

## Czech Tower in Jerusalem

On November 9, 2017, in the evening the efforts of several dozen people materialised, who decided to gift the city of Jerusalem a cactus shaped outlook tower.



The tower opening ceremony was attended by the Czech Minister of Culture Daniel Herman, and Minister of Labour and Social Affairs Michaela Marksová, the Mayor of Jerusalem Nir Barkat, the author of tower Mr. Martin Rajniš, director of the Czech centre Lukáš Příbyl and many others.

After opening remarks by the official guests, the ribbon was cut for the tower to receive the first visitors. A meticulous care was ded-



icated to the location for the tower. The tower's shape and dominance, particularly at night, is fascinating, while it does not make a strained or disturbing impression at all. So, the area around Hansen House – Center for Design and Technology completely changed its face and I would dare to say that to the better. **IB**

by Karel Kortánek, CEO ČISOK  
photos by Pavlína Schultz

## Czech-Israeli Innovation Day introduced stars from the land of startups and innovations

The Czech Republic has the potential to make to it the Top 10 world destinations in the domain of innovation. How can be that achieved and is it even possible to transfer the know-how of a technology superpower like Israel into the Czech environment? On 20 November 2017, that was the subject of discussions of almost a hundred participants of the Czech-Israeli Innovation day organised by the STAR Research & Innovation Cluster and the Czech Israeli Mutual Chamber of Commerce in the ELI Beamlines laser centre in Dolní Břežany, Czech Republic.

The Czech-Israeli Innovation Day took place on the premises of the STAR (Science and Technology Advanced Region) science and technology cluster on the southern outskirts of Prague, which collocates BIOCEV, ELI and HiLase science and research centres.

*"It is a grand day. Czech and Israeli scientists and businesspeople gathered here, which I believe is the most important format for our country in the years ahead. It is a dialogue about the entry of science and research into practical manufacturing processes and business. From*



*my perspective, the time of industry already abates and we should set on the path to the new era – the era of innovations. And that is where Israel is a one of leading nations on the globe,"* said Pavel Smutný, the President of Czech-Israeli Mutual Chamber of Commerce. At the same time he added that Czechs possessed the same improvisation and creativity skills like Israelis. There are already practical examples of subject matter cooperation.

by Petr Solil

photos by STAR Research & Innovation Cluster



## Czech Water Management Specialists in Israel

On the occasion of the WATEC biennial global water control conference and exhibition, the 4th mission of Czech water control specialists into Israel was organised. It took place on September 8–14, 2017, with the participation of fifty persons. The business trip was traditionally organised in cooperation among the Czech-Israeli Mutual Chamber of Com-

merce with the Ministry of Agriculture, the Water Management Association of the Czech Republic, the Czech Embassy in Israel and the Embassy of the State of Israel in the Czech Republic. The partner for technical support of the mission was the ALEA Tour travel agency. **IB**

by Ladislav Faigl, Ministry of Agriculture

## KOLNOA 2017 Israeli Film Festival

KOLNOA Festival – עונולוק – the Hebrew expression for movies, seeks to introduce to the Czech spectators the cinematography of Israel, an interesting country full of contradiction. In present, Israel offers high quality and recognised movies with ideas we do not encounter in regular film distribution, and are therefore not accessible to Czech spectators.

**KOLNOA**  
קולנוע

The first issue introduced twelve remarkable movies and attracted almost two thousand spectators in four days. [IB](#)

by Roman Lesný



## The 21st Edition of the Days for Israel

This year's gala evening of the Days for Israel naturally followed on the celebrations of the 50 years of reunification of Jerusalem, the historical celebration of the Days Jerusalem in the Saint Vitus Cathedral in the Prague Castle in May as well as the resolution of the Chamber of Deputies on the matter of Jerusalem adopted on the same day. That subject was entertained by the Director of the Sion Centre Denis Doksanský in his opening remarks as well as in the interview with Ambassador Daniel Meron. Other official guests, documentary filmmaker

Ofer Cohen and pilot Udi Gazit, brought the audience back into the past as they revealed a surprising connection between the Czech Republic, specifically the city of Hradec Králové, and Jerusalem. Pilots secretly trained in Hradec Králové in 1948, including the father of Udi Gazit, made a significant mark in the fights in 1948 and were the lead unit in the air support to the 1967 Battle for Jerusalem. [IB](#)

by Denis Doksanský  
photos by Days for Israel

## For SKODA AUTO, Israel represents access to technology

SKODA AUTO and its Israeli importer the Champion Motors Ltd. have recently worked on projects that go beyond sales of cars to customers. Their common endeavour in the digital startup scene in Tel Aviv began with the jointly signed memorandum between SKODA AUTO DigiLab and Champion Motors. The project will also win support by the Czech-Israeli Mutual Chamber of Commerce.

"Israel is a high quality source of digital innovation," says CEO SKODA AUTO Bernhard Maier.

"It has a great importance for SKODA AUTO to have representation in the location and direct access to innovative projects, hi-tech startups and IT talents.

Chairman of Champion Motors Ltd. Professor Itzhak Swary emphasised: "It gives us a pleasure that we will continue to closely cooperate with SKODA AUTO and that we will even deepen the cooperation." [IB](#)

by SKODA AUTO a.s.



Dear Members and Friends of the Czech-Israeli Mutual Chamber of Commerce,

By coincidence of several circumstances, I am lucky to greet you on the first day of the Chanukah, a holiday that is very rich in its traditional meals such as donuts and potato pancakes. The year 2017 was not an exception either as it abounded in events.

As another candle is lit every day and the surroundings of the candlestick becomes ever more distinct, I trust that every new day in 2018 will bring light into your souls and the new year will be full of good news and actions.

We are up to important events – the Presidential elections, 100 years of independent Czechoslovak state, 70 years of the State of Israel, all of which comes together in values Thomas Garrigue Masaryk and his son Jan Masaryk lived up to. The Czech Republic has to decide what course it will take on the map of Europe.

Thank you very much for the favour you have shown to our Chamber. Thank you

for taking interest in the activities of the Chamber and the State of Israel, which, although it was voiced on many occasions and remains valid, is a great inspiration for us and a future hope for us all. Although we are a chamber of commerce, it is necessary to realise that not only money makes the world go round. Indeed, we have to pay equal attention to the environment we live in, to the culture and community we belong to. And I also thank you for mutual respect you hold for each other and that you are on this path with us.

Prague, 13th December 2017  
Pavel Smutný, President

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