

## **The EXPO in Dubai is opening the pavilion to the public, and a team from the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic is planting a garden on the Czech lot**

As a part of the “Pavilions Premiere” campaign, EXPO in Dubai is opening its first exposition to the public. It is the first pavilion Terra – the central building in the sustainability zone, in whose close proximity stands the Czech Republic pavilion. Those interested only have a limited window of time to visit – from the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January until the 10<sup>th</sup> of April 2021.

In this campaign, the EXPO Organisers want to introduce the public to the central pavilions of each of the three thematic districts and provide an insight into what an EXPO visitor can experience at the first General World Fair in the regions of Middle East, Africa and South Asia.

After the aforementioned Terra pavilion, the pavilions Alif in the Mobility zone and Mission Possible in the Opportunity will open. They will be accessible to the public in the first quarter of the year 2021. Reservations to visit the individual pavilions can be made from the 16<sup>th</sup> of January at <https://expo2020dubai.com/en/pavilions-premiere> for an entry fee of 25 AED.

"We are delighted to start 2021 on such a positive news, and that we may welcome the first visitors to the Terra Pavilion - the pavilion of sustainability. This is a significant moment in our history and for humanity," said Her Excellency Reem Al Hashimy, Director General of Expo 2020 Dubai Bureau and UAE Minister of State for International Cooperation. "This period of rapid, unprecedented change has brought with it an urgent need to rethink the way we exist. And while we can remember 2020 as a year that changed us forever, it also gave us a tremendous opportunity to come together as a global society and find answers to our most pressing challenges. This topic remains the main message of the EXPO 2020 in Dubai, as well as the vision of the United Arab Emirates."

While the Organisers make the first pavilions accessible to the visitors, the team of the Botanical Institute of the CAS has begun laying an irrigation system in the desert sand around the Czech pavilion. The subsurface network will become a part of S.A.W.E.R. (Solar-Air-Water-Earth-Resources), the technological and exhibition core of the pavilion that autonomously produces water from the air using solar energy and cultivates the desert.

"Part of the technology that can daily gather over 500 litres of water from the air was put together by scientists from the University Centre of Energy Efficient Buildings of the CTU in Autumn and tested in provisional conditions," says the Czech General Commissioner Jiří F. Potužník, describing the individual steps of S.A.W.E.R. installation. "They could not, however, deploy the photovoltaic part which is supposed to make energy for the entire system, and they will have to return to Dubai in February. Only by connecting the collectors on the roof, the desiccation unit in the pavilion, and the garden will we create an oasis in surrounding sand. I believe that the Czech Spring will come to life on the first Spring day."

The EXPO Organisers want to finish all construction works on all the pavilions in April 2021 and then hibernate most of the area. The gates of the first General World Fair in the Arab world will open on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2021, and over 20 million visitors should pass through until the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2022.









