

**Welcoming Address by Governor of České Budějovice Region**  
**RNDr. Jan Zahradník**

Dear Mr. President, Excellencies, Magnificence, Honorables, Ladies and Gentlemen

It's a great honor for me to welcome you on behalf of the Region of South Bohemia to České Budějovice.

I am very pleased that the University of South Bohemia has the pleasure of hosting and organizing the 23<sup>rd</sup> World Congress of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Science here in České Budějovice focusing on the Czech and Slovak science and culture in international relations.

Our region has very good relations with its neighbors, Lower and Upper Austria and Lower Bavaria, often based on cultural traditions.

Last year we have celebrated the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of birth of Adalbert Stifter and in the year 2008 we are going to organize the year of Karel Klostermann. We hope for a good cooperation with the University of South Bohemia.

I would like to mention also this newly built center Basilika, which is an excellent example of connection of modern architecture and culture.

I would like to wish the participants of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Congress of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Science a successful and pleasant week of meetings and discussions in our region.