

**For the twentieth time the First Lady will open the  
fundraising diplomatic Christmas Festival**

For one day only, you can be taken on a trip around the world. The annual **International Christmas Festival of the Diplomatic Spouses Association** (DSA) is truly a feast for the eyes; a parade of colourful costumes, flavours, aromas, art, music and dance. It is also an excellent opportunity to support Czech charities by buying unique gifts and treats from all around the world.

**This year the Festival will be held on Sunday, November 26th,  
10.00 a.m. – 16.00 p.m.  
Hilton Hotel, Conference Hall, Pobřežní 1, Praha 8.**

“This year’s 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary means a lot for all of us, who are carrying on the DSA legacy of bringing together different cultures, promoting friendship and offering a helping hand to less privileged people in this country. Our Festival plays an essential role, as it represents the bridge that connects all of us together,” explains **Mrs. Myung-ji Suh**, the **DSA President**.

**20 years of giving – 66 million thanks**

Funds are raised by selling entry tickets and goods at the stalls, an internet auction on Aukro, and from private sponsors or corporate donations. 100% of the funds are redistributed through grants to Czech charitable organizations.

**Since 2000 the DSA has raised more than 66 million CZK.**

“Our achievements would not have been possible without the strong commitment of all DSA members. I extend my deepest gratitude also to all the volunteers and sponsors who have supported us throughout the years. I am optimistic that these positive spirits will further shine in the coming years,” adds Mrs. Myung-ji Suh.

Since its modest first years, the DSA Festival has become one of the most prestigious and sought-after Christmas events. It attracts thousands of visitors each year and is traditionally opened by the **First Lady**.

“In the Czech Republic we call Christmas the holiday of peace and good will. The Festival represents exactly that - the achievements of people who despite their different cultures, languages or faith are united by their good will and generosity toward others. It will be my pleasure to again open this festival for public,” remarked **Mrs. Ivana Zemanová**, patroness of the Festival.

## Experience the world in one day

“We are preparing a unique experience for every visitor, a chance to meet more than 40 countries in the shortest period of time. We will introduce dancers and singers, show crafts such as silk and henna painting, and fruit carving,” invites **Mrs. Ilda Poda**, the **Festival Coordinator**. “Most popular among our visitors are the tables, where diplomats, often dressed in national costumes, sell products typical of their countries: from food delicacies and sweet treats to toys, from cosmetics, fashion and jewellery, to electronics, decorative objects, arts and crafts. The variety is different each year. By purchasing our goods, everyone contributes to our charitable fund,” adds Mrs. Ilda Poda.

## Where the money helps

“Our portfolio is very wide: from hospitals to hospices, from orphanages to therapy centres, enabling the independence of disabled people by supporting their transportation, education and training. Each year we distribute several millions of Czech crowns to more than twenty projects. The only criteria are that the proceeds help in the Czech Republic and the only limit is the final amount we have raised each year,” explains **Mrs. Tamar Agiashvili**, the **DSA Charity Coordinator**.

Tickets for 100,- CZK are available through pre-sale via [www.ticketstream.cz](http://www.ticketstream.cz) or are sold at the door for 150,- CZK on the day of the festival. Children under 12 are free. The on-line auction at [www.aukro.cz](http://www.aukro.cz) starts on Friday, November 17th: “Diplomatická aukce”.

## Learn more

Detailed information about the charity work and individual donations is available on the DSA website: <http://www.dsaprague.org/> and on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/dsaprague](https://www.facebook.com/dsaprague)

**Contact for media:** **Mrs. Lenka K. Nováková**, mobile: +420 602 193 494,  
[press@dsaprague.org](mailto:press@dsaprague.org)

**Photographs** from International Christmas Festival 2016, courtesy of [Leah Takata](#),  
[www.dsaprague.org/press](http://www.dsaprague.org/press) or <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/5f1htqbmjomcdw/AACHB7ffU-TrzpNWxggWXeHYa?dl=0>

**Contact for charities:** **Mrs. Tamar Agiashvili**, [charity@dsaprague.org](mailto:charity@dsaprague.org)

For more information and application forms visit [www.dsaprague.org/charities](http://www.dsaprague.org/charities). The deadline for grant application is: **15. 1. 2018**.

**Contact for donors:** **Mrs. Jill Meron**, [info@dsaprague.org](mailto:info@dsaprague.org)