

Blue-light-emitting diode

Prof. Akasaki Acknowledged as Person of Cultural Merits in 2004

Until just before the 1990s, high-performance blue-light-emitting devices (light-emitting diode: LED, laser diode: LD) were said to be impossible to realize during the 20th century. However, through tenacious and persistent research efforts over 20 years, a researcher succeeded in 1989 and for the first time brought the “new light” for the 21st century to the world. Isamu Akasaki, the then professor of Department of Electronics, School of Engineering, Nagoya University (currently a professor of Meijo University), was the researcher who conducted various studies on compound semiconductors.

High-performance blue-light-emitting devices were realized by using a compound semiconductor GaN (gallium nitride) which most of the world's researchers had given up using; thus, it was an extremely sensational event. Moreover, the GaN semiconductor is used not only as an illuminant but is also expected to be used as high-speed and high-power transistors, and ultraviolet ray detectors, that are indispensable for the next generation IT society.

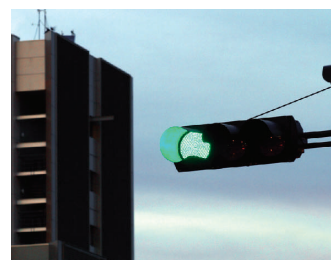
Professor Akasaki was acknowledged as Person of Cultural Merits in 2004, and awarded the Kyoto Prize in Advanced Technology in 2009 for his research achievements.



Isamu Akasaki,
University Professor



Clock Tower, Toyoda Auditorium,
Nagoya University



Traffic Light
