

## 「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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Austria is a landlocked country bordering on seven countries now after a long history of transformations and conflicts with neighboring nations, unlike Japan, which is an island country with few invasions by outside powers. I was interested in what people in Vienna think of that transformation and how they have dealt with those neighborhood issues. Through the program, I found a key to this question: an attitude to face it without escaping from it is needed from the point of the view of multinationalism and the experience of losses in the wars.

One result of this courageous attempt is acceptance of other cultures. It requires an effort to consider other people's way of thinking and the background. According to Prof. Dr. Martina Pippal, Maria Theresia was inspired by the Chinese and Japanese culture at the Vienna International Exhibition to collect Chinese antiques and to decorate her rooms in the Schloss Schönbrunn with Chinese materials. Her servants and architects are inferred to have worked hard to import curios and learn how to make Chinese black lacquer look beautiful, as those ideas had come from the Far East, which few Europeans understood at that time. Thanks to that hard work, visitors today can enjoy both her interests and some parts of Asian culture. Another example of success in accepting other people was Yamaha's takeover of L. Bösendorfer Klavierfabrik in 2008. Its craftsmen were brave enough to affiliate themselves with a Japanese manufacturer, despite the fear that they would be forced to change their traditional methods into "efficient" modern Japanese-style mass production. This bold decision has enabled us to continue to hear the Viennese sound of approximately two hundred years. I indeed listened to it in the Staatsoper to the ballet "Lady of the Camellias," sitting in mellow tones. On the other hand, there is a failure of acceptance of cultures. Before the World War I, all members of the Austro-Hungarian Dual Monarchy's parliament were compelled to speak German in conferences regardless of their native tongue because the majority of the Austrian population spoke German and the capital Vienna was located in the German-speaking area. This is supposed to have partly triggered the collapse of the monarchy because members from non-German-speaking regions such as Hungary, Moravia, and Serbia had to speak a foreign language to them, notwithstanding the fact that each of them was elected by the people in their homelands, as Mag. Alexander Dinhobl pointed out.

In addition to the acceptance of an alien culture, telling history during the world wars is also a result of a struggle with problems. During the World War II, Austria was under the control of Nazis. I was shocked when Mag. Dinhobl told me that for a couple of decades after the World War II, Austrians thought they were victims of the Nazis though they themselves had supported the Nazis' government and assisted fascism and the Holocaust. Later, Austrians made an effort to know what they had really done and to pass it on to the younger generation in several institutions such as the Museum for Social and Economic Affairs and the Wien Museum. Today, Austria is an independent sovereign state as a permanently neutral country. Every Austrian remembers the scene Foreign Minister Figl shouted, "Austria is free" from the balcony of the Belvedere Palace. Austria's independence and sovereignty suggests its history of humiliation and struggle. We can still see that some Viennese protested against the Nazis' control in the figure on the wall of the St. Stephan's Cathedral, "05" representing the first sound of „Österreich". Inside the cathedral, there is a plaque with the names of those having supported the reconstruction of the cathedral including Germany, Hungary, and France, showing the experience of the fire in the war and the aid from neighboring communities after the conflicts during the war.

In this way, differences between cultures and the history negative legacy tells have to be accepted. We the younger generation must take the responsibility to struggle to find answers to the issues we are confronting with right now such as the declining birthrate and habitation on the earth. Through the program, we have learned what our predecessors had experienced and done. I am really grateful to Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Mazal, his colleagues, University of Vienna, Prof. Wakamatsu

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and the Institute for Liberal Arts and Science, Kyoto University for planning and conducting this wonderful program. I will tackle issues I am confronted with and make tireless efforts to understand others.