Ambassador Maria Zeneida Angara Collinson and Mr. Michael John Collinson (first from left) with Mag, Katharina Wieser, Deputy Diplomatic Adviser to the Federal President and Dr. Michael Wieser.

The Philippine Embassy and Permanent Mission in Vienna hosted a Summer Ball at the historic Palais Coburg in Vienna on 10 June 2016 to commemorate the 118th Anniversary of the Declaration of Philippine Independence and the 70th Anniversary of the Modern Diplomatic Relations between the Philippines and Austria.
The Summer Ball was well-attended by members of the Diplomatic Corps, officials of the Austrian government, officials of the international organizations based in Vienna, Austrian businessmen, and prominent members of the Filipino-Austrian community.

In her welcome address, Ambassador Angara Collinson noted the long history of friendly ties between the Philippines-Austria, which date back to as far as the 16th century. She likewise hoped that ties between the two countries would grow stronger in the years to come.

Representatives of Federal President Heinz Fischer and Vienna Mayor Michael Häupl also gave their messages during the event. Gemeinderat Ernst Woller, a member of the Vienna City Council, and Mag. Katharina Wieser, Deputy Diplomatic Adviser to President Fischer, both noted the strong ties between the Philippines and Austria, best exemplified by people-to-people contacts and the positive contributions of Filipino-Austrians to Austrian society.

The Summer Ball was also an opportunity to introduce the Philippine-Austrian Cultural and Educational Society (PACES), and their scholarship program for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) students in the Philippines known as STEMS70.

The Leyte Dance Theater, a dance troupe from Tacloban City, gave a much applauded performance.
Various Filipino artists including violin *virtuoso* Chino Gutierrez and Vienna-based Filipino pianist Aries Caces, Abdul Candao, and Vincent Bueno performed classical and modern songs to the great delight of the guests. END
Zubriggen, Apostolic Nuncio and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps (first from left) and Gemeinderat Ernst Woller, Member of the Vienna City Council (second from left).

Filipino-Austrian pop singer Vincent Bueno (top), violinist Chino Gutierrez, pianist Aries Caces (middle), and tenor Abdul Candao (bottom) entertain the ball guests.
The Leyte Dance Troupe entertains the ball guests with traditional Filipino dances namely, (clockwise) the “tinikling”, the “maglalatik”, the “bulaklakin”, and the “singkil”. (All photographs by
Wanda Albances)