



**Zaheer Science Foundation Cordially Invites you to Celebrate the
UNESCO-International Day of Light 2022 (IDL2022)**

Online Workshop on

“Disruption of Education during the Covid-19 Pandemic”

(30 August 2022)

Media Partner: Virtual Studio Pvt. Ltd., Noida

PROGRAMME

10:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	<p>Inaugural Session Chair: Dr. Harsh K. Gupta, <i>Chairman, ZSF</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome Address: Dr. Harsh K. Gupta, <i>Chairman, ZSF</i> • About the Workshop: Prof. Zahid H. Khan, <i>UNESCO-IDL Node for India and Vice Chairman, ZSF</i> • Address by Dr. Nakul Parashar (Guest of Honour), <i>Director, Vigyan Prasar, Govt. of India, New Delhi.</i> • Address by Prof. M. Aslam (Guest of Honour), <i>Former Vice-Chancellor, Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), New Delhi</i> • Address by the Chief Guest: Prof. M. Moni, <i>Professor Emeritus & Chairman (CIDS&CITSA), Shobhit University and Former Director General, National Informatics Centre, New Delhi</i> • Vote of Thanks: Dr. Tabassum Jamal, <i>Secretary, ZSF</i>
11:45 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Break
12:00 p.m.- 2:00 p.m.	<p>Technical Session – I Chair: Prof. Zafar Ahsan, <i>Former Head, Department of Mathematics, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh</i></p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. S. Kazim Naqvi, <i>Officiating Director, FTK Centre for Information Technology, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi</i> • Prof. K. Srinivas, <i>Head, ICT & Project Management, National Institute of Educational Planning & Administration (NIEPA), New Delhi</i> • Dr. Noor Mohammad, <i>IAS (Retd); Trustee, Buniyaad Foundation, New Delhi</i> • Prof. Zahid H. Khan, <i>Vice Chairman, ZSF</i> and Dr. Tabassum Jamal, <i>Secretary, ZSF, New Delhi</i> • Mr. Venkatesh Sharma, <i>Director, Techno-Marketing, Virtual Studio Pvt. Ltd., Noida</i>
2:00 - 2:30 p.m.	Lunch Break
2:30 - 4:30 p.m.	<p>Technical Session – II</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair: Dr. Tabassum Jamal, <i>Secretary, ZSF, New Delhi</i> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Ram Boojh, <i>CEO, Mobius Foundation, New Delhi</i> • Dr. Reyaz Ahmad, <i>Emirates Aviation University, Dubai, U.A.E.</i> • Mrs. Anupama Ramachandra, <i>Principal, DPS Electronic City, Bangalore</i> • Dr. Pragya Verma, <i>Teacher, Nahar International School, Mumbai</i> and Mrs Ayesha Khan, <i>Teacher, DPS International, New Delhi</i>
4:30 - 4:45 p.m.	Break
4:45 - 5:30 p.m.	<p>Concluding Session Chair: Prof. Nupur Prakash, <i>Vice Chancellor, The NorthCap University, Gurugram, Haryana</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Discussion and Feedback from the Participants • Summing Up and Vote of Thanks: Dr. Tabassum Jamal, <i>Secretary, ZSF, New Delhi</i>

Link for Registration/Landing page of the Webinar:
https://vsworld.com/VirtualEvents/idl2022_workshop_30aug2022/

**UNESCO-International Day of Light 2022 (IDL2022) Online Workshop on “Disruption of Education during the Covid-19 Pandemic”
(30 August 2022) Organized by Zaheer Science Foundation (ZSF), New Delhi**

Background Note

The International Day of Light (IDL) is a global initiative that provides an annual focal point for the continued appreciation of light and the role it plays in science, culture and art, education, and sustainable development, and in fields as diverse as medicine, communications, energy, equity and peace. As we all know that Light technology has revolutionized the society through its applications in above mentioned fields and Industries based on light have been the major economic drivers in last few decades. Needless to state that without light-based technologies, there would neither be solar panels, LED lighting, computer monitors, telephone screens, cameras or projectors, MRI, x-ray machines, nor the Internet. New products and processes are coming on the market all the time, giving us better access to information, more reliable healthcare, and better ways of saving energy, innovative modes of learning and new forms of entertainment. There is a tremendous opportunity to raise global awareness of the ways in which light-based technologies promote sustainable development and offer solutions to global challenges in the fields of energy, education, agriculture and healthcare.

