

IAEA Staff Association *Ball*

STATEMENT OF THE STAFF COUNCIL PRESIDENT TO THE IAEA STAFF ASSOCIATION BALL 2015

Good Evening, Everyone!

How lovely to see you all again!

Looking around I can see many familiar faces from the past and the present. A perfect blend for what promises to be a splendid ball.

And may I add, my compliments to you all – you all look fabulous!

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is both a pleasure and an honour to bid you all welcome. We are truly delighted to have you come to share in our festivities. Thank you all for coming.

I extend an especial welcome to our guests of honour, the representatives of the host country. Their presence and the fact that so many of you have travelled from far and wide underscore the importance of our work.

Over the years, the IAEA Staff Association Ball has created a sense of pride in our contribution to the international community and brought together staff, dignitaries, celebrities and member organisations in one common cause. Ours.

Tonight, individually and jointly, we are celebrating the spirit and commitment of a truly united international body.

Over the years, the IAEA Staff Association Ball has pledged its support for charity projects that have a positive and sustainable impact.

Our particular focus has been on national and international humanitarian endeavours to help orphans and children in need. Our hope is that we can contribute to alleviating their plight – and securing a sound education and more promising future for those who are in need around the globe.

Last year, the Presidents of the Vienna International Staff Associations and Unions launched a coordinated campaign, the Vienna Initiative Against Ebola.

We took pride in supporting such a good cause. We know

that the monies raised represented but a small step, albeit one in the right direction in the global fight against the deadly Ebola virus.

Given our commitment to the mandate of the IAEA and its contribution to peace and development, the IAEA Staff Association has joined forces with the Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (also known as PACT) and raised funds for a project – entitled Strengthening Paediatric Oncology in Vietnam. It aims to help children suffering from cancer to benefit from advances in paediatric oncology and offer psycho-social support. I am pleased to announce that we will donate 15,000 euros to PACT.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is only with your support and active participation that the IAEA Staff Association Ball can maintain its position as one of the most popular balls in Vienna. It also ranks high among the city's most successful charitable events. The proof of the pudding is in the eating. Tonight we have more than 3,000 guests.

We acknowledge with gratitude the generous donations from our sponsors, especially the Embassy and Permanent Mission of the Argentine Republic to the International Organizations in Vienna, the Tunisian Office of Tourism, Braut Couture Beran, American Express, Drei and Park Inn. Your support is truly appreciated!

Our thanks also go to:

Dr. Michael Häupl, the Mayor of Vienna;

Dr. Yukiya Amano, IAEA Director-General, who unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, could not be here tonight;

Ms. Janice Dunn Lee, IAEA Deputy Director General, who is attending on behalf of the Director General; and the Hofburg Management.

And last but not least, to all the volunteers, musicians, artists, security officers, catering service and photographers.



A special big thank you must also go to Elly Wynsford-Brown, the Chair of the 2015 Ball Organizing Committee, and her team:

Kaseza Talengwa Lukumbuza;
Rahim Abdur;
Alexia Poriki;
Fabien Petit;
Pappachan Punnackal;
Margaret Robertson; and
Anjarika Strohal

They all worked countless hours to put in place everything essential to making the evening a roaring success. Their efforts speak for themselves!

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The room is ready. The tables are set. The bands will soon start playing. And the waiters and waitresses stand ready to take your orders.

On behalf of the IAEA Staff Association, I once again bid you welcome to a superb setting. Fit for royalty! That is what you are to us – so slip into the role and glide across the floor.

May you all enjoy a truly memorable ball!

Thank you!



Message from Director General Yukiya Amano at the IAEA Staff Association Ball 2015

Dear friends and colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am sorry that I cannot be with you tonight.

The IAEA Ball has been one of the high spots of the year for my wife and myself for the past five years. Unfortunately, we have to miss it this time. I do not wish to spoil your enjoyment by delivering a long message.

So I will simply say “thank you”. Thank you to all IAEA staff for your hard work and dedication last year. Your work really makes a difference to the lives of millions of people throughout the world. All of us can take pride in working for the IAEA.

I also thank the Austrian government, citizens and friends who warmly welcome our staff, family members and especially children in your country and community.

Finally, I thank the Staff Association and its President, Mr. Imed Zabaar, for their support and constructive cooperation. I am sure the Ball will be a great success, as always. And I hope you all have a wonderful evening.

Thank you.