

Nasushiobara & Linz

From April 2022, the Civic Cooperation Promotion Section, Diversity Promotion Subsection is in charge of the sister city exchange with Linz.

Linz wants to be “Green Capital”



Through environmental measures, the environmental pollution was reduced

Linz was an industrial city where environmental pollution was a problem. But in the 1980s they implemented strong environmental measures, and as a result, the citizen’s quality of life was improved a lot. Now, Linz is actively taking measures regarding environmental problems and SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals), which are discussed around the world. Austria is a member of the EU (European Union). The EU has a program called “European Green Capital Award”. In the program, a city that puts a lot of effort into environmental measures is chosen. Linz is doing its best to become an “European Green Capital”. They put a lot of effort into environmental measures and projects connected to the SDGs. For Linz, global warming and climate change are the biggest problems.

Because of this, they are implementing measures to lower CO₂-emissions and to deal with the effects of climate change. Linz City’s climate strategy states the following five big topics:

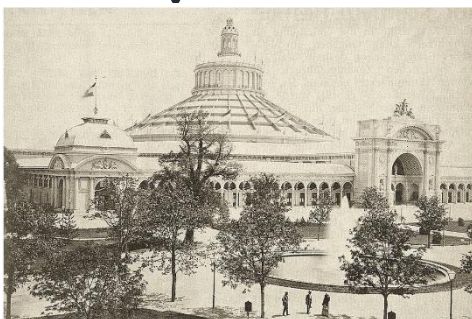
1. Organization, research and information
2. City planning, building and green spaces
3. Energy (renewable energy, energy efficiency, district heating and cooling technology)
4. Nature and food (bio diversity, ecological farming, fair trade, sustainable consumption)
5. Transport and mobility (promotion of public transport, bicycles and electrical cars)

In Linz, where new technologies are popular, there are several environmental projects that use apps, etc. For example, there is an app that is used to reduce food waste. They connect businesses that want to sell their remaining food and people who want that food at a low price. Or an app that shows the location of fruit gardens, where you can pick fruit freely. It is very easy for citizens to participate in such projects.



There are yearly passes for public transport

History Corner: The Iwakura Mission in Austria



The Rotunde at the Vienna World Exposition ©Public Domain

In 1873, the Iwakura Mission visited the Austrian-Hungarian Empire (today’s Austria).

Austria was a multiethnic state, which included many languages and cultures. It was also in the center of Europe, so people from the European countries gathered in Austria’s capital Vienna, which was very good for the cultural life.

The Vienna World Exposition also took place in 1873. Japan participated as one of 35 countries. The presented Japanese handcrafted articles were very popular. This also influenced culture,

and the movement of Japonism, which got inspiration from Japanese art, spread further.

According to the records of the Iwakura Mission, their impression of Austria was that it was a country from which they could not learn much where military things were concerned, but that it was a country that had a rich cultural life. They especially liked the Semmering railway, which also is a World Heritage. In 1875, Shūzō Aoki became minister to Austria.

Nasushiobara & Linz

People: Atsushi Utsuno



“The Games are over, but as their ‘Legacy’, new exchange projects are starting already.”

About the Host Town Exchange:

Nasushiobara was registered as “Host Town” and “Host Town of a Harmonious and Inclusive Society” for Austria. During the training camps of the Austrian Triathlon Team for the International Triathlon 2018 and the Test Event for the Tokyo Olympics 2019, the athletes visited a school and had an exchange meeting with citizens. In 2020, nine elementary and junior high schools in Nasushiobara participated in an online exchange with eight Austrian Paralympic athletes before the Games and cheered

for them. During the Games, Nasushiobara did some projects with other Austrian Host Towns - the Town of Yahaba (Iwate Prefecture) and the City of Azumino (Nagano Prefecture) - and Austrian people. The projects were the “Creation of an omotenashi menu”, the “Making



With the athletes during the training camp

of a choir video” or “Making a picture book of the online exchange”. The athletes and the other involved Austrians were deeply moved by the projects.

Special memories of this time:

During the training camp of the triathletes for the Games in Tokyo we built a relationship of trust with the athletes, and everyone involved did their best to send the athletes off to the Games in the best conditions. When we showed the athletes the menu and the choir video that our 3 cities had worked on, they thanked us from their hearts. It warmed my heart. When they left for the Olympic village on the last day we were sad, and I think our friendship became even

stronger. The schools that the para-athletes had done the exchange with made flags or videos to cheer them on before the Games. We were able to connect online to the Olympic village and do heartfelt activities like cheering for the athletes with songs.

About the future exchange:

The Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo left us with many records and memories. They taught us that even during the Covid-19 pandemic we can start different projects, if we set our mind to it.



Connecting online to the Olympic village

After the Games, we talked about the “Legacy” of the Olympic and Paralympic Games with the involved people from the 3 cities and from Austria. For future projects, topics like a cultural exchange in music or sports, cooperative projects connected to food, or topics like inclusive society or environment are possible. The Games are over, but as their “Legacy”, new exchange projects are starting already. I hear that some of the athletes have already started training for the Olympic Games in Paris. I hope that the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics will contribute to the further growth of both our countries through the “Olympic and Paralympic Legacy”.

