

## **The popularity of the Czech pavilion is growing**

There is one month left until the end of the EXPO in Dubai, and interest in the Czech pavilion is rising - even among the royal families.

The gates of the General World Exposition EXPO 2020 in Dubai will close in a month - on March 31, 2022. The organizers assume that the total number of visits will exceed twenty million, despite the impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic. The Czech pavilion has already been seen by more than eight hundred thousand people, and the Commissioner General of National Participation at the EXPO believes that the number of visitors will exceed one million by the end of the exposition.

"Interest in the exposition is growing proportionally to its approaching end, but also because of the loosening of some of the anti-pandemic restrictions," comments Jiří František Potužník, Commissioner General of the Czech Republic and member of the EXPO Steering Committee. "Starting at the end of this month, local amphitheatres can use up to ninety percent of their capacity, which is doubly pleasing for me, given that the Czech National Day is scheduled for March 21 along with the world premiere of the multimedia show iMucha," he adds.

The Czech Republic is also enjoying growing interest from the highest levels. First and Second Deputy Foreign Ministers Jiří Kozák and Martin Tlapa were received by Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan and the Minister of International Cooperation Reem Al Hashima during their working visit of the EXPO.

"Our ambition is that the cooperation between the Czech Republic and the United Arab Emirates will not end with the closing of the EXPO gates, but will grow at the university, scientific and industrial levels," said Jiří Kozák, First Deputy of the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

On February 25, 2022, Her Royal Highness Sheikha Shamma Bint Sultan bin Khalifa Al Nahyan paid a visit to the Czech exposition, which mainly presents the results of the development and research of Czech scientific institutes and Hi-Tech companies. The very rare visit from Abu Dhabi viewed the whole exposition and made no effort to hide her amazement at the S.A.W.E.R. technology, which autonomously produces water from dry desert air. She was also impressed by the temporary exhibition of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, "Energy the Smart Way". At the end of the visit, she gladly accepted Subfossil Oak's artistic sculpture made from oak tree trunks, which are more than 6,000 years old.