

Welcome!

One might say: "Visit, so what?" Yet visits of foreign guests and delegations form a whole separate chapter in international relations. Since 2017, we have welcomed 525 foreign guests from 31 countries around the world. Obviously, European countries predominate, but visitors and delegations from the USA, Australia, China, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, the Dominican Republic, Chile, Mexico and Peru have also visited us. Ambassadors and diplomatic corps members have represented eleven countries over the past two years. An interesting programme, an exact schedule, a guest and host list, presentations, a memorial book, refreshments, gifts: all this must be prepared and arranged before the visitor arrives at the University of West Bohemia

We are talking about – cooperation, of course! It is best to get to know whoever you want to cooperate with before you start cooperation. So, part of the visit is spent on mutual presentations of institutions that are represented at the meeting. Presentations include important information, representative photographs and major achievements. At the same time, everyone is being not only professional, but, above all, also friendly and helpful; or at least, they are trying to.

Ambassadors, rectors of foreign universities and other prominent guests enter their signatures in the University memorial book. It contains entries in German, English, Spanish, French, Arabic, Chinese and other world languages. The memorial book of UWB was also signed by the Ambassador of Japan, Kaoru Shmazak, who visited the University of West Bohemia in June 2018, a month after his appointment.

Special attention is paid to gifts during such visits. Gifts are intended to represent the institution or the home city

or country. For example, in July 2018, the Rector of the University of West Bohemia, Miroslav Holeček, received from the Ambassador of Mexico, Rosaura Leonora Rueda Gutierrez, the book *Conquista in the Eyes of the Defeated* with the subtitle *Indians Speaking about the Conquest of Mexico*. Colleagues from Bavarian universities gave Miroslav Holeček a gingerbread heart decorated with Bavarian colours in October 2017, and the Rector of the Osh State University, Kanybek Abduvasitovich Isakov, brought a traditional Kyrgyz coat with a kalpak cap in March 2018.

During visits, the University wants to show what we are proud of. Most often, therefore, we invite guests to research centres equipped with state-of-the-art devices, or to a tour of the Ladislav Sutnar Faculty of Design and Art, whose modern building, unusual interior layout and artistic hub is a welcome highlight for the guests during their stay at UWB. In addition, guests are refreshed, literally, by visiting the Pilsen brewery. In September 2018, the Rector of the University of Regensburg, Udo Hebel, visited the cellars of the famous brewery, accompanied by Rector. ●



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- 1 Visit from Bavarian universities to the Rectorate
- 2 Ambassador of Japan Kaoru Shmazak
- 3 Rector of Regensburg University Udo Hebel (in the middle), Rector of UWB Miroslav Holeček (right) and the manager of Pilsen Prazdroj Stanislav Hamara
- 4 Rector Miroslav Holeček and Ambassador of Mexico Rosaura Leonora Rueda Gutierrez
- 5 Rector of Osh State University Kanybek Abduvasitovich Isakov (left) and Vice-Rector of UWB Vladimír Duchek