Opening Remarks by the CEO of the Association for Tourism, Foreign Relations and Twin Cities, Ms. Olga Lurie

Good evening, dear guests,

Her Excellency Veronika Kuchyňová Šmigolová, Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Israel;

Vice Mayors and Deputy Mayors of Netanya;

Members of the Netanya City Council;

Adv. Shiri Haguel-Saidon;

Adv. Emaya Taga;

Mr. Shalev Elgali;

Ms. Eva Lustigová, CEO of the Arnošt Lustig Foundation;

Mr. Martin Brož, First Secretary for Culture, Press and Education at the Embassy of the Czech Republic;

Ms. Nathalie Mimoun, Honorary Consul of France in Netanya;

Ms. Shelly Harpaz Greenberg, CEO of Planetanya – Science and Space Center;

Ms. Marie Kopecká Verhoeven and Mr. Dominique Defontaines, representing Rés(O)nances, a partner of the Arnošt Lustig Foundation;

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure and an honor to welcome you to Planetanya for the opening of the international exhibition “I Want to Be Human – Arnošt Lustig’s Message to the Stars and to All of Us.”

This year, we mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of Arnošt Lustig, one of the most important Czech writers of the 20th century. We are very proud that Israel and Netanya are now part of this international exhibition journey.

The exhibition reminds us of values that are especially important today – freedom, dignity, justice, and respect for one another. It also has a special connection to Israel, where Lustig lived and worked and began writing some of his first stories.

We are very happy to share this important message here in Netanya.

And now, it is my great pleasure to invite the Deputy Mayor of Netanya, Adv. Shiri Haguel-Saidon, to deliver her welcome speech.