

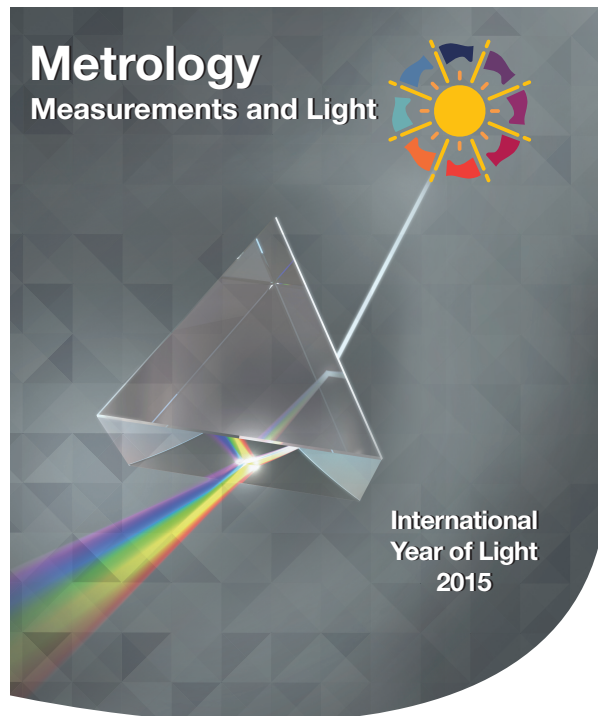
## Measurements and Light

**O**n 20 May 2015, World Metrology Day will join the 2015 International Year of Light (iyl2015.org), with day-long celebrations on the theme of Measurements and Light.

World Metrology Day celebrates the signature by representatives of seventeen nations of the Metre Convention on 20 May 1875. The Convention set the framework for global collaboration in the science of measurement and in its industrial, commercial and societal application. The original aim of the Metre Convention—the worldwide uniformity of measurement—remains as important today as it was in 1875.

The World Metrology Day project is realized jointly by the Bureau International des poids et Mesures (BIPM) and the International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML). We hope that you enjoy this site and that your Country or Metrology Organization will join us and participate in this year's event.

[www.worldmetrologyday.org](http://www.worldmetrologyday.org)



Bureau  
International des  
Poids et  
Mesures



World Metrology Day  
20 May  
[www.worldmetrologyday.org](http://www.worldmetrologyday.org)



## ICSU announces Dr. Heide Hackmann to be Executive Director and Dr. Lucilla Spini to be Head of Science Programmes

**H**eide Hackmann, a social scientist with extensive experience running international research organizations, will be Executive Director of the International Council for Science (ICSU) Secretariat from March 2015. Lucilla Spini, a biological anthropologist with experience in international science coordination, will take on the newly created role of Head of Science Programmes in early January.

Dr. Heide Hackmann joins ICSU from the International Social Science Council (ISSC), where she has been Executive Director since 2007. During her tenure she strengthened ISSC's activity profile, membership base and financial position, and forged strong links with the International Council for Science through key partnerships. These include the Integrated Research on Disaster Risk program and the Science and Technology Alliance for Global Sustainability, the consortium of international organizations that founded Future Earth, the new global research initiative on global sustainability, and coordinating input from the international scientific community on key policy processes at the United Nations. Hackmann also led the launch of the regular World Social Science Forums and spearheaded the development of a new series of World Social Science Reports. She initiated a new global social science research funding and coordination program on Transformations to Sustainability, which was launched in March 2014 as a major contribution to Future Earth. Hackmann was born in South Africa and completed her PhD in Science and Technology studies at the University of Twente, Netherlands in 2003. From then until 2007 she was Head of the Department of International Relations and National Quality Assurance and Director CO-REACH (an EU-funded multi-lateral initiative for the Coordination of Research between Europe and China) at the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW).

