

WELCOME ADDRESS

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the end of the last year I was pleased to learn from the present president of the CEE Chapter of ISEE Hana Šlachťová that the upcoming CEE ISEE Chapter meeting and the conference would take place in the Czech Republic.

I have realized that this event would round out one chapter of evolution of environmental epidemiology in general and health risk assessment in particular in the Czech Republic. In the nineties of the last century these modern methods not yet well known were widely accepted in our country and used for objectification of the impact of particular environmental factors on population health in the most polluted industrial areas of the Czech Republic, particularly in the Northern Czech and Moravian regions. In spite of different methodological approaches in either project their results left indelible impression and became an etalon for the development of health risk assessment and environmental epidemiology development in the Czech Republic. Both projects gained relevant international acceptance as well.

In the nineties of the last century I participated in person in the implementation of these techniques in practice. I am therefore all the more delighted that I can welcome participants of the international conference as deputy minister of health and chief public health officer in the Czech Republic today. I am proud of my colleagues for their contribution and indubitable part in furthering development of environmental epidemiology in Europe and also world wide.

I wish participants of the conference successful meetings so they could benefit from the scientific knowledge of their colleagues and hope they will get a chance to discover the charms of the Czech and Moravian hospitality as well.

*Michael Vít
Deputy Minister and Chief Public Health Officer
Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic*