

# Austria National Day Special

## ‘Composing the Future’ at 2025 expo

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It has only been two months since I assumed office. Already, however, I can say that I very much feel at home here, after having been so warmly welcomed in this beautiful country with its

rich history, fascinating particularities and the unparalleled kindness of its people.

With utmost gratitude I have immediately become aware of the excellent friendship between Austria and Japan, which is defined by a plurality of close and long-standing bonds, as well as the commitment of dedicated individuals on both sides. Reliable, like-minded and trustworthy partners are indispensable to face the myriad challenges of our time.

In the field of international security, Austria and Japan share their continued determination of promoting peace, democracy

and human dignity to facilitate our world becoming a safer and better place. With Russia’s unlawful war of aggression against Ukraine in its third year and the escalating situation in the Middle East, the need for earnest pursuit of peaceful and democratic regeneration appears to be stronger than ever. Also, developing realities in the Indo-Pacific region require our collective attention and further building of trust.

Furthermore, the last year underscored the urgency of seeking durable efforts to tackle the issue of the changing climate. This past summer was marked by record-breaking weather conditions, heavily impacting both our countries, most recently with devastating floods. In Japan, the terrible storms hit a region already severely struck by the destructive earthquake on New Year’s Day, bringing even more hardship on the local population. To all people affected by these natural disasters, I would like to express my heartfelt sympathies.

Austria and Japan both make great use of highly advanced research and development sectors, whose ingenuity allows us to meet the most pressing challenges of our

present and future. The technologies they have yielded over decades are a constant reminder of the valuable potential of innovation, as well as economic and scientific cooperation to design a sustainable future for our societies, ensuring prosperity while fostering the protection of our environment and mitigating the effects of climate change.

This approach will also be the guiding principle of the 2025 World Expo in Osaka, when the world will come together in Kansai under the motto “Designing Future Society for Our Lives.” With a little under six months to go, Austria already looks forward to its participation in Osaka. Recently, I visited the expo site on Yumeshima Island and could see firsthand the incredible achievements by Japanese architects and engineers in turning an extraordinary vision into reality.

The Austrian pavilion is speedily taking shape and will welcome the public under the banner “Composing the Future” starting April 13. Visitors are invited to embark on a journey through the long friendship between Austria and Japan, to meet the outstanding personalities shap-



**An architect’s rendition of Austria’s pavilion for the 2025 World Expo in Osaka, styled after a musical staff.**

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ing our bilateral relations and ultimately to immerse themselves in future-oriented technologies to create their very own musical composition of the future. The pavilion will be characterized by a giant wooden musical staff, spiraling across the pavilion’s exterior and demonstrating the exceptional relevance of music in our two countries’ relations and its connecting power.

I very much look forward to welcoming many of you to our pavilion in Osaka to join us in “Composing the Future” — and to also indulge in Austrian delicacies.

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*This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.*

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**Nippon Plasser**

## Greetings on the Austrian National Day

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