



Tsuneyasu Kondo

Country/Region: Austria (Vienna)

Age: 84

Current Position: Management Advisor of NIPPON-YA, a Japanese food store

Pioneer in disseminating Japanese food in Europe

- Went to Germany in 1960, and for 55 years since then, in Germany, the U.K., and Austria, he has managed a Japanese restaurant, Japanese food import & sales store, and Japanese tea store & tea room.
- Served Japanese cuisine to the Japanese team at the 1972 Munich Olympic Games.
- Cooperated to hold a charity concert and collected donations to send musical instruments to schools in the areas affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake.

In 1960, he went to Germany to join his two brothers and established a trading company for Japanese food and groceries in West Berlin. In 1965, he opened the first Japanese restaurant in West Berlin and became a pioneer in disseminating Japanese food, which was not popular in Europe at that time. Since then, he has been involved in the introduction and sales of a wide variety of Japanese food and other products in Europe.

In 1972, he opened the first Japanese restaurant in Vienna, Austria, after opening a restaurant in London, in 1970. Also, at the 1972 Munich Olympic Games, he opened a temporary Japanese restaurant in Munich to serve Japanese cuisine to the Japanese team as a significant source of vitality for them.

In 1974, he opened a store specializing in Japanese food, NIPPON-YA, in Vienna, Austria, with the aim of "promoting understanding and familiarity of Japan among people in European countries through food culture." The store has been in business for over 40 years and has attracted more and more customers since then. In addition, he has been committed to exporting Japan-produced food to the former Yugoslav countries and the Baltic states, as well as to regions as far away as the Middle East, the Near East, and Kazakhstan, where it is difficult to obtain Japanese food. The import amount of Japan-produced food was 600,000 euros (about 80 million yen) in 2014. In 2006, he opened a Japanese tea store & tea room, Cha No Ma, attached to NIPPON-YA in Vienna, in order to disseminate Japanese tea.

After the Great East Japan Earthquake, he cooperated to hold a charity concert to support those affected and collected donations at his stores to present musical instruments to schools in the affected areas. He has also engaged in activities to eliminate concerns about the safety of Japanese food raised after the nuclear power plant accident. After handing the management of NIPPON-YA to his daughter, he now acts as a management advisor.