**Kenichi IGA** was born in Hiroshima in 1940. He received B.E., M.E., and Dr. Eng. degrees from the Tokyo Institute of Technology, in 1963, 1965 and 1968, respectively. From 1968, he joined P&I Laboratory of Tokyo Institute of Technology as Assistant Professor, became Associate Professor in 1974, and Professor in 1984. He served as Director of P&I Laboratory and University Library. From 1979 to 1980, he stayed at Bell Laboratories, Holmdel as Visiting Technical Staff Member.   
 He retired Tokyo Institute of Technology in March 2001 and was awarded by Professor Emeritus. Prof. Iga joined Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) as Executive Director from April 2001 to September 2007. He served as the President of Tokyo Institute of Technology from October 2007 till September 2012.

Prof. Iga first proposed and pioneered the research of surface emitting laser (VCSEL) and microoptics. He is Fellow/Life Member of IEEE, the Fellow of OSA, IEICE of Japan, JSAP, Laser Society, respectively. He is Foreign Member of NAE of USA.

He received 1992 IEEE/LEOS William Streifer Award, 1998 IEEE/OSA John Tyndall Award, 2003 IEEE Daniel E. Noble Award, 2002 Rank Prize, 1998 Asahi Prize, 2001 Purple Ribbon Prize of Japan, 2003 Fujiwara Award, 2007 C&C Prize, and 2009 NHK Broadcast Cultural Award. In 2013, he was awarded 2013 Franklin Medal with the Bower Award and Prize in Science.