

Zahájení česko-singapurského business fóra

First of all, I would like to thank you all for taking the time today.

Your presence is the best evidence of your interest in strengthening and deepening the economic and political relations between Singapore and the Czech Republic.

On a personal note, I am very pleased to have the opportunity to meet Minister Chee Hong Tate here in Singapore and to open this business forum with him,

I am also pleased to meet a large delegation of business people and I believe that the networking will help to bring our businesses and countries closer together.

I welcome a mutual discussion on opportunities between the Czech Republic and Singapore in the transport sector, which may be interesting and inspiring for your business interests.

At the same time, I would like to use this mission to support the development of an air link from Southeast Asia to the Czech Republic, which would also contribute to the development of air transport to Australia and Oceania.

Both the passenger and cargo air transport segments would benefit from the development of Prague Airport and upgrade of transport infrastructure in the Czech Republic.

During 2023, the Czech Republic will invest more than 150 billion Czech crowns (around 6,4 billion EUR) in transport infrastructure, with the bulk of it going into the development of rail infrastructure, including the preparation of high-speed lines that will connect the region of Central Europe and make it much easier for people to travel to work, school and cultural activities.

Road transport will not be left behind either.

Around 265.2 km of motorways and class I roads are currently under construction. In ten years, there will be 600 km of new motorways completed.

The Ministry of Transport is also involved in science, research and innovation in this sector and we actively support the horizontal use of space activities.

The Czech space industry as well as development of nanotechnology are successful and progressive given the size of our country.

I can highlight the success of the Central European satellite GRBA α , whose innovative detector captured and processed the strongest known gamma-ray burst in autumn 2022, or VZLUSAT-2, launched a year ago.

Investments in the space industry in the Czech Republic are of a high return. We are increasing our activities in European Space Agency's projects, as well as our investments, and secure connectivity implementation by the Agency of the European Union Space Programme.

We would like to take advantage of the newly signed EU-Singapore Digital Partnership to support Czech ICT companies, e.g. in cybersecurity, control systems and AI. As part of CZ PRES, the Czech Embassy organised a successful seminar during Singapore International Cyber Week.

I hope you will be able to identify business opportunities for your projects.

I will be happy to work with you to develop mutual relations and strengthen the Czech Republic's presence in Singapore and its reputation throughout the region.

I wish you the best of luck during the Business Forum.

Thank you for your attention.