



BETTER CITIES FOR BETTER LIFE

INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE
MAY 12th – 14th 2014**United Nations**Climate Summit 2014, CATALYZING ACTION, 23.9.2014
Organising Committee
New York

Dear friends,

National Noise Observatory (NNO) is an NGO existing for 11 years. The members of the NNO are universities, scientific institutes, laboratories for observing noise and air pollution, health institutes, and other organisations specialised in improving life conditions for city population. Some of the members are also Czech and foreign cities, such as Paris. The NNO organises in the co-operation with the agencies of the French Ministry of Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and the Sea an international competition entitled *Décibel d'Or – Golden Decibel* which awards the most successful noise reduction programmes (15 years in Paris and 3 years in Prague).

In 2003, Berlin, the capital of Germany, and the European Commission organised “International conference: Metropolitan challenges in noise and air policies: facing new EU regulations at local level”. A resolution from this conference warns about the current serious condition regarding noise and air pollution in cities and asks urgently the European Commission to take measures to improve this situation.

In 2012, European experts on noise and air pollution involved as the expert committee at the international competition entitled *Décibel d'Or – Golden Decibel* stated that the noise and air pollution in Europe did not improve and therefore decided to hold an international conference in order to change this. The NNO was charged to organise it.

Since September 2012, more than 350 mayors of the world's largest cities representing perhaps up to the half of the world population have been asked to apply to the programme of shared responsibility for sustainable development for better lives of the inhabitants of both their cities and other cities from all over the world. The mayors have been asked to attend our conference entitled **BETTER CITIES FOR BETTER LIFE, Prague 2014** (BCBL) to present their successful projects for reducing noise and air pollution in their cities so that the NNO could create **Blue-Green Book, Roadmap of examples for improving city life** (BGB). The BGB will become a textbook of examples that will be available for every mayor to draw inspiration from and to avoid errors they would otherwise most certainly do.

The BCBL conference will be held in Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic, on May 12 – 14, 2014. At present, 82 cities and many most technologically advanced companies from all continents (360 delegates) confirmed their participation but the participation of 200 – 250 cities with the total amount of 1,000 delegates (including investors and experts on technologies) is expected. For more information, please see www.better-cities.eu.

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The goal of this conference is to initiate a practical programme for reducing noise and air pollution without collecting any extra dollar. One by one, other technologically advanced companies join our conference to ensure the feasibility of the examples given in the BGB.

Another goal is to start a new on-line “recipe book” for sharing successful technological solutions from the BGB and to make it available not only to municipal authorities from all over the world so that they could publish their requirements for investment in improving the state of noise and air pollution in their cities but also to technologists able to implement the most advanced solutions and to investors and scientists with innovations that will be included in the production programmes of the technology experts. The goal is for everyone to find in their tablet the key to any climate challenge their cities have been facing.

The “Big Idea 2014: The Year for Climate Action” published by the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon in December after the unsuccessful Warsaw Climate Change Conference of the UN, COP19 in the capital of Poland in November 2013 became a new challenge for the organisers of the BCBL conference.

In his letter, Ban Ki-moon invited Heads of State and Government, leaders from business and also civil society to participate in the UN Climate Summit in New York on September 23, 2014. He is asking all invited guests to bring bold and new announcements and action. He is asking us to bring our big ideas.

We are convinced that the way described in summer 2012 is the only possible immediate chance for action. The simplest way would surely be collecting sufficient amount of financial means and solving the situation by radical global measures, which - based on the results of all previous climate summits - seems to be rather difficult. But there is no time to waste. The state of the planet Earth is alarming and we need to start our action right now. However, our solution will not be easy either as it expects every mayor to be helpful, generous, loyal and promoting racial and religious tolerance.

BETTER CITIES FOR BETTER LIFE, Prague 2014 conference may become a milestone in the history concerning the fight against the greatest collective challenge facing humankind today and based on the letter written by the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon in December, **we apply to participate** in the Climate Summit 2014, CATALYZING ACTION, held in New York on September 23, 2014 to present the outcomes of our event in Prague in May.

The main organisers and supporters of the BCBL conference are:

- Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic
- The Association of Towns and Municipalities of the Czech Republic
- The City of Prague
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic
- Diplomatic body of the Czech Republic working all over the world
- Ministry of Transport of the Czech Republic

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- Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic
- Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic
- The Czech Trade Support Agency CzechTrade, founded by the Ministry of Industry and Trade
- Czech Technical University in Prague
- The Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic
- Charles University in Prague
- Czech Association of Scientific and Technical Societies
- Technical University in Brno
- National Noise Observatory of the Czech Republic charged by the organisation of the conference

A special partner of the BCBL conference is International Telecommunication Union (Mr. Brahima Sanou and Mr. Hani Eskandar).

Upon your request, we are ready to answer any questions you might ask.

Dear friends, we would like to suggest that the international conference entitled **BETTER CITIES FOR BETTER LIFE, Prague 2014** would be held under the patronage of the UN because it is designed as a contribution to the UN global activities aimed to protect the planet Earth and the outcomes of our conference can fundamentally contribute to the search for answers to the questions published in the vision for 2014 by the Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.

I will look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours faithfully,



Ivo Vaněk

President of **BETTER CITIES FOR BETTER LIFE, Prague 2014** conference

In Prague, January 6, 2014

Attachments:

- Resolution of International conference: Metropolitan challenges in noise and air policies, Berlin 2003
- An open letter to the Secretary General Ban Ki-moon published on social media on December 17, 2013
- Basic documents concerning **BETTER CITIES FOR BETTER LIFE, Prague 2014** conference

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