



THE DALAI LAMA

December 30, 2009

Mr. Alfred Stingl
Bürgermeister a.D der Landeshauptstadt Graz
Thaddäus Stammel Strasse 15b
8020 Graz
AUSTRIA

Dear Mr. Alfred Stingl,

Thank you very much for your greetings. I would like in turn wish you and your wife a very happy New Year.

I have fond memories of my visit to Graz in 2002, when I was able to give the Kalachakra Initiation, and remain grateful for the warm welcome Graz gave to everyone who attended. I would also like to thank you for all the trouble you shouldered as Mayor of this beautiful city to ensure all went well. I deeply appreciate your interest and support for the cause of the Tibetan people's just aspirations.

Yes, I visited Lingshed, a remote place in Ladakh, in August this year and was very touched by the devotion of the people there. I am glad to know that the *Friends of Lingshed* in Graz are supporting the school there; enabling children to receive a good education is a really worthwhile gift. I hope that the event you are holding on 27 February 2010 will be successful.

Although I have no immediate plans to visit Austria or Graz again, I will let you know when I do so that we may meet again.

With my prayers and good wishes,

Yours sincerely,