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Ressort: Kunst, Kultur und Musik

Life Below Water

Vienna, 08.02.2020 [ENA]

On the 1st of February 2020 the doors of the imperial palace Hofburg opened for guests. The beautifully decorated premises of the noble venue invited everybody, from various nations and various professions, to join the magnificent ball. This was the largest ball in Vienna when more than 4.000 guests participated. This was also one of the most colourful balls, with huge variety of costumes and various nationalities.

The ball was organised by the Staff Association of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which is one of the largest international organisations being located in Vienna. The ball is also regarded as the event of the United Nations Organisation, including various organisations and agencies being located in Vienna, such as the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organisation (CTBTO), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and others. IAEA is one of the largest international organisations.

High level Austrian politicians provided their patronage and honorary presidency to the ball including Dr. Alexander Van der Bellen, the Federal President of the Republic of Austria, or Dr. Michael Ludwig, the Mayor of Vienna. The top leaders of IAEA including Mr. Imed Zabaar and Mr. Rafael Mariano Grossi gave the speech at the ball about the goals of IAEA for the coming year and for the near future.

The organisers of the ball provided one of the most extensive cultural programs. The guests enjoyed several performances and concerts such as Mariachi sin fronteras, the live Mexican music, or Baila Mexico!, the Mexican folklore dance group. The famous American soprano Christina Krawec performed various arias from works of Mozart or Gounod. During the midnight the group of four energetic young ladies performed various songs of Diana Ross. The guests had choice between variety of musical directions with various musical bands performing in different rooms of beautiful Hofburg, even including a silent disco.

The ball addressed requirements of sustainable development from both, economic, social and environmental points of views. It benefited from sponsorship al BMW Wien, UNFCU, OFID and Casino Wien. All proceeds of the ball were donated to charity. The ball was also certified as the Green Event by the Eco-Label "Umweltzeichen" from the Austrian Federal Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism.

The motto of the ball was "Life below water" which aimed to attract attention to the most acute problems of marine biodiversity and marine environment. All rooms of the ball were decorated with scenes from marine

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life. There was also an opportunity to make various photos. The exhibition and other awareness raising measures during the ball aimed to provide information about various risks which are currently threatening the marine environment. These risks include overfishing as nowadays more than 30% of the world's fish stock are overexploited. Another risk is pollution by waste produced by human activities, such as plastic, and acidification of the ocean which is ongoing since the industrial revolution.

For everyone, who likes diversity and is interested in various cultures and traditions; for everyone who enjoys dancing and various musical directions; for everyone who cares about social and environmental sustainable development; for everyone who would like to dive into the world of glamour, beautiful dresses and interiors – the IAEA ball is a wonderful opportunity to travel away from the everyday routine and to explore during one night a shining mixture of cultural events and opportunity to think critically about the future of our planet.

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