

Austria National Day Special

Shaping the future through friendship

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This year, Austria was proud to take part in the World Expo in Osaka — a global stage where nations came together under the theme “Designing Future Society for Our Lives.” For six

months, this outstanding event served as a unique platform for cultural exchange, visionary dialogue and bold ideas for the future of our societies.

Austria's contribution, under the motto “Composing the Future,” highlighted the power of culture to connect nations and inspire cooperation on innovation. Our pavilion, with its striking ribbonlike wooden design evoking musical notation, welcomed over a million visitors. It stood as a symbol of Austria's creative spirit and our commitment to international partnership.

A particular highlight was the visit of President Alexander Van der Bellen on the occasion of Austria's National Day at the expo in May. Accompanied by a high-level delegation from politics, business, science and the arts (including the Vienna Boys' Choir), this visit underlined the depth and breadth of Austria's engagement with Japan. It also witnessed the signing of a partnership agreement between Schonbrunn Palace in Vienna and Himeji Castle — a beautiful testament to our shared cultural heritage.

The Osaka Expo also served as a catalyst for strengthening economic ties between our countries. Numerous cooperation agreements were concluded, underscoring Austria's role as a reliable and innovative partner — particularly in future-oriented industries such as green technology, hydrogen and artificial intelligence.

This comprehensive exchange over the past months made it clear: The Austrian-Japanese friendship — established 156 years ago — has never been stronger. In a world marked by profound global chal-

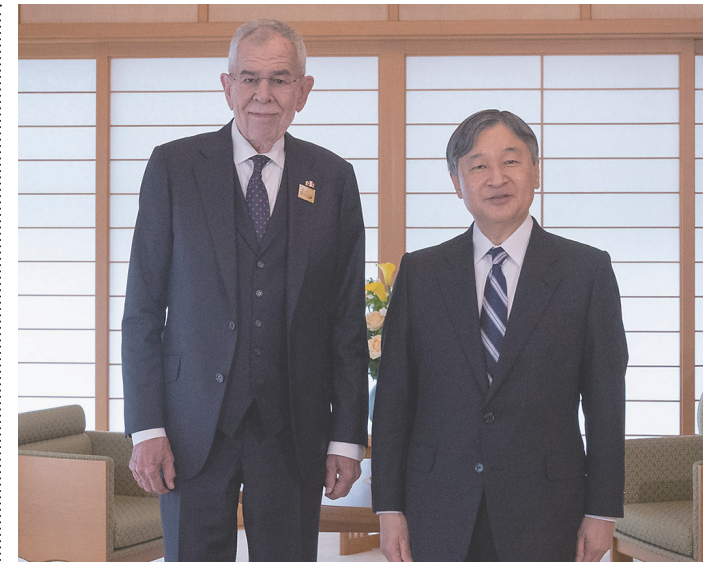
lenges, it is more important than ever to stand with trusted partners who share common values: democracy, rule of law and a commitment to peace.

Austria and Japan have long cooperated not only bilaterally but also in multilateral forums such as the United Nations. Austria, currently campaigning for a nonpermanent seat on the U.N. Security Council, believes deeply in the strength of international law.

In the Austrian-Japanese friendship, the local level is also of crucial importance: Over 30 city partnerships between municipalities in both countries foster personal exchange and vibrant cooperation at the grassroots level, profoundly contributing to this lasting friendship.

Tourism also continues to thrive between our nations, with growing numbers of Japanese enjoying Austria's majestic mountains, pristine lakes, historic cities and world-renowned cultural offerings. At the same time, more and more Austrians are discovering the beauty and depth of Japan and its culture.

As we celebrate Austria's National Day,



President Alexander Van der Bellen and Emperor Naruhito meet at the Imperial Palace on May 22. PETER LECHNER/HBF

I warmly invite all our Japanese friends to explore Austria — a country of rich traditions, natural wonders, warm hospitality and timeless charm — and to discover your own piece of Austria.

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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Greetings on the Austrian National Day

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