[Template:Other uses](/wiki/Template:Other_uses" \o "Template:Other uses) [Template:Use dmy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_dmy_dates) [Template:Infobox royalty](/wiki/Template:Infobox_royalty) [Template:Japanese Imperial Family](/wiki/Template:Japanese_Imperial_Family) [Template:Nihongo](/wiki/Template:Nihongo) ([Template:Audio](/wiki/Template:Audio)) is the reigning [Template:Nihongo](/wiki/Template:Nihongo), the 125th Emperor of his line according to Japan's [traditional order of succession](/wiki/List_of_Emperors_of_Japan). He [acceded](/wiki/Enthronement_of_the_Japanese_Emperor) to the [Chrysanthemum Throne](/wiki/Chrysanthemum_Throne) on 7 January 1989.

## Contents

* 1 Name[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]
* 2 Biography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]
* 3 Marriage and family[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]
* 4 Official functions[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]
* 5 Succession[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]
* 6 Ichthyological research[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]
* 7 Titles and styles[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]
* 8 Honours[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]
  + 8.1 National honours[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]
  + 8.2 Foreign honours[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]
  + 8.3 Other awards[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]
* 9 Issue[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]
* 10 Ancestors[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]
  + 10.1 Patrilineal descent[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]
* 11 See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]
* 12 References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]
* 13 External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]

## Name[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

In Japan, the Emperor is never referred to by his given name, but rather is referred to as [Template:Nihongo](/wiki/Template:Nihongo) which may be shortened to [Template:Nihongo](/wiki/Template:Nihongo).[[1]](#cite_note-1) In writing, the Emperor is also referred to formally as [Template:Nihongo](/wiki/Template:Nihongo). The [Era](/wiki/Japanese_era_name) of Akihito's reign bears the name "[Heisei](/wiki/Heisei_period)" ([Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)), and according to custom he will be renamed **"Emperor Heisei"** (平成天皇 *Heisei Tennō*; see "[posthumous name](/wiki/Posthumous_name)") by order of the [Cabinet](/wiki/Cabinet_of_Japan) after his death. At the same time, the name of the next era under his successor will also be established.[[2]](#cite_note-2)

## Biography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

[thumb|left|The newly married Crown Prince and Crown Princess in Japanese traditional attire, with the Prince wearing a](/wiki/File:Crown_Prince_Akihito_&_Michiko_Shoda_Wedding_1959-4.jpg) [*sokutai*](/wiki/Sokutai), the Princess a [*jūnihitoe*](/wiki/Jūnihitoe) Akihito is the elder son and the fifth child of the [Emperor Shōwa](/wiki/Emperor_Shōwa) (Hirohito) and [Empress Kōjun](/wiki/Empress_Kōjun) (Nagako). Titled [Template:Nihongo](/wiki/Template:Nihongo) as a child, he was raised and educated by his private tutors and then attended the elementary and secondary departments of the Peers' School ([*Gakushūin*](/wiki/Gakushūin)) from 1940 to 1952.[[3]](#cite_note-3) Unlike his predecessors in the Imperial family, he did not receive a commission as an army officer, at the request of his father, Hirohito.

During the American firebombing raids on Tokyo in March 1945, Akihito and his younger brother, [Prince Masahito](/wiki/Prince_Hitachi), were evacuated from the city. During the [American occupation of Japan](/wiki/Occupied_Japan) following [World War II](/wiki/World_War_II), Prince Akihito was tutored in the English language and Western manners by [Elizabeth Gray Vining](/wiki/Elizabeth_Gray_Vining). He briefly studied at the Department of Political Science at [Gakushuin University](/wiki/Gakushuin_University) in Tokyo, though he never received a [degree](/wiki/Academic_degree).

