan Auditorium, PRL

Abstract

Light has been an essential element of existence since the earliest days of human life. It has taken many forms, from the natural sunlight, to lanterns and light bulbs, to modern-day lasers. At every stage in human history, light has been generated, manipulated and exploited to nourish and enhance the the quality of our life. The impact of light on human life has never been as great as in the past 50 years, following the invention of the laser. Since then, the laser has become a vital enabling tool in many fields of knowledge in physics, chemistry, biology, and medicine, and has had an unprecedented impact on the technological progress of mankind. In this lecture, I will provide a brief overview of the history of light, from the early observations and descriptions, to later scientific discoveries in the 20th century, which led to the invention of the laser. I will also describe the ubiquitous applications of lasers in various scientific and technological areas with direct impact on our daily life.

The Speaker

Majid Ebrahim-Zadeh is Professor of Photonics and Group Leader at ICFO - The Institute of Photonic Sciences, Barcelona, Spain. He joined ICFO as ICREA-Professor in 2003. He received his PhD from St Andrews University, UK, in 1989. He has a long-standing track record in the field of Optical Parametric Oscillators and nonlinear frequency conversion technology for over 20 years. His pioneering contributions to this field have led to the realization of new generations of innovative laser light sources such as ultrafast femtosecond lasers in different wavelengths.

During his academic career, Professor Ebrahim-Zadeh has trained over 25 PhD students and 20 post-doctoral fellows, and has been the principal investigator of several national and international research programmes. He has published over 450 papers in peer-reviewed journals. He has edited 2 books and authored 15 major invited book chapters. Professor Ebrahim-Zadeh is the recipient of several honors and awards, including Royal Society of London - University Research Fellowship (1993-2001), Royal Society of London merit awards (UK: 1995, 1999), Innova Prize for technology innovation and enterprise (Spain: 2004), and Berthold Leibinger Innovation Prize (Germany: 2010). He is a Fellow of Optical Society of America and SPIE.

Professor Ebrahim-Zadeh is also an active entrepreneur. He is the co-founder, president and chief scientist of Radiantis, a leading manufacturer of cutting-edge ultrafast OPO systems and frequency conversion sources.

High Tea at 17.30 hrs.

ALL ARE WELCOME

