An excellent bilateral relationship celebrates 150 years

I n 1869 Austria and Japan concluded the Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation. One hundred and fifty years later, this treaty continues to underpin the close relationship between the two countries.

"Japan was one of the first countries to establish diplomatic relations with Austria," said Kroniss, Austrian minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs. "Today, our bilateral relationship has grown significantly and is of great importance to both countries."

The treaty that dates back to 1869 states that the two countries have "the right to maintain a friendly intercourse with each other, to exchange ambassadors, to trade freely and to enjoy all the privileges and immunities to which the other country is entitled.

In 2015, Austria and Japan concluded the bilateral Treaty on Scientific and Technological Cooperation. This treaty is a testament to the importance of the relationship.

"Today, both Austria and Japan are facing similar challenges such as the need to adapt to digitalization and globalization," said Kroniss. "The bilateral relationship is one of the pillars of our foreign policy and is of utmost importance to us."

The bilateral relationship is not just limited to trade and economics. It also includes cultural exchanges.

"Both the Austrian and Japanese governments are committed to promoting cultural exchanges between the two countries," said Kroniss. "We have a number of cultural and educational agreements in place, which help to strengthen our ties."

"In recent years, there has been a growing interest in Austrian culture in Japan, with numerous cultural events and exhibitions taking place in both countries," said Kroniss. "This is a testament to the strong and enduring relationship between Austria and Japan."