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"We need truth, solidarity, strategy and responsibility," said Timothy Garton Ash at the opening of the Forum 2000 conference.

The 24th Forum 2000 conference takes place online until Wednesday.

Prague, October 13, 2020 – Today at 2 pm (CET) began the second day of the conference Forum 2000, which this year deals with the dramatic consequences of a pandemic, the threat of breaking the international order or serious disruption of social and political order through technology.

„During this pandemic, one of the most critical issues we must resolve, has been how to safeguard our democratic system and way of life. This is what makes this gathering of Forum 2000 so important,“ said Taiwanese President **Chai Jing-wen** during her speech at the opening of the conference on Monday. Her words were followed by **Timothy Garton Ash**, Professor of European Studies at Oxford University: *"We are once again in dark, difficult, daunting times, but if we have these four truth, solidarity, strategy and responsibility, there will be brighter times ahead."*

In the coming days, the leader of the Belarusian opposition **Sviatlana Cichanouska**, human rights activist **Garry Kasparov**, American economist **Jeffrey Sachs** and many other important personalities will speak at the conference.

You can find a list of the speakers in this link:

<http://bit.ly/Forum2000speakers2020>

This year's 24th Forum 2000 conference is taking place online from 12 to 14 October 2020 due to the situation around the covid-19 pandemic. The general public thus has the opportunity to watch dozens of lectures and discussions that deal with social and economic challenges, growing populism and nationalism, or fundamental changes in the digital space. The complete program of the public part of the conference is streamed directly on the website www.forum2000.cz and the Facebook page of the Forum 2000 Foundation (@ forum.2000). The whole conference is in English.

You can find the conference program under this link:

<http://bit.ly/Forum2000program2020>

Photos from the first conference today can be downloaded under this link:

<http://bit.ly/Forum2020fotky2020>

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THE FORUM 2000 FOUNDATION

The Forum 2000 Foundation fulfills Václav Havel's legacy by promoting democratic values and respect for human rights, developing civil society and strengthening religious, cultural and ethnic tolerance. It provides a space for world leaders, thinkers and courageous individuals from all walks of life to share and discuss these key issues.

THE FORUM 2000 CONFERENCE

The Forum 2000 Foundation pursues the legacy of Václav Havel by supporting the values of democracy and respect for human rights, assisting the development of civil society, and encouraging religious, cultural and ethnic tolerance. It provides a platform for global leaders, as well as thinkers and courageous individuals from every field of endeavor, to openly debate and share these critical issues.

THE FESTIVAL OF DEMOCRACY

The Festival of Democracy is an accompanying program of the Forum 2000 conference. It includes lectures, discussions, exhibitions and other cultural or educational activities that complement or further develop conference topics. The Festival of Democracy is attended by non-profit organizations, universities and many other partners of the Forum 2000 Foundation, who present their activities to the festival visitors and offer a different perspective on the issues addressed by the main program of the Forum 2000 conference.