Austria National Day Special

Strong bonds built on trust and cooperation

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Since arriving in Tokyo one year ago, I have come to appreciate even more deeply the special relationship between Austria and Japan. Beyond mutual benefit, it is a genuine friendship rooted in shared values, reciprocal appreciation and close cooperation.

Such a relationship should never be taken for granted. It thrives because individuals on both sides invest in nurturing it, building trust and creating opportunities to work together. In an increasingly complex international environment, these personal ties are more valuable than ever.

As a country at the heart of Europe and a committed EU member, Austria recognizes that peace, security and prosperity depend on international cooperation. The Indo-Pacific is economically, technologically and strategically important, and Japan is key in strengthening Europe's role in it. Together, we are committed to democracy, international law, the rule of law and a rules-based international order.

Our election as a nonpermanent member of the U.N. Security Council for 2027 and 2028 offers a chance to advance dialogue, trust and partnership. We look forward to working with Japan to address global challenges through multilateral cooperation.

Security cooperation is also gaining momentum. The planned opening of the Austrian defense attache's office in Tokyo in 2027 will provide a foundation for closer exchanges on security and defense.

Japan is one of Austria's most important markets in Asia. Both countries share a commitment to innovation, with opportunities for collaboration in green technologies, hydrogen, semiconductors, life sciences and smart manufacturing. Closer dialogue among businesses, researchers and institutions can boost supply chain resilience.

Arts and culture remain key pillars of our relationship. Music, visual arts and cultural exchange foster dialogue, mutual understanding and lasting connections, while opening new perspectives.

More than 30 sister city partnerships strengthen people-to-people ties, cultural understanding and local cooperation. They remind us that international friendship is built not only by governments, but also by communities and individuals.

Building on this foundation of trust and mutual appreciation, Austria and Japan can deepen cooperation in security, innovation and culture, working together toward a peaceful, prosperous and connected world.

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