

Minister Ofir Akunis visited the Czech Republic

At the end of June earlier this year, Israeli Minister for Science, Research and Space Ofir Akunis visited the Czech Republic. Minister Akunis arrived to Prague on invitation by Vice Prime Minister Pavel Bělobrádek, with whom he discussed opportunities to deepen cooperation between the two countries in the field of Research, Technology and Innovation. The two day visit included a press conference and a visit in leading research centers. Minister Akunis also travelled to the ELI Beamlines laser center in Dolní Břežany. On the occasion of that visit, the Chamber hosted a special dinner for Minister Akunis. **IB**



Intensive cooperation between the Czech Republic and Israel on water security



The Chamber continues an intensive deepening of cooperation in the domain of water security, water management technologies and transfer of know-how between the Czech Republic and Israel. Together with the Ministry of the Environment, the Czech-Israeli Mutual Chamber of Commerce organised a visit by Israeli experts, representatives of the Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Protection of the Environment and the Israel Water Authority, who took part in two workshops in Prague on June 20-21, 2017. The other workshop on water management was held by the CIMCC in the Marble Hall of Česká Spořitelna building. The opening remarks were delivered by the Vice-President CIMCC Jiří Maceška, then the floor already went to the experts from Israel.

The primary focus of the workshops was on sharing experience with the government and regulatory framework in the domain of water, and business opportunities with specific emphasis on the preparation of the visit of the largest water management exhibition that is now taking place in Israel – WATEC 2017. **IB**

by Roman Lesný
photo by the Ministry of the Environment

Czechs donated a new fire truck to Israel

In November last year, Israel was fighting extensive forest fires. It was painful to watch the flames swallow the forest that the Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael–Jewish National Fund had planted for decades and that had already changed the shape and microclimate of the landscape.

The KKL–JNF Czech Republic then addressed an urgent request for aid to all its sponsors and friends to assist with the replacement of fire-fighting equipment, forest clearing and revitalisation. The Czech – Israeli Mutual Chamber of Commerce and some of its members also quickly came up with a helping hand and they deserve our gratitude and acknowledgement.

The KKL Czech Republic together with the Federation of Jewish Communities contacted the Government of the Czech Republic with a request for help to the KKL firefighters. The fire burned fire trucks as well and it was necessary to renew the fleet. At the same time, we took it as a unique opportunity to present our Tatra trucks in the Israeli market and demonstrate they are more than useful for fighting fire in difficult terrain. The Government responded very swiftly and took a decision to allocate

funds for the procurement of such truck as a donation for KKL firefighters. The Czech Republic did so as one of a few EU Member States, if not the only one. **IB**

by Michal Pacovský,
President KKL–JNF Czech Republic
photo by KKL–JNF



The Herzliya Conference



This year's seventeenth edition of the Herzliya Conference was held under the title "Israel's Strategic Balance: Opportunities and Risks." It has traditionally covered the situation in Israel as well as in the broader Middle East. The conference took place on June 20-22nd, 2017, and discussed the Israeli relations with Egypt and Jordan as well as what are today closer although non-public relations with the Gulf nations. **IB**

by Tomáš Pojar
www.herzliyaconference.org



Pavel Smutný
President

An advocate, entrepreneur and philanthropist, Pavel Smutný is a partner in the CÍSAŘ, ČEŠKA, SMUTNÝ law firm and President of the BOHEMIAN HERITAGE FUND endowment fund. In his legal practice, he primarily specialises in international investment relations and commercial law. He graduated from the Faculty of Law of the Charles University and completed a study stay at Paris-Sorbonne. His hobbies include history, and he also dedicates his free time to caring for his garden.



Pavel Kysilka

Pavel Kysilka graduated from the University of Economics. He was the executive governor of the Czech National Bank and CEO of Česká Spořitelna; later he worked for the International Monetary Fund. He is the founder and chairman of the 6DAcademy and President of the Smetana's Lito-myšl Festival. In his free time, he enjoys music and mountain biking.



Jiří Maceška
Vice-President

Jiří Maceška graduated from the Faculty of Economy at the University of Economics, Prague. He recently worked in administrative bodies of companies owned by the Government. Prior to that, he worked in diplomatic service (the Czech Republic's Permanent Delegation to the OECD in Paris) and in leading government positions. (Ministry of Industry and Trade). In his free time, he enjoys concerts of classic music, opera and ballet. His favourite sports are swimming and cycling.



Petr Mothejl

Petr Mothejl graduated from the Faculty of Civil Engineering of the Czech Technical University. He has been a co-owner of the DEKONTA company since 1992. As part of his career, he specialises in chemical and environmental safety, especially reclaiming locations contaminated with highly toxic pollutants. His hobbies include sport and tactical shooting, piloting single-engine airplane and motorbiking.



Tomáš Pojar
Vice-President

Tomáš Pojar graduated from the Charles University and the Interdisciplinary Institute in Israel. Then he worked in non-profit sector, diplomacy and today he is a vice-rector of the CEVRO Institute and a security consultant. His hobbies include ornithology.



Jan Vrátník

Jan Vrátník graduated from the University of West Bohemia and the University of Twente with focus on engineering and economy. He worked in the banking sector for fifteen years, where he engaged in consultancy on corporate finance, mergers and acquisitions and investment banking (as the chairman of the board of the ERSTE Corporate Finance, a.s.). He also worked in the domain of venture capital. He dedicates himself to regional development (he is a member of the supervisory board of the Regional Development Agency of the Pilsen Region) and support to innovation businesses. In his free time, he prefers culture and sports, particularly golf and travelling.



Milan Hašek

Milan Hašek graduated from the Southwestern Graduate School of Banking in Dallas. He joined the Česká spořitelna in 1996, and built a new unit for community banking after the privatisation of the bank, which he has led since then under the name of Public and Non-profit Sector. He is also responsible for real estate and social banking. He is keen on sports: plays table tennis, tennis and enjoys skiing. He is also interested in culture and history.



Jiří Schlanger

Jiří Schlanger graduated from the Faculty of Natural Sciences of the Charles University with specialisation in chemistry and worked as a scientist in pharmaceutical research. He was the leader of the Czech Trade Union of the Health Service and Social Care for twenty years and was involved in the social dialog in the Czech Republic and the EU and he also served as a Deputy Minister of Health Care. Today he works as the vice-chairman of the Balneology Research Institute, a public research institute. He devotes himself to digital anthropology, works on projects in medical and social domain and is a university lecturer.



Michal Kadera

Michal Kadera studied law at the University of West Bohemia in Pilsen and the Universität Passau, Germany. He worked in the Senate and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. He led the CEBRE – Czech Business Representation to the EU upholding advocating the interests of the Czech industry in the European decision-making process. Since 2012, he has been the External Affairs Director of ŠKODA AUTO with a portfolio involving public affairs, social responsibility and public assistance. He enjoys travelling, sports, hiking and motorbiking.



Michal Zahradníček

Michal Zahradníček graduated from the Brno University of Technology and the University in Darmstadt, in the economy and management program. In 2001, he completed his MBA studies at the PIBS and Manchester University. He is a co-owner and founder of multiple firms in the domain of information technology, biomedicine and energy. Those companies have international operations in the total of seventeen countries (e.g. EU, Russia, U.S., Israel, Indonesia, Singapore, Turkey, and Morocco).



Martin Kult

Martin Kult graduated from the Czech Technical University in Prague in the electronic computers program and earned MBA in management and leadership. He is the Senior VP in NESS Technologies, and specialises in innovative information systems, their integration and development of SW solutions. In his free time, he dedicates himself to sports and family.



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