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Organización
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Организация
Объединенных Наций по
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منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

Address by Irina Bokova,

Director-General of UNESCO

**on the occasion of Award Ceremony of the *UNESCO Medal “For
Contributions to the Development of Nanoscience and Nanotechnologies”***

UNESCO, 5 February 2016

Ambassador Eleonora Mitrofanova, Permanent Delegate of the Russian Federation
to UNESCO,

Ambassador, Mrs Zhang Xiuqin, Permanent Delegate of the People's Republic of
China to UNESCO,

Monsieur l'Ambassadeur Philippe Lalliot, Délégué Permanent de la France auprès
de l'UNESCO,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Distinguished Laureates,

I am honoured to welcome you all to UNESCO for this 5th award ceremony of the
*UNESCO Medal for Contributions to the Development of Nanoscience and
Nanotechnologies*.

This Medal is designed to highlight the tremendous benefits of progress in
nanoscience and nanotechnologies for our societies, for our economies, for all of
us.

This is a new branch of science, pushing ever further back the frontiers of
knowledge -- and UNESCO is committed to nurturing its full potential, to support
every woman and man, especially the most vulnerable.

In this spirit, I am delighted to congratulate our first Laureate, Professor Akasaki
Isamu.

Member of the *Japan Academy*, Professor Akasaki has made an outstanding contribution to the creation of blue light-emitting diodes – LED -- resulting in the discovery of white light sources for illumination, with profound impact on lighting technology and use across the world.

In recognition of these achievements, Professor Akasaki was awarded with 2014 *Nobel Prize in Physics*, as well as the *Kyoto Prize in Advanced Technology*.

Professor Akasaki Isamu could not be with us in person today, but he is represented by Professor Tetsuya TAKEUCHI from the same research group at the University of Mijo and I trust you will convey him our congratulations.

Our second Laureate is Professor Igor Raufovich Ashurbeyli.

Member of the *Russian Academy of Engineering*, Chairman of the non-governmental *Expert Society on Aerospace Problems*, Professor Ashurbeyli has authored numerous works in the field of new generation microelectronic devices, information systems and technologies.

In 2010, Professor Ashurbeyli received the *State Science and Technology Prize* -- I am delighted now to present you with the UNESCO Medal.

Our third Laureate is Dr Mikhail Vladimirovich Dubina, Corresponding Member of the *Russian Academy of Sciences*.

Dr Dubina has made outstanding contributions to the development of medical technologies, drawing on nanostructures, for which he has been awarded numerous prizes, including the *2003 Hellenic Award* of the European Council of Coloproctology.

Dr Dubina, I am honoured to present you the UNESCO Medal.

Our next Laureate is Professor Nicholas Kotov of the University of Michigan.

Professor Kotov is a Fellow of the *Royal Society of Chemistry*, Member of the *American Institute of Chemical Engineers* and the *American Chemical Society*,

recognised for his innovative research in the fields of ultra-strong nanocomposites and nanoscale drugs.

I am delighted to present you, Professor Kotov, with the UNESCO Medal.

Academician Gennady Yakovlevich Krasnikov is our next Laureate.

Director General of *Mikron* and the *Molecular Electronics Research Institute*, Academician Krasnikov is an eminent scientist who has spearheaded the use of nanotechnologies in manufacturing.

I am honoured to invite you, Academician Krasnikov, to receive the UNESCO Medal.

Our next laureate is Professor Jiang Lei, of the *Technical Institute of Physics and Chemistry of the Chinese Academy of Science*.

Academician of the *Chinese Academy of Science* and of the *World Academy of Science*, the holder of 40 patents, Professor Jiang Lei is breaking new ground with his work on bio-inspired surfaces with specific wettability.

I am delighted to invite you, Academician Jiang Lei, to receive the UNESCO Medal.

I wish next to congratulate Dr Natalya Pavlovna Mikhaylova.

Member of the *American Academy of Dermatology* and the *American Society for Laser Medicine and Surgery*, President of the *Eurasian Association of Specialists of Injective Methods*, Dr Mikhaylova is leading research and applications regarding nanotechnologies in aesthetic medicine.

Dr Mikhailova, I am pleased to present you the UNESCO Medal.

Mesdames et Messieurs,

Permettez-mois de continuer en français pour me tourner vers le professeur Philippe Pernod, reconnu pour son travail remarquable dans le domaine des films

actifs nano-structurés, des micro-systèmes magneto-électro-mécaniques, et leurs applications, et pour son travail sur les nanostructures magnéto-élastiques.

Professeur Pernod, j'ai l'honneur de vous présenter la médaille de l'UNESCO.

Au terme de cette liste impressionnante de talents, je voudrais témoigner mon admiration.

Votre travail permet des applications dans tous les domaines – et vous participez à cette fameuse « 4^{ème} révolution industrielle et scientifique » dont il a été longuement question au forum de Davos.

Mais au-delà de la technicité de vos travaux et des applications qu'ils autorisent, vous représentez, Mesdames et Messieurs, Chers professeurs, académiciens, une source d'inspiration, une source d'émotion et de passion, qui touche au cœur de ce qui fait de nous des êtres humains, et qui nous fascine.

Vous démontrez que l'excellence scientifique ne connaît pas de frontière – qu'elle rassemble les peuples.

Vous démontrez que plus la flamme de la science s'élève et s'affine, plus elle se renforce et vient nourrir notre travail pour construire le développement durable, pour un meilleur avenir.

Merci et encore bravo.