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Austrian Delegation Participated in the Harvard Project for Asian and International Relations 20. October 2009

Austrian students attend conference held by the renowned Harvard University in Korea (Seoul) in August 2009.

The “go international Initiative” of the WKO enables Austrian students to participate in the project called “Harvard Project for Asian & International Relations (HPAIR)” by providing a travel allowance. The topic of this year’s “Academic Conference“ in Seoul was:”Braving New Frontiers: Tomorrows Ventures today and “Evolving Asia: Pathways in the Global Era”. 300 students from more than fifty countries were selected to participate in the conferences and to discuss with high-ranking politicians and economists about the latest topics. Austrian students have the possibility to broaden their horizon and establish long-lasting personal networks for their future life.

“It is very important for Austrian students to show up on the global stage and to build networks in important economic regions such as Asia. The students get the possibility to build relationships with students of various international top-universities and young professionals at Harvard University’s biggest event in Asia. Furthermore it is a unique opportunity and experience for prospective managers to develop their soft skills and to gain a better understanding of foreign cultures”, says Daniel Bruckner, Student of the International Management Center Krems and Austria’s representative in the HPAIR. Beside current topics such as Asia’s economic rise, crisis management and immanent threats, the participants gain insights into the culture, history and political situation of each country. A presentation of a female survivor of the time of the Japanese occupation, a trip to the DMZ (demilitarized zone) between North and South Korea - a relic of the Cold War - as well as discussions with exiled North Koreans, helped to get a better understanding of the Korean history and political situation.

Hence those conferences can be seen as an incubator of valuable international relationships for one’s future career. There was also taken the opportunity to present Austria as a location for education and a destination for tourism as well as an industrial country in cooperation with the OEAD (Austrian Agency for International Cooperation in Education & Research) and the Commercial Section at the Austrian Embassy in Seoul. After two exciting and highly informative weeks in Japan and Korea, a lot of new contacts, friendships and insights could be gained. If you have any questions regarding the project or the application for the participation in future conferences, feel free to contact Daniel Brucker (daniel.bruckner@apair.at). For further information about the “Harvard Project” please visit: <http://www.hpair.org> and www.apair.at.