

Prague Awarded Six Meetings and Their Ambassadors, 2023 Was the Twelfth Awards Edition

Prague, 26th April 2023. Meetings Prague awarded distinguished Czech scientists, professors, doctors and other top experts for their contribution to the meetings industry in the Czech capital again. Representatives of the Prague Convention Bureau, the umbrella organization for the Prague meetings industry, the City of Prague and the Ministry of Regional Development presented prizes to the winners in a total of six categories as part of the 12th Ambassador Awards Evening this year. The awards ceremony took place on 25 April 2023 at the Residence of the Mayor of Prague.

The Ambassador Awards Evening was held under the auspices of the Mayor of Prague, Bohuslav Svoboda, who also personally attended the awards ceremony. The winners of each category were, in line with tradition, selected by an independent committee consisting of 12 experts from the meetings industry.

"In 2022, we have seen enormous interest in attending professional meetings and conferences in person again, of which almost four thousand took place in Prague. Although the number of expert events has not yet come close to the number of events held in the record-breaking year 2019, now it is already undeniable, how severely the delegates were missing the opportunity of exchanging the latest knowledge personally in the last two years," says Roman Muška, Director of the Prague Convention Bureau, and adds: *"I firmly believe that thanks to all the events held last year, which were attended by over 600,000 delegates, the city managed to attract much-needed know-how across various fields in the Czech capital."*

For the past year 2022, the following ambassadors and events were awarded in the following six categories:

Congress of the Year 2022:

- Prof. MUDr. Petr Panzner, CSc. for the Congress of the European Academy of Allergology and Clinical Immunology 2022

The congress welcomed 3,500 delegates from around the world in Prague, who discussed mainly the latest trends in allergology, the impact of covid-19 and its consequences on patients' health.

Congress for up to 500 Participants 2022:

- Prof. MUDr. Romana Ryšavá, CSc. for the 39th Congress of the Czech Society of Nephrology with international participation

The congress was the first major event for experts in the field of nephrology after a two-year break caused by the covid-19 pandemic. In Prague, the congress was attended by 500 experts in diagnosing and treating chronic kidney diseases,

who especially appreciated the opportunity to exchange personal experience in this field.

Candidacy of the Year 2022:

- Doc. MUDr. Roman Šmucler, CSc. for his candidacy for the FDI World Dental Congress

The largest global congress, attended by an average of more than 7,000 delegates, should take place in Prague in September 2026. In addition to the exchange of the latest knowledge in the field, discussing new technologies, and education of new professionals, the event should also include sessions focused on the education of wider public.

Corporate Event of the Year 2022:

- Mrs. Tereza Vránková on behalf of Škoda Auto - World Dealers Conference 2022

The event was attended by 6,000 Škoda Auto dealers from all over the world. In the run of 14 days, new models, a new brand and strategies for the future were presented. Emphasis was placed primarily on the topic of electromobility and on presenting the Czech Republic as a destination where modern cars are manufactured and new technologies are created.

Inspiration of the Year 2022:

- Prof. Mgr. Lukáš Kratochvíl, Ph.D. for the Congress of the European Society for Evolutionary Biology (ESEB 2022)

In its programme, the congress included the support of participation of families with children. Children under 15 years of age did not pay any participation fee, and a children's corner and accompanying activities were available for them. Without this support, several dozen delegates would not have been able to attend the congress.

Long-Term Contribution to the Meetings Industry:

- Jiří Wanner, DrSc., Department of Water Technology and Environmental Engineering at the University of Chemistry and Technology (UCT) in Prague, Association for Water of the Czech Republic (CzWA)

Professor Wanner teaches and supervises students' theses at UCT in bachelor's and master's programmes. He is a long-term member of the Czech Water Association, of which he became a chairman in 1992. He has also served as Vice President and President of the European Water Association, where he is still a member of the governing board. During his career, he has collaborated on several major European projects, and for a long time he has been advocating the organization of professional events in the Czech Republic, which he also very actively promoted. He has received numerous awards, including the IWA Distinguished Fellow, which is held by only 30 people.

"Organizing congresses in Prague has always been an immensely interesting activity for me. On the one hand, Prague is a beautiful city that attracts many people, but at the same time, in my field of expertise, the Czech capital has several historical firsts, such as one of the first wastewater treatment plants on the European continent. At the same

time, there are also has other treatment plants in Prague, the newest one from 2018, which is probably the most modern facility in Europe," said professor Wanner and adds: "While organizing various professional events in Prague, we had the opportunity to present both research at our university and the work of colleagues from the Water Association of the Czech Republic. It was interesting to see how our younger colleagues were engaged in the organization and how they gradually took the initiative in organizing congresses and conferences."

About Prague Convention Bureau

Prague Convention Bureau (PCB) is a non-profit organization established in 2008. The company acts as an official representative of the Prague congress tourism and promotes the city as a one of the European leading congress destinations. Together with Czech tourism bodies, partners and members the PCB offers effective assistance in organizing conferences, meetings, seminars, exhibitions and incentive events in Prague.

About Ambassador Program

Ambassador Awards Evening is a part of the Prague Convention Bureau's Ambassador Program – strategic program focused on a promotion of Congress Ambassadors – local representatives of international professional associations in Prague and the Czech Republic. Among others, the program offers many educational and social events to support Congress Ambassadors in their effort to bring international conferences in the destination.

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