Nasushiobara & Linz

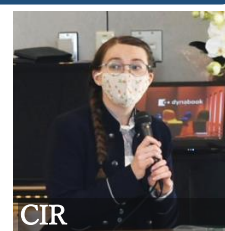
Lively Sister City Relations



Vice Mayor Kamei

Sat., January 16, 2022: 5 Year Anniversary Event

On the occasion of the 5th anniversary of the Sister City Relations between Linz and Nasushiobara, there was a Talk Event with Vice Mayor Kamei and the CIR (Coordinator for International Relations) about the past and future of the sister city exchange. Both cities are currently



CIR

putting effort into topics connected to the SDGs and renewable energy. Vice Mayor Kamei, who came from the Ministry of the Environment, talked about the current state and opportunities for Nasushiobara, and we heard about the characteristics and connecting points of both cities. He wants to continue the junior high school student exchange and the cultural exchange, and exchange information about other topics



Panel Exhibition



Online Exchange

and have more exchange not only in person but online as well. At the event, you could also see an introduction video about Linz by the student of the University of Vienna Mr. Hartl and a panel exhibition (January 16-23, 2022) about the 5 year anniversary of the sister city relations.



Mr. Salm talking about Aoki

Junior High School Student Online Exchange of the Fiscal Year 2021

On February 12, 2022, there was an online exchange meeting between 35 junior high school students from Nasushiobara and 14 students of Auhof Gymnasium in Linz. They learned about Shūzō Aoki and introduced their culture to each other with videos. Next, there was an exchange in small groups, using English. One student of Auhof Gymnasium happily said: “I won’t forget the exchange with you for my whole life!”

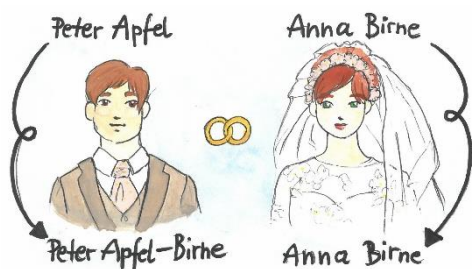
Event-Information ☆ Let’s learn about Shūzō Aoki, who was a bridge between Europe and Japan!

“Aoki Shūzō Panel Exhibition” for the 160th Anniversary of the German-Japanese Friendship:

- ◆Time: Sat., April 9 - Sun., May 8, 2022 (Closed on Mondays in April); 9:00 AM – 5:30 PM ◆Place: Aoki Villa
- ◆Target Audience: Anyone ◆Entrance Fee: 200 Yen (elementary and junior high school students: 100 Yen)

Learn about Shūzō Aoki. He was minister to Germany in the Meiji era and had deep connections to Germany. Enjoy materials from the Aoki Collection at Steyregg Castle (Austria). They have not been shown in Japan yet!

Culture Corner: What is a “Double Surname”?



If you marry in Austria, it does not mean that “the woman does have to take on the surname of the man”. There are three choices:

1. The two marriage partners choose one of their surnames to be their joint surname.
2. The two marriage partners each keep their original surname.
3. The two marriage partners join their surnames with a hyphen to create a “double surname”.

For example, if Mr. Apfel and Miss Birne marry, and choose a double surname, they could choose “Apfel-Birne” or “Birne-Apfel”. In Japanese Katakana, the names would be joined by a double hyphen: “アプフェル=ビルネ”. The double surname can be used by one or by both of them. Only up to two surnames can be joined. A name like “Apfel-Birne-Clementine” is not possible. The full name would be written as 1. First name 2. Middle name (if they have one) 3. Surname. So in this case the name is “Peter Apfel-Birne” or in Japanese “ペーター・アプフェル=ビルネ”.

Nasushiobara & Linz

Let's make ☆ "Belegtes Brot" (Open Faced Sandwiches)

"Mother's Day" and "Father's Day" are coming up soon. Let's make *Belegtes Brot* for them!

Ingredients: Bread (whole grain or baguette is best), cream cheese, ham, cheese, vegetables (cucumber, tomatoes, bell pepper, radish, etc.), pickles (pickled cucumber, olives), herbs (parsely, basil, cress, etc.), salt, pepper, hard boiled eggs

Preparation: Spread the cream cheese on the bread slices. Top with cheese or ham. Put the sliced vegetables, pickles or eggs you like on top. You can arrange it to make it pretty! Put the chopped herbs and a little salt and pepper on top.



We also introduce it in "At Home with Florin"



See Answer below

Hyvää päivää!
Guten Tag!
Jó nap!
Goddag!

Q:

What languages did Shūzō Aoki speak other than Japanese?

A: Finnish

B: German

C: Hungarian

D: Danish

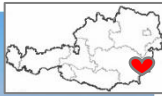


SDGs Corner: Güssing City

SDGs = Sustainable Development Goals



Güssing city ©Bwag/CC-BY-SA-4.0.



Güssing is a small city with a castle on a mountain and forests. It is a very rural city, but well known in the world of renewable energy. The region was very poor during the 1980s, so in 1990 they decided to stop using fossil energy to reduce the cost of electricity and fuel oil. Because they have a lot of wood, they used it and built a woodchip biomass power plant, which made electricity and heat. The energy efficiency of the power plant was 85%. For some time, the city became self-sufficient for energy. But there was a change

about the incentive money given to the power plant, and it became difficult to run the power plant in a profitable way. The woodchip biomass power plant closed in 2016. The city of Güssing still invests in green energy and there are many facilities that are related to renewable energy, for example the European Center for Renewable Energy (EEE).

Our organizational structure has changed. From April 2022, the Civic Cooperation Promotion Section, Diversity Promotion Subsection is in charge of the sister city exchange with Linz

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<https://www.city.nasushiobara.lg.jp/soshikikarasagasu/shiminkyodo/suishinka/shiminsankaku/kokusaikouryuu/3/4240.html>



Answer: B. Aoki also spoke Dutch and English.

Nasushiobara Sister City Newsletter

