

RESS RELEASE
WINNERS ANNOUNCED
2001/1421H KING FAISAL INTERNATIONAL PRIZE
FOR
SCIENCE

Topic: PHYSICS

The King Faisal International Prize for Science is awarded this year for physics. The Selection Committee awarded the Prize jointly to:

Professor Sajeed O. John

Professor of Physics at the University of Toronto (Canada)

and

Professor Chen Ning Yang

Albert Einstein Professor Emeritus,

State University of New York at Stony Brook (USA)

Professor John proposed a new method for the processing and transmission of information by optical means. His ideas were implemented by several experimental groups around the world. If this development comes to full fruition, it is hoped that the use of electrons, in transmitting messages within telecommunications devices and computers, can be replaced by the use of light. This would lead to faster, cheaper, and more versatile tools. The whole industry of computers and telecommunications would be profoundly transformed.

Professor Chen Ning Yang is one of the most eminent contemporary physicists. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for his major discovery of the non-conservation of parity which proved that nature, contrary to general expectation, does distinguish between left and right in weak nuclear interactions.

Professor Yang made another fundamental contribution to physics by proposing a theoretical framework which was later developed to become the basis of the present theory of the structure of matter at the smallest scales and highest energies. It is for this major contribution that he is awarded the King Faisal International Prize for Science.