Austria national day

Year of celebration highlights warm relationship

Jutta Stefan-Bastl AMBASSADOR OF AUSTRIA

In my capacity as ambassador of the Republic of Austria

in Japan, I would like to extend my best greetings to the readers of The Japan Times on the occasion of Austria's National Day.

Austria and Japan enjoy good and warm relations based on mutual esteem and respect. There is a lively exchange between the two countries documented by the large number of partnerships between Japanese and Austrian towns, and Austrian-Japanese friendship societies throughout Japan.

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fashion and design.

temporaries, at Takashimaya

Moreover, many Japanese tourists visit Austria, enjoying classical music, the beautiful landscape or skiing as only some aspects of the strong image that Austria has in the minds of many Japanese people. Likewise, Japan has a distinct and strong image in Austria, also within the younger generation as I can report that the number of students taking up studies on Japan is constantly rising.

Austria-Japan Year 2009

My greetings on the occasion of Austria's National Day shall be all the more profound as we celebrate Austria-Japan department store, as well as

Year, which marks 140 years an ultramodern installation of relations and exchange beby Austrian architects COOP HIMMELB(L)AU "Future retween our two countries. On Oct. 18, 1869, Japan and Ausvisited" at the NTT InterComtria concluded the Treaty of munication Center (ICC), can Amity, Commerce and Shipall be enjoyed in Tokyo.

In the framework of this ping, thus establishing diplomatic relations. Prime Minisyear, a high-level exchange ters Wolfgang Schuessel and between our two countries has Junichiro Koizumi decided at taken place. The Austrian Federal Minister of Foreign their bilateral summit in Tokyo on April 24, 2006, to com-Affairs Michael Spindelegger, the Federal Minister of Agrimemorate the 140-year anniculture, Forestry, Environ-As 2009 slowly draws to a ment and Water Nikolaus Berclose, we can look back at varlakovich, and the President of ious events in the field of culthe National Assembly Barbature, business, science and alra Prammer have visited Jaso politics that have taken pan during the course of the vear.

place. Having started the year with a great "Wien Ball" in In the diplomatic domain, January, in October and No-Austria had the honor to welvember the focus will be on come Their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Just a few days ago, the Akishino to Vienna in May this year. Federal President of very special cultural fashion event "Dirndl meets Kimono" Austria Heinz Fischer and his enjoyed great acclaim in the spouse accompanied by four framework of the Japan Fashministers, the president of the ion Week Tokyo. In a few days, Federal Economic Chamber Viennese design will be at the center of "100% DESIGN TOand a large delegation paid an official visit from Sept. 30 to Oct. 3.

President Fischer was the Currently, Austrian exhibitions featuring different hisfirst foreign head of state hosted for a dinner by new Prime toric periods like the "Treasures of the Habsburg Monar-Minister Yukio Hatoyama. chy" at the National Art The exchange of ideas showed Center, Tokyo and "Vienna at that these two statesmen the turn of the century," with share a number of similar idethe paintings of Gustav Klimt, as on foreign policy matters. Egon Schiele and their con-

Economic relations

Austria exports a great variety of goods to Japan, inter alia machinery, vehicles, specialized precision instruments, wood products, chemicals and beverages. As Austria lies at the heart of Europe, it is ideal for setting up a distribution center for Central and Southeastern Europe, and more than 3,000 international companies have their headquarters in Austria. Austrian banks and companies are also well positioned in the markets of Central and South Europe, with Austria among the top three foreign direct investors in most of the countries of the region.

To deepen the economic relations of Austria and Japan, Austria-Japan Year has also been taken as an opportunity. During the visit of President Fischer to Japan, the Federal Minister of Economy, Family and Youth Reinhold Mitterlehner had a bilateral meeting with Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Naoshima Masayuki. Minister Mitterlehner also attended the investment seminar of the Austrian Business Agency (ABA) on Oct. 1.

Austria in the global arena

Strengthening the United Nations is one of Austria's key foreign policy goals in its work

toward peace and stability. Therefore, Austria has participated in various U.N. peacekeeping operations, with so far a total of around 60,000 Austrian soldiers, and has been elected as a nonpermanent member of the U.N. Security Council for the period 2009/2010.

Vienna is one of the headquarters of the U.N. It is also the seat of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime (UN-DOC) and other organizations. The Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) carries out its important work from Vienna. In addition, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and the Europe-

an Union Agency for Fundamental Rights have their headquarters in Vienna. Thus. Vienna can be seen as a center for international cooperation, and as an active part of international efforts toward disarmament, the peaceful use

of nuclear energy, and the fight against drugs and crime. Austria attaches great importance to human rights issues and the fight against root causes of con-



Viennese home: Commemorating the 140th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Austria and Japan, the "Treasures of the Habsburg Monarchy" exhibition at the National Art Center, Tokyo (through Dec. 14) features paintings and crafts selected from the collection of the Kunsthistorisches Museum, established in 1891 by Franz-Joseph I, in the Austrian capital. HIART DESIGN STUDIO/ITOH

flict, e.g., poverty, injustice and discrimination. Austrian Airlines anniversary

2009 is also an anniversary for Austrian Airlines, which has offered nonstop flights between Vienna and Tokyo for 20 years. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to express my hope that the readers of The Japan Times will follow the example of the large number of Japanese tourists that visit Austria every year and enjoy the many different features of my country. You are most heartily welcome.

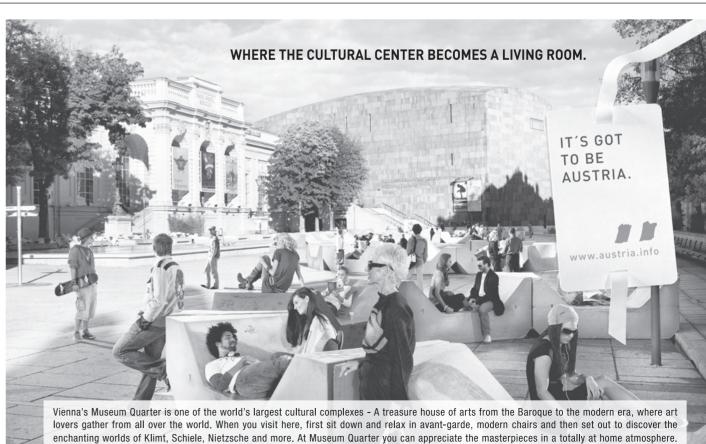


Schoenbrunn Palace: A former imperial summer residence. the Vienna palace and gardens illustrate the tastes, interests and aspirations of successive Habsburg monarchs. AUSTRIAN NATIONAL TOURIST OFFICE/TRUMLER



campus/building complex housing the United Nations Office in Vienna (UNOV). AUSTRIAN NATIONAL TOURIST OFFICE/POPP





Austrian National Tourist Office www.austria.info/jp