

## 「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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My first impression of Vienna was that it was an elegant and peaceful metropolis which has 700 years of history. However, through taking part in the Spring Program in Vienna University, I changed my impression. Now I feel that it's a much more modern city which has conflicted feeling for its history. Through visiting museums and the parliament, taking lectures, and interacting with students, I experienced Austrian's several conflicted feelings about history.

One of the most impressive foundations from the program is the three letters above the door of a room in the parliament ; FJI. I was very surprised to see the name of the previous emperor which represents the imperial era in the building represents democracy. However, at the same time, I remembered the situation of Austria in the Franz Joseph I era. The emperor was responsible to not only unite various peoples but also leading democracy and competing with other western countries. I think the three letters 'FJI' in the parliament shows that he was treated as a symbol of the marriage of the peoples' unity and the realization of the democratic society. Even though the outcome of such a marriage was a collapse, it can be imagined that those who in the era tried to maintain their country in the complicated situation, and I was moved to see one of the proof by myself. When I took a look at the Vienna city itself, I realized that most of the famous buildings were built after the 1860s and here I also recognized hard efforts to make Austria's monarchy great under the difficult circumstances. Also, it was interesting that these buildings represent Vienna and Austria even today, and help shaping their identities. However, it is still questionable that these three letters remain now. After the imperial era, Austria experienced WWI and WWII, and it's a completely democratic state today. Even though the parliament is one of the achievements of the emperor's era, today it is the stage of the fair and impartial politics driven by the nation. I guess that the monarchy is still one of the identities of the Austrians. For the first time I felt it's difficult to understand for us foreigners, but I realized that it is also the case with Japan. In Japan, the emperor, 'Tennou', no longer has any power in politics today. However, he appears in several important scenes of politics such as a prime minister appointment and plays an important role. Even for us Japanese, it is almost impossible to answer questions such as why he needs to appear in such scenes, he actually has no impact on political scenes, and more basically, why the imperial family and the system surrounding them still exist. Of course the conflict in Japan is not the same thing in Austria. However, through touching the conflict between past and the current in Austria from the point of view of a foreign student, I acquired an objective view of my country. It will be very helpful for me to think about Japanese problem. Also, visiting various museums and talking with students and professors from Vienna University, I realized that people in Austria are trying to deal with its historical background seriously. I think it is very respectful and necessary for those in Japan to have the same attitude.

It was an unexpected result that learning about the other country made me realize how my country looks. However, I think it is a wonderful foundation. Before I took part in this program, I thought that international interaction would change me a lot, free me from the Japanese way of thinking, and make me closer to foreigners. However, interacting and learning about others deepen my internal perspective. I learned two lessons; The first one is that a person cannot be another person so easily. Each of us has our own background. The more we interact with those who have different backgrounds, the more obvious our difference is. Secondly, even if it is impossible for us to have the same way of thinking and understand each other completely, when we can deepen our internal perspective and retain objective views, we can be sympathetic to foreigners. This tolerance is the really important thing to have an international mind and live in this globalizing world.

Through this 12 days program, I learned that it is important to deepen my understanding about myself through learning about others. I'm now interested in studying abroad as an exchange student from Kyoto University. It is because through joining this program, I have come to believe that I have to put myself in foreign circumstances and learn about both

others and myself. I promise to be an international minded person and give back my experience to my own study and future work. Specifically, I'd like to study how mass media plays a role in shaping people's minds. Combining my experiences abroad and knowledge from media studies, I'd like to contribute to increasing mutual understanding between several countries by media coverage. I believe all of the experiences in this program will help me to achieve my goal.

At the end of this report, I'd love to appreciate all of those who participated to realize this wonderful program between Vienna University and Kyoto University. Without their effort and support, I couldn't experience these precious days. Especially for Professor Wolfgang Mazal, professors who gave us fulfilling lectures, and students from Vienna University, I'd like to express my appreciation. I not only learned lots of things, but also made countless memories in 12 days with them. Interacting with students in Vienna University was very exciting, and I want to be as kind as them to welcome foreign students in Kyoto University. I am proud of myself for contributing to the interaction between two universities and being a part of these irreplaceable memories. I hope this program and the bond between two universities will last as long as possible, and I'd love to help maintain it.