

WORLD METROLOGY DAY SYMPOSIUM 2025

150 Years of the Metre Convention: Science, Innovation & Global Impact

Date and time: Tuesday, 20 May 2025, 10:00 to 17:15 (CEST/Paris Time)

Location: UNESCO Headquarters, Room I, Paris, France

Languages: English and French

Format: Onsite and Livestream

Background

Every year, World Metrology Day is celebrated in around 50 countries by national metrology institutes, legal metrology entities, regional metrology organizations, and other stakeholders who rely on accurate measurements to underpin business, global trade, and sustainable development. It commemorates the anniversary of the signing of the Metre Convention (Paris, 1875) and the creation of the International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM).

Recognizing the significance of metrology, the 42nd Session of the UNESCO General Conference (42 C/Resolution 21) proclaimed 20 May of every year as World Metrology Day. In 2024, World Metrology Day was observed for the first time as an international day designated by UNESCO.

20 May 2025 will mark the **150th anniversary** of the Metre Convention—an especially notable World Metrology Day. To celebrate, an event hosted at UNESCO Headquarters will bring together Permanent Delegations to UNESCO, representatives of the BIPM's Member States and Associates, international organizations, scientists, students, and the general public, highlighting 150 years of metrology and the unique international collaboration under the Metre Convention.

Objectives

1. **Celebrate** 150 years of the Metre Convention and its impact on science and innovation.
2. **Highlight** the importance of accurate measurement for global trade, sustainable development, and scientific collaboration.
3. **Explore** emerging challenges and future directions in metrology and its role in addressing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
4. **Foster** multilateral dialogue among policymakers, scientists, and international organizations on capacity building and innovation in metrology.

Provisional Programme

Tuesday, 20 May 2025
UNESCO Headquarters, Room I, Paris, France

10:00 – 10:05 Welcome and acknowledgement by The Master of Ceremonies

Ms. Georja Calvin-Smith, Journalist, France

10:05 – 10:30 High-Level Opening Remarks

UNESCO Representative (TBC)

H.E. Mr Askar Abdrakhmanov, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of the Republic of Kazakhstan to UNESCO

Dr Wynand Louw, President, International Committee for Weights and Measures (CIPM), South Africa

Dr Bob Joseph Mathew, President, International Committee for Legal Metrology (CIML), Switzerland

10:30 – 11:00 Keynote Address

“The SI – a Tool for All Mankind”

Prof. William D. Phillips, Nobel Prize Laureate (1997), NIST – National Institute of Standards and Technology, USA

11:15 – 12:45: Panel Discussion

“Navigating the future of Metrology: Addressing Scientific and Technical Multilateralism Challenges”

*Moderator: **Dr Maguelonne Chambon**,*

Director R&D, LNE - Laboratoire national de métrologie et d'essais, France

Mr Shaofeng Hu, Director, Division of Science Policy and Basic Sciences, Natural Sciences Sector, UNESCO

Prof. Alessandro de Angelis, Scientific Attaché at the Permanent Delegation of Italy to the International Organisations in Paris

Dr Mustafa Çetintaş, Director, TÜBİTAK UME - National Metrology Institute of Türkiye

Dr Sharonmae Smith-Walker, CEO, CARICOM - Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality, Jamaica

Dr Victoria Coleman, NMIA - National Measurement Institute, Australia

12:45 – 14:30 Lunch Break

14:30 – 15:45 150 Years of International Use of the Metric System

*Moderator: **Dr Fabienne Casoli**,*

President, PSL – Paris Observatory, France

Prof. Ken Alder, Professor of History and author of “The Measure of All Things”, Northwestern University, USA

Dr Yuning Duan, Former CIPM member, NIM - National Metrology Institute of China

Dr Martin Milton, Director of the BIPM

15:45 – 17:00 Panel Discussion

“Future Challenges for Global Metrology”

*Moderator: **Ms Georja Calvin-Smith***

Prof. Willie E. May, Vice President, Research and Economic Development & Professor of Chemistry, Morgan State University, USA

Dr Nathalie von Siemens, Member of the Advisory Board, PTB - Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt, Germany

Dr Pascale Defraigne, Time and Frequency Service, Royal Observatory of Belgium

Prof. Venu Gopal Achanta, NPLI - National Physical Laboratory of India

Dr Henry Rotich, KEBS - Kenya Bureau of Standards

17:00 – 17:10 Closing Note

Dr Takashi Usuda, *CIPM Secretary, Japan*

17:10 – 17:15 Closing Remarks

Mr Shaofeng Hu, Director, Division of Science Policy and Basic Sciences, Natural Sciences Sector, UNESCO