

「2024年度ウィーン大学スプリングスクール派遣報告書」

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I am researching on urban planning in the laboratory I belong to, focusing especially on the creation of cities that make entertainment and the arts, such as theaters, more accessible for people to enjoy. The ultimate goal is not just to make it easy to go to theaters, but to create cities with a lingering atmosphere and vibe that fosters a lasting enjoyment of the arts and entertainment. I have often heard that Vienna consistently ranks as the best city that people want to live in, and Vienna as a city is highly evaluated. I have been interested in Vienna's urban planning and the rich culture that is deeply rooted there. After my staying for two weeks in Vienna, I realize that "Seeing is believing." What I noticed through inspecting in Vienna was that compared to Japan, there are fewer cars on the street, lanes for bicycles are well-established, public transportation including trams is highly developed, and some of them are running even late at night. Although some people in Japan say that using public transportation is better than relying on cars for cities and people who live there, I realized that Japan is still lagging behind in this aspect compared to Vienna. Regarding lanes for bicycles, I found that Vienna's lanes for bicycles are wide enough and clearly separated from both the roadway and the sidewalk, which made me feel that they are much safer than poorly designed bicycle lanes in Japan. In Japan, there are just pictures of bicycles painted on the side of the roadway. Additionally, the trams, which are not commonly seen in Japan, blend into the city, and I personally enjoyed riding them several times. It was wonderful to be able to move around easily while enjoying the scenic cityscape. I believe that Japan should reconsider introducing trams more actively. In Professor Pippal's class, she talked about the story that Franz Joseph I advanced modern city planning, inspired by French cities, and she also explained various architectural styles which are visible in famous buildings throughout Vienna. Her lecture like these were very interesting to me and made me want to study more about Vienna's city planning to make Japanese cities, which include tall buildings and multi-tenant buildings and lack charm, more beautiful.

In addition to urban planning and public transportation, another aspect I discovered was how accessible the arts and entertainment are in Vienna. Since I am researching how to make cities more conducive to enjoying the arts and entertainment, and I personally enjoy attending theater performances, during my stay in Vienna I had the opportunity to experience ballet at the StaatsOper, musicals at the Raimund Theater, a concert at the Wiener Musikverein and a concert by a musical actress I personally support. I found that Vienna not only has large number of theaters but also has systems to make tickets more affordable, such as discounted tickets for students and cheaper last-minute tickets. In Japan, even if there are empty seats in a theater, tickets are rarely sold at a discount on the same day. Furthermore, aside from enjoying theater and entertainment, I visited several museums and cultural sites such as the Museum for Social and Economic Affairs, the Belvedere Museum, and the Vien Museum in my class. I also personally visited the Hofburg, Schönbrunn Palace, Vienna Museum of Art History, the House of Music, the Imperial Furniture Collection, the Imperial Carriage Museum, and Mozart House. I visited many museums and galleries, and I noticed that many facilities offer free entry for those under 18, which shows great consideration for young students and children. Vienna is a historic city, and while it is undoubtedly wonderful that it houses many precious works of art and historical materials, what is truly remarkable is the system that allows young people to easily view these valuable items. In Japan, children and students can generally enter museums at lower rates, but free admission is rare. One unique experience I had in Vienna was at Café Schwarzenberg. When we entered the café, the staff asked us "Do you like music?", so we answered "Yes." Then he guided us to the table which is right in front of the piano. There was about to be a live performance of piano and violin, therefore he guided us to seats where we could enjoy the music. Having cake and tea while listening to live music at this historic café was a blissful experience. I have never had such an experience in a café in Japan. At the restaurant where we had our welcome party, we also enjoyed the live music and

spent a beautiful time. Through these experiences, I personally felt how Vienna has developed a culture where people can easily access enriching experiences in the arts, entertainment, visual arts, history, and music. This low threshold for enjoying such enriching activities was one of the greatest lessons I gained from my time in Vienna, and it is something I could not have understood without actually visiting the city. Regarding my research on urban planning, I can now confidently assert the insights I gained from personally witnessing these aspects in Vienna. Since my time as a student is limited, I am uncertain whether I will have another opportunity for studying abroad. However, through this staying in Vienna, I strongly realized that there are many things that can only be understood by immersing oneself in foreign cultures, and this experience gave me a desire to actively engage with various cultures throughout my long life.