



## **ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRIKT 2240**

**Česká republika a Slovenská republika**

*Dignitatis memores ad optima intenti*

**Otakar VESELÝ**

**PDG 2005-2006**

*Kamkoli jdeš, jdi s celým srdcem*

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### **Opening ceremony**

Ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon, dear guests and Rotarians,

it is my pleasure to welcome you here, in this historic Wallenstein Palace, the seat of the Senate of the Czech Republic. We welcome you to the ICC, which is organized by our district intercountry committees. Today's meeting is proud to welcome Rotarians from twelve nations from several different continents.

I am very pleased we can celebrate 20 years of the re-establishment of the Czechoslovak district. Between the First and Second World War, this was known as district number 66, and it was the strongest district in Europe at that time very pleased we can celebrate 20 years of the.

***That's right, it was the single strongest district in Europe.***

I am delighted that you are all here with us and that you wish to share this strong international Rotarian friendship.

It is my great honor to welcome John Germ today, the former President of Rotary International, as well as the representative of Rotary International President Barry Rassin for our District Conference. Welcome, John! I would also like to warmly welcome our district governor Zdeněk Michálek. Welcome, Zdeněk. Our participants from abroad today include Ovidiu Cos from Romania, the Chair of the ICC board of Rotary International. Welcome, Ovidiu! I would also like to welcome PDG Fritz Zeeuw from Germany, Barbara Wolf-Wich, DG from Austria 1920, Jaako Panula DG 1380 of Finland, and other foreign participants. I am also very pleased that the representatives of Rotaract Monika Kočiová from Slovakia, and Blahoslav Maršálek from the Czech Republic are attending our meeting.

***I warmly welcome all of you, and I trust that these two ceremonial hours will be pleasant ones.***

We see today's meeting as a ceremonial gathering to commemorate the 20 years of the re-establishment of our district. I'm certain that our speakers will reflect on our successful past, but they will also look ahead towards their goals in international service. Not only does this international service bring and support our material values, but most of all it creates friendships among districts, nations, countries, and especially among Rotarians. This is why we are meeting

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here today; to strengthen these friendships. The fact that we have twelve different countries and nationalities present here today is proof of this. Armenia, Angola, Czech Republic, Finland, Japan, Germany, Austria, Romania, Slovakia, Ukraine, USA, and the UK.

Our district has 10 inter-country committees and one inter-country committee being formed.

The first ICC in Europe was established between France and Germany 69 years ago.

The first ICC in our district was established with Austria and Germany. I founded the Austrian committee together with PDG Rudi Buchmeiser under the motto "Rotary Without Border". As a symbol of friendship it became a tradition to organize the ICC at Třístoličník Mountain every year. This mountain lies on the tri-countries border of Austria, Czech Republic and Germany. This tradition has lasted more than 25 years.

### ***Why is the topic of today's meeting the Leadership Role of ICC?***

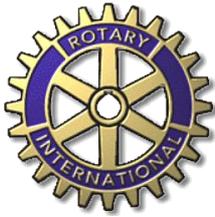
Well, it's because even the RI President-Elect Mark Daniel Maloney has chosen "Rotary connects the world" as his theme.

The theme for 2019 and 20 "Rotary connects the World", and the motto "Rotary Without Border", established 25 years ago by the Czechoslovak-Austrian Committee, fit very well together.

***Who else would be better suited to reaching this goal than the Inter country committees?*** We are one of the Rotary International leaders who will help us expand community connections and innovative membership models. Rotary allows us to connect with each other across our differences.

My experience in international service, as a district national coordinator, has confirmed that the global ICC has developed in the right direction. The results of our work, which we will hear plenty about today, testify to this.

I would like to thank all of you very much, especially for your contribution to the international service.



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I would like to thank the District 1920 Rotarians, specially Thomas Watzenboek, Rudi Buchmeiser and many others who helped to develop international service during the re-establishment of the Czechoslovak district.

***Special thanks to my rotary friend Tomáš Jirsa, member of Senate, for his support with organizing this meeting.***

I wish you many pleasant moments and memories, and I especially hope that today's ceremonial meeting under the theme "Leadership Role of ICC" provides you with plenty of inspiration for the future.

Thank you.

Otakar Vesely

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