

Speech, during opening ceremony at Czech Pavilion nano tech 2015 on Wednesday 28th January at 11:00 AM, of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Mr. Tomas Dub

Ladies and Gentlemen, Exhibitors, Organizers, Distinguished Guests, Colleagues,

I am very pleased to be here today for the opening of the Czech pavilion at nano tech 2015. And even more pleased I am, that you all are here today, as your presence places our country among those, who have not only the potential, but are also able to lead the way, combine research and business, and present our achievements.

Being part of the most important nano technology exhibit in the world feels good for me as Czech Republic's Ambassador to Japan, and I am sure, it must feel good for our participating companies either.

Nanotechnology, I guess you are all familiar with this term, is a promise of a better future, of an advanced world, shaped through our will. Nanomaterials present an enormous potential and their presence at the market is growing fast. Among all the high-tech areas, nanotechnology is the most high-tech. We are fortunate to be among those, who take the initiative. Yet, we should not become complacent. Our efforts should be stepped up to keep our momentum of pioneers and visionaries.

Nanotechnology research generated excitement from the beginning. And it is not that common, that a new scientific field wins so fast approval from public, as well as from academic sphere. And we are speaking about an area which remains invisible for most of us. About a world we are building through a process which remains invisible to our eyes, but will bring benefits far beyond our imagination.

Czech Republic shares the excitement, not only as a viewer of this process, not from the first row, but from the epicenter of creation, as our companies are among those, leading the way. Being among the inventors and leaders in an industrial field, touching possibilities we are just about to explore is not only exciting, but it is also essential for the growth of our economy, for moving our society forward, for keeping the edge which we achieved through centuries of research and production.

I arrived to my position just five months ago. In this time I learned some Japanese and I also learned to appreciate Japan as an important country and an important partner for the Czech Republic. I can also see Japan as an important market for Czech companies and made it part of my mission to translate this fact back to the Czech Republic, as somehow not everyone can see this clearly from the large distance.

Czech Republic is a familiar, may be household name in Japan. People here are familiar with our glass production which is a traditional craft through generations of Czech people, you know some of our important music composers, you read some of our books and may be drink

some of our beers. This is all good. But sometimes I get the feeling that this is not exactly the picture of who we really are. Our best traditions might tell a story of our history and tell you about our roots, but a picture put together by fragments of history does not explain who we are today, and where are we. This is the reason, why I think, that being part of a nano tech exhibit is important for us. And for the Czech Republic, it is not only taking part, it is succeeding and making the best of our presence. As some know, last year, our pavilion received a „Special Award“ from the nano tech organizers.

This is the place we belong. We do not only have some great classical music, we also have wonderful contemporary music, which is waiting to be discovered. We do not only export hops to Japan, we also invent and export in the field of nanotechnology. We exported the word robot, decades later, we are exporting the machines. This is who we are today.

No one would probably object that nanotechnology leads the way to the future. Or, nanotechnology is already the future, and we just have to get there at some point too. But leading the way in an advanced scientific field is not only about economy and production. Fields like nanotechnology offer companies new business opportunities, they offer researchers opportunity to collaborate and they offer countries, sharing common values, to build bridges and platforms to protect our way of life, traditions of our society and everything we believe in. In days, weeks, years like this, when countries rise and fall, when violence becomes the communications of choice for some, when a tide is coming, which challenges us, has to be faced and forces us to stand up, technology like this gives us the opportunity to use our resources and engage them to transform our lives the way we want.

Some think our developed world is out of breath. For some our liberties are our weakness. But we know that the stability we achieved through centuries of nourishing and fighting for our ideas cannot be established by force or by a plan of one man, or one party. There can't be any development both of science and society without openness, liberties and independent thinking. These are corner stones of our societies. We value them, and our opponents fear them. This is the secret of our success.

I would like to thank all the Czech companies and institutions for being here today, for coming and participating at nano tech 2015. I know, that coming to an exhibit is a pricey and time consuming affair, but there are not many events like this one.

I would like also to thank to CzechInvest and the director of Tokyo branch Eliška Nováková, for holding on to secure our place at this site and making it possible for us to show you who we are and what we stand for.

I sincerely wish you a very productive nano tech 2015.