

Czech CFA Society newsletter

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Dear Friends!

After some three months, here we come again with the Czech CFA Society newsletter. This issue focuses on the topics we shall discuss at our Annual Meeting on May 12, 2009. Please come to see your fellows and decide about the Society's future! A lot of things happened last year but some hurdles and key decisions are still ahead of us. Hence we believe that this year's Annual Meeting will be more topical, important and decisive for the scope of the Czech CFA Society activities than ever before.

We are also very proud to say that the Forecasting Dinner 2009 was one of the most successful events in the Society's history and would like to share with you some of its exciting outcomes. This year, the profile of the event has been significantly increased and those who missed it, missed a lot. There was much higher attendance, more VIPs to network with, more reputable speakers and more media coverage. The focal point of the keynote presentation was the current world economic crisis. Our sponsorship/partnership base for the event has been almost completely renewed. We hope all this provided a boost for the event and the Society as a whole in the next years. Therefore, if you have attended the Forecasting Dinner 2009 we would appreciate your feedback to the event.

One of the closest hurdles ahead of us is to reach the threshold of 100 members, which would provide us with more financial support from the CFA Institute. Only 6 additional members are currently needed: if you know somebody or consider joining our Society yourself, please do so as soon as possible. We need to meet the threshold by June 1, 2009 at the latest and the registration process takes time.

After the exams (June 6, 2009), yet again as every year the Society will be holding a Post-Exam party, where you are warmly welcome to network with your peers and share the war stories. Finally, during the month of June the new Board of Directors that will be elected at the upcoming Annual Meeting shall prepare a strategic plan for the Society for next year. We will inform you about these developments as well as about upcoming events in our next Autumn issue of the newsletter.

We welcome all of your comments and feedback. Please do not hesitate to contact us at info@czechcfa.cz or find our contact details at www.czechcfa.cz.

Yours sincerely,

George A. Formandl, CFA
President

Lukas Brych, CFA
Vice-President

Czech CFA Society partners



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I. Czech CFA Society Annual General Meeting 2009

The Annual General Meeting will take place on **12th May 2009 at 6:30 PM** in the offices of **PricewaterhouseCoopers, Katerinska 12** (near I.P.Pavlova). Please come to network with fellow charterholders, raise questions to the current Board of Directors, propose new members to the Board and influence the way in which the Society can help you.

The specific topics to be discussed at our AGM shall include:

1. Nomination of new Board of Directors members

As you might know, the Board of Directors have changed only gradually since the Society was established in 2002, with many board members serving since the Society's establishment. Very solid foundations had been laid down then and developed substantially in the following years. A lot has been achieved: in fact, our Society, despite its small size, has been recognized as one of the most active and successful societies in the EMEA region, even when compared to much larger and resourceful CFA societies. We owe a lot to the board members who devoted their time and hard work to make it all happen. Nevertheless, given the time of service and personal duties beyond the CFA world, some of our longest-serving board members decided to limit their involvement with the Czech CFA Society, albeit agreeing availability for consulting as needed.

Your nominations of the new Board of Directors will be heard with utmost attention. Please send your nominations to Lukáš Brych (lukas.brych@cz.ey.com) or Petra Roberts (petra.roberts@krpartners.cz). The nominee shall (i) be a member of Czech CFA Society. (ii) agree with your nomination and (iii) attend the AGM on 12 May and share their views on the Society's development there.

It would be preferable if you could also send a short CV of the nominee in similar format to existing Board members (see www.czechcfa.cz). We would like to circulate the nominees' CVs to the members in a reminder e-mail shortly before the AGM.

2. Plans for the future

AGM is an ideal platform for discussing strategic directions and it is no question that given the current situation, there are new horizons opened to us. We would like to hear your voice about the existing events and activities the Society organises, as well as other potential events such as the University Outreach Program, Investment Research Challenge, job posting on www.czechcfa.cz and other courses of action you would consider worth pursuing (you may wish to look at www.czechcfa.cz or www.cfainstitute.org for more information).

Your feedback will be a valuable input for our Strategic Planning Session planned for early June 2009, where the new Board of Directors – with the help of the CFA Institute representatives and all the creative ideas gained from other societies at international conferences - shall put the Society's plans for the future into concrete steps. Ultimately, this shall lead to more added value provided by the Society to its members. It is now your chance to provide input into this process.

