





Shuji Nakamura




□ **Shuji Nakamura** is a Japanese-born American electronic engineer and inventor specializing in the field of semiconductor technology, professor at the Materials Department of the College of Engineering, University of California, Santa Barbara, and is regarded as the inventor of the blue LED, a major breakthrough in lighting technology.



Career

- Nakamura graduated from the University of Tokushima in 1977 with a B.Eng.(Bachelor of Engineering) degree in electronic engineering, and obtained a M.Eng. (Master of Engineering) degree in the same subject two years later, after which he joined the Nichia Corporation, also based in Tokushima. It was while working for Nichia that Nakamura invented the first high brightness gallium nitride LED whose brilliant blue light, when partially converted to yellow by a phosphor coating, is the key to white LED lighting, which went into production in 1993.

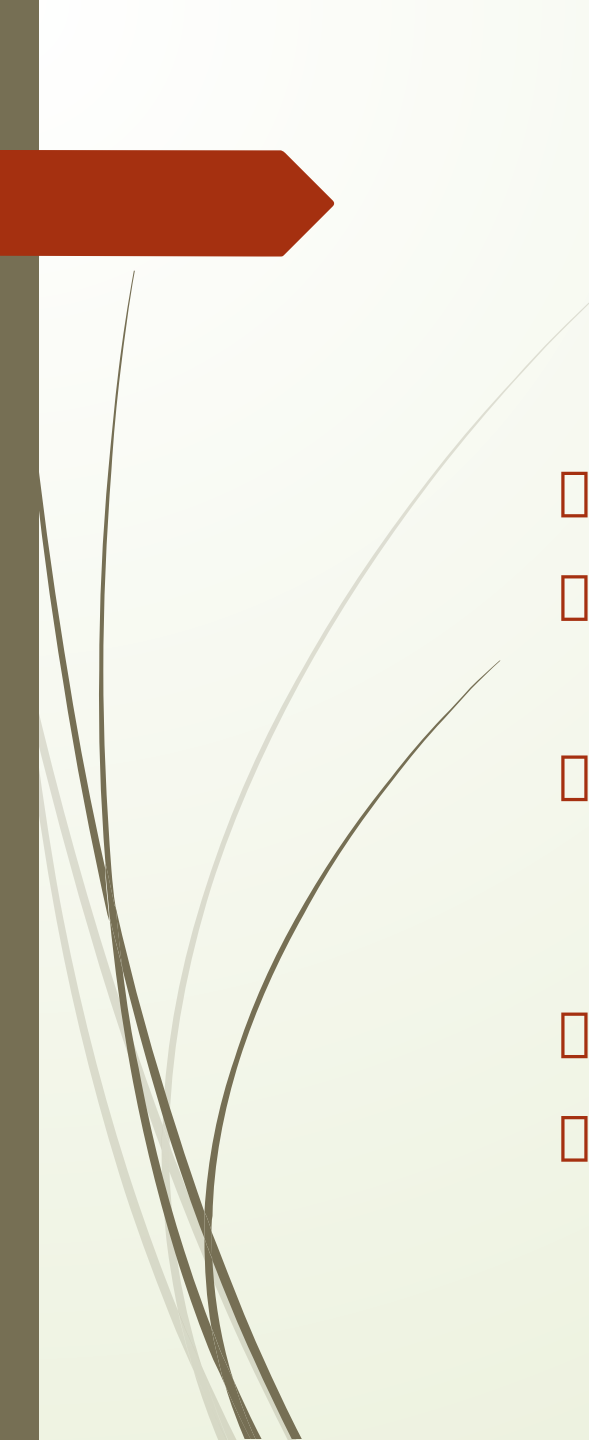
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- Nakamura has also worked on green LEDs, and is responsible for creating the white LED and blue laser diodes used in Blu-ray Discs and HD DVDs. Nakamura is a professor of Materials at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and holds over 100 patents. In 2008, Nakamura, along with fellow UCSB professors Dr. Steven DenBaars and Dr. James Speck, founded Sora, a developer of solid-state lighting technology built on pure gallium nitride substrates.
 - He is also one of the three recipients of the 2014 Nobel Prize for Physics "for the invention of efficient blue light-emitting diodes, which has enabled bright and energy-saving white light sources".



Recognition



- 2001 – Asahi Prize from the Japanese Newspaper, *Asahi Shimbun*.
- 2002 – Benjamin Franklin Medal in Physics from the Franklin Institute.
- 2006 – Finland's Millennium Technology Prize for his continuing efforts to make cheaper and more efficient light sources.
- 2007 – nominee for the European Inventor Award awarded by the European Patent Office.
- 2008 – Prince of Asturias Award for Technical and Scientific Research.
- 2008 – Honorary degree of Doctor of Engineering from Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

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- 2009 – Harvey Prize from the Technion in Israel.
 - 2012 – Silicon Valley Intellectual Property Law Association (SVIPLA) Inventor of the Year.
 - 2015 – Global Energy Prize for the invention, commercialization and development of energy-efficient white LED lighting technology.
 - 2017 – Mountbatten Medal.
 - 2018 – Zayed Future Energy Prize.