With this backdrop, the United Nations proclaimed 2015 as the International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies (IYL 2015) in which 13,168 events were organized in 147 countries and attended by millions of people from throughout the world. With such great success, the UNESCO's General Assembly decided to regularly celebrate the International Day of Light (IDL) on May 16, every year, *starting from 2018*. It is the anniversary of the first laser developed by the American physicist and engineer, Theodore H. Maiman on May 16, 1960. It is to mention that during the last sixty years the laser has completely transformed our lives due to its great contributions to healthcare, education and connecting the world through Internet.

Due to Covid-19 pandemic, during the last two years many face-to-face events had to be replaced with online activities or these were held in the hybrid mode. Since the inauguration of IDL 2018, the total audience in the International Day of Light events in these four years is estimated to exceed 2 million, including face-to-face activities, social media posts, video messages and other campaigns carried out nationally and worldwide. The social media like Facebook and Twitter were also widely used to share the information about the events organized. It shows how the people around the world have shown their enthusiasm in celebrating light.

This year is the 5th year of the International Day of Light and a large number of events are being organized worldwide by educational and research organizations through Lectures, Seminars, Webinars, Workshops, Conferences, Science Fairs, Light Shows, Quiz Contests, Demonstration of Optical Instruments etc. in the online/ offline/ hybrid mode.

The International Day of Light is administered from the International Basic Science Programme (IBSP) of UNESCO by a Steering Committee that includes representatives from a broad range of international partners. Currently Prof. John Dudley and Prof. Joseph Niemela are the IDL 2022 Steering Committee Chairs and Ms Geethu Paulose is the IDL Communications Coordinator. Also, the UNESCO has 100 IDL National Nodes that are organizing local campaigns, activities and events.

Zaheer Science Foundation, ZSF (an NGO and Think Tank, established in 1970), initiated the idea of organizing this workshop under the UNESCO-IDL Platform Event Calendar 2022, with an objective to propagate the significance of Light and Light-based technologies and to promote the public understanding on how these light based technologies touch the daily lives of everybody, and are central to the future development of the global society.

This is important to mention here that ZSF has been actively involved in the promotion of scientific research and educational reforms activities through organizing seminars and conferences at national and international level in last many years, helping in disseminating the scientific knowledge and promoting scientific temperament for nation building.

With the given theme i.e., Disruption of Education during the Covid-19 Pandemic, the workshop aims to showcase the role of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) to mitigate the sudden crisis in education sector during Covid-19 across the globe. This will also deliberate on digital capabilities and the required infrastructure to cope the challenges in the education sector especially in developing countries and emerging economies.

As we all know about the worldwide lockdown during Covid-19 which compelled the educational institutions to shut down and the only option left had been online learning. The teachers assigned work to students via internet, delivered lectures through live video conferencing using different apps like Zoom, Google Meet, Facebook, YouTube and Skype etc., which have been the major source of digital learning all through this time. On the one hand, the online learning got a tremendous boost during the Covid-19 pandemic, it badly affected the educational institutions around the world, with schools being the greatest sufferers. Throughout the world, more than 1.5 billion learners (primary, secondary and tertiary levels) were out of the school system due to lockdowns (fully or partially).

The digital divide widened between the urban and rural schools, as also between affluent and poor schools in the same city. Some estimates predict that 10 million children will never return to school since during the lockdowns they were deprived of all IT facilities- computers, laptops, smart mobile phones, internet connectivity, and regular electricity.

The workshop will deliberate as how to minimize the learning losses due to closure of the educational institutions due to lockdowns and suggest ways to bring back the 10 million children back in the mainstream of education. It will also deliberate on minimizing the digital divide in the schools so that no one is deprived of receiving the quality education.

Thus, the workshop will highlight some significant issues associated with online learning strategies, i.e. availability and access to digital devices with internet connectivity, need for safe learning spaces, creating capabilities for teachers, families and students to operate and navigate digital devices and other related aspects. Institutional arrangements and various other measures taken by Government of India to establish seamless online education system across the country will also be one of the focus points of the workshop.