3. Membership fees

Our membership fees are USD 50/year, unchanged since 2002 when the Society was established. Our Society is dependent on sponsorship money and additional funding from the CFA Institute, which is USD denominated, while our costs are mostly CZK denominated. We receive most of the CFA Institute funding in the first half of every calendar year. The rapid appreciation of CZK against USD during the first half of 2008 almost drained our financial resources. Even though the CZK weakened again by the end of 2008, we had to cancel our annual get-together evening for CFA candidates in September (Mixer) and managed to produce the Charter Award Ceremony only because of the generosity of Credit Suisse Asset Management, the event sponsor. Also, despite recent weakening the CZK is currently almost 40% stronger against USD compared to 2002 average. Considering these facts as well as the challenges ahead, the Board of Directors has proposed to increase the Czech CFA Society membership fees to USD 60/year. We believe that the value our members receive through the wide range of events organized by the Society far exceeds the symbolic amount of the Society's membership fees.

II. Forecasting Dinner 2009

For those who didn't make it: Forecasting Dinner 2009 was the largest event ever held by the Czech CFA Society! More than 190 people attended, compared to 130-140 in the previous years. More than 40% of the visitors were VIPs (i.e. top management representatives from the financial and corporate sectors, central bank and the government.), which provided an excellent networking opportunity to our members.

This year there were five main speakers. We were pleased to received the auspices of the Czech National Bank governor Mr. Zdenek Tuma in six consecutive years and were lucky in attracting also the National Bank of Slovakia board member Mr. Ludovit Odor as well as the member of the Czech National Economic Council Mr. Tomas Sedlacek as speakers. The key and final presentation was delivered by Jay Taparia of Sanskar Investments, who came to our event from the US through the CFA Institute. The topics presented were the key issues resonating throughout our industry: financial crisis, economic recession and introduction of euro in Central European economies.

The media coverage of our FD 09 also expanded significantly: we had unprecedented advertising campaign in Economia papers, advertising spots in Z1 TV, more than 30 minutes of event coverage by Z1 TV (plus an interview with our Board member, Mr. Michal Mares). A forecasting survey was carried out by DBM and Factum Invenio among CFA Charterholders and top managers from the financial and corporate sector, asking for their view on the current financial crisis and its impact no the Central European economies. Thanks to all who participated: more than 350 replies were received. All major newspapers as well as the Czech Press Agency (CTK) referred to the expert survey and the Forecasting Dinner.

On the next page, you will find some of the photographs from the event. You can see more photos as well as videos of all the presentations and the Z1 TV coverage at www.czechcfa.cz.



III. Members needed: how to join the Czech CFA Society

The CFA Institute has recently introduced a new funding model, which differentiates the societies by their size. Currently our Society has 94 members and the threshold to be reached by June 1, 2009 is 100 members. If we reach the threshold by that date, our funding from the CFA Institute should increase by USD 5 000, which is a helpful increase given the size of our annual budget. Reaching the threshold should therefore allow us more financial security: the Board of Directors would be able to lessen the focus on chasing sponsors and has more time to develop new services for its members such as joblink, advocacy or the support of the CFA brand etc. The increase in membership would also prolong the period in which the Society's membership fees could remain unchanged.

If you consider joining our Society or know somebody at a later stage of their CFA Program[®] studies, who would like to join us, please register as soon as possible. The following link provides all necessary information:

<https://www.cfainstitute.org/cfaprogram/charterholder/membership/>

Becoming a member of the Czech CFA Society involves becoming the member of the CFA Institute as well. An affiliate membership is acceptable, i.e. candidates who have not yet fulfilled all of the requirements to earn the CFA Charter can also apply. If you register now you will not have to pay the membership fees for the 2008 – 2009 membership year but will be invoiced in May for the 2009 – 2010 year. For any membership questions, please contact Petra Roberts (petra.roberts@krpartners.cz). Petra can also serve as your sponsor if you need a second sponsor from among the Society's members.

IV. Post-exam party

This year the CFA Program exams are scheduled for Saturday, June 6. Similarly to last years, the Czech CFA Society plans to hold a post-exam party, where the candidates as well as the Society's members could meet each other, share their war stories, elevate or calm down the emotions and have a beer (or two) on the Czech CFA Society. Last year's party was really well attended and we aim to replicate its success this year as well! Please mark Saturday, June 6, in your diary. We will inform you about the event venue and exact timing closer to that date.