

Foreword

Brightening our future

Light, either sunlight or coming from the moon or the stars, emitted by the fireflies or the bulbs in our room or coming out of our TV screen, is not only one of the first main vehicles of contact with the world around us but also adds beauty and fascination to our lives. Blessing all of us, it is definitely one of the corner stones of the structure of our modern world and crucial to its development.

In this Year of Light the main theme of the 12th International Conference on Hands-on Science was set to be the study of light, optics and its applications. By the importance of optics as major branch of science and by its numerous technological applications that make our everyday life easier and boost the positive prospects of development of our modern societies heading to a better brighter future for all humankind.

The book herein aims to contribute to an effective implementation of a sound widespread scientific literacy and effective Science Education in our schools and at all levels of society. Its chapters reunite works presented in this line of thought at the 12th International Conference on Hands-on Science held in Madeira Island capital city of Funchal in Portugal, July 27 to 30, 2015. From pre-school science education to lifelong science learning and teacher training, the large diversified range of works that conforms this book renders it an important tool for schools and all involved in science education and on the promotion of scientific literacy.

Vila Verde, Portugal, July 3, 2015.

Manuel Filipe Pereira da Cunha Martins Costa
Editor in chief