On 12 January 2015, Dr. Lucilla Spini took on the newly created post of Head of Science Programmes. In this role, she will manage the development and implementation of ICSU's scientific and science for policy initiatives, as defined in its Strategic Plan. Spini is an Italian national who holds a B.A. in anthropology from New York University, as well as an M.Sc. in human biology and D.Phil. in biological anthropology, both from the University of Oxford. Since 2001, she has worked on science/policy bridging, global environmental change, sustainable development and re-

search coordination for a number of international organizations, including UNESCO, UNU, and the FAO. Prior joining ICSU, she was a Giorgio Ruffolo Research Fellow in the Sustainability Science Program at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

[www.icsu.org](http://www.icsu.org)

## The 2014 AAAS Award for Science Diplomacy goes to Zafra M. Lerman

**Z**afra M. Lerman, creator and advocate for the Biennial Malta Conferences, which promote international scientific cooperation and diplomacy by convening scientists from 15 Middle Eastern nations, has been chosen by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) to receive the 2014 Award for Science Diplomacy.

Lerman—an accomplished chemist, science educator, and humanitarian—serves as president of the Malta Conferences Foundation. She was honored by AAAS for her efforts to “elevate the use of scientific cooperation as an instrument of peace, and as a pathway to better understand the role of science in addressing major societal challenges in the broader Middle East, despite the political barriers that exist at the official levels.”

The Biennial Malta Conferences bring together scientists from Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, the Palestinian Authority, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, and the United Arab Emirates to collaborate on shared science-based concerns such as regional water quality, solar-energy conversion and storage, science curricula, green chemistry, and chemistry safety and security. (Reports on the Malta Conferences have regularly appeared in *Chemistry International* since 2004; a compilation of these references and many others is available at [www.malta-conferencesfoundation.org](http://www.malta-conferencesfoundation.org))

AAAS Chief International Officer Vaughan Turekian said: “Many of the scientists who participate in the Malta Conferences could not otherwise meet face-to-face because of tensions between governments. Dr. Lerman has brought together scientists at all levels, from Nobel Prize winners to early-career researchers and students, to build collaborative links that extend beyond scientific interactions.”

The AAAS Award for Science Diplomacy dates to 1992. It recognizes an individual or small group working in the scientific and engineering or foreign affairs

communities making an outstanding contribution to furthering science diplomacy. Renamed in 2010 by the AAAS Board of Directors, the Award consists of a plaque and an honorarium of \$5,000. The AAAS Award for Science Diplomacy was bestowed upon Lerman during the 181st AAAS Annual Meeting in San Jose, California, 12-16 February 2015.

[www.aaas.org/news/zafra-m-lerman-receives-2014-aaas-award-science-diplomacy](http://www.aaas.org/news/zafra-m-lerman-receives-2014-aaas-award-science-diplomacy)

## OPCW-The Hague Award Presented at 19th Conference of States Parties

**O**n 1 December 2014, the opening day of the Nineteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons at the headquarters of the OPCW in The Hague, Dr. Robert Mathews (Australia) and the Finnish Institute for the Verification of the Chemical Weapons Convention (VERIFIN) were jointly presented with the inaugural OPCW-The Hague Award.

The Award was created by the OPCW as an outcome of its winning the 2013 Nobel Peace Prize. The Award is supported by a financial contribution from the City of The Hague. It is intended “to honour and recognise individuals and organizations that have made an outstanding contribution to achieving a world free of chemical weapons.”

Dr. Mathews and VERIFIN have made valuable contributions toward the goal of reducing and eliminating chemical weapons. In keeping with the purpose of the Award, they have been credited with providing “sustained leadership and support to the development of key concepts of the Convention, as well as to initiatives to promote chemical disarmament and non-proliferation around the world.”

Dr. Mathews is Head of the Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Arms Control Unit in the Australian Defence Science and Technology Organization. He has dedicated his career to the disarmament and non-proliferation of chemical weapons. He made significant contributions to the final drafting of the Chemical Weapons Convention, as well as to its establishment, implementation and promotion as a unique instrument eliminating an entire category of weapons of mass destruction. He has been involved in several IUPAC projects and is currently part of the task group “Updating, Piloting, and Disseminating Educational Material for Raising Awareness of the