Although he was Heir-Apparent to the [Chrysanthemum Throne](/wiki/Chrysanthemum_Throne) from the moment of his birth, Akihito's formal [Template:Nihongo](/wiki/Template:Nihongo) was held at the [Tokyo Imperial Palace](/wiki/Tokyo_Imperial_Palace) on 10 November 1952. In June 1953, [Crown Prince](/wiki/Crown_Prince) Akihito represented Japan at the [Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II](/wiki/Coronation_of_Queen_Elizabeth_II) in London.[[3]](#cite_note-3) [thumb|left|Imperial Standard](/wiki/File:Flag_of_the_Japanese_Emperor.svg) Then-Crown Prince Akihito and Crown Princess Michiko made official visits to thirty-seven countries. As an Imperial prince, Akihito compared the role of Japanese royalty to that of a robot; and, he expressed the hope that he would like to help in bringing the [Imperial family](/wiki/Imperial_Family_of_Japan) closer to the people of Japan.[[4]](#cite_note-4) Upon the death of Emperor [Hirohito](/wiki/Hirohito) on 7 January 1989, the crown prince succeeded (*senso*) to the throne.[[5]](#cite_note-5) Emperor Akihito's enthronement ceremony took place (*sokui*)[[5]](#cite_note-5) on 12 November 1990.[[3]](#cite_note-3) In 1998, during a state visit to the [United Kingdom](/wiki/United_Kingdom), he was invested with [The Most Noble Order of the Garter](/wiki/The_Most_Noble_Order_of_the_Garter).

On 23 December 2001, during his annual birthday meeting with reporters, the Emperor, in response to a reporter's question about tensions with Korea, remarked that he felt a kinship with [Koreans](/wiki/Korean_people) and went on to explain that, in the [*Shoku Nihongi*](/wiki/Shoku_Nihongi), the mother of [Emperor Kammu](/wiki/Emperor_Kammu) (736–806) is related to [Muryeong](/wiki/Muryeong_of_Baekje) of Korea, [King of Baekje](/wiki/Baekje).[[6]](#cite_note-6) Emperor Akihito underwent surgery for [prostate cancer](/wiki/Prostate_cancer) on 14 January 2003.[[7]](#cite_note-7) Since succeeding to the throne, Emperor Akihito has made an effort to bring the Imperial family closer to the Japanese people. The Emperor and Empress of Japan have made official visits to eighteen countries, as well as all forty-seven [Prefectures of Japan](/wiki/Prefectures_of_Japan).[[3]](#cite_note-3) In response to the [2011 Tōhoku earthquake and tsunami](/wiki/2011_Tōhoku_earthquake_and_tsunami) and the [Fukushima I nuclear crisis](/wiki/Fukushima_I_nuclear_accidents), the Emperor made a historic televised appearance[[8]](#cite_note-8) urging his people not to give up hope and to help each other. The Emperor and the Empress also made a visit on Wednesday, 30 March 2011 to a temporary shelter housing refugees of the disaster, in order to inspire hope in the people. This kind of event is also extremely rare, though in line with the Emperor's attempts to bring the Imperial family closer to the people.[[9]](#cite_note-9)Later in 2011, he was admitted to hospital suffering from [pneumonia](/wiki/Pneumonia).[[10]](#cite_note-10)In February 2012, it was announced that the Emperor would be having a coronary examination.[[11]](#cite_note-11) He underwent successful heart bypass surgery on 18 February 2012.[[12]](#cite_note-12)

## Marriage and family[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

In August 1957, he met [Michiko Shōda](/wiki/Empress_Michiko)[[3]](#cite_note-3)[[13]](#cite_note-13) on a tennis court at [Karuizawa](/wiki/Karuizawa,_Nagano) near [Nagano](/wiki/Nagano,_Nagano). The [Imperial Household Council](/wiki/Imperial_Household_Council) (a body composed of the [Prime Minister of Japan](/wiki/Prime_Minister_of_Japan); the presiding officers of the two houses of the [Diet of Japan](/wiki/National_Diet); the [Chief Justice of Japan](/wiki/Chief_Justice_of_Japan); and two members of the Imperial family) formally approved the engagement of the Crown Prince to Michiko Shōda on 27 November 1958. At that time, the media presented their encounter as a real "fairy tale",<ref name=time>[« *The Girl from Outside* », *Time*, 23 March 1959](http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,892335-1,00.html)</ref> or the "romance of the tennis court". The engagement ceremony took place on 14 January 1959.

The Emperor and Empress married on 10 April 1959. She was the first [commoner](/wiki/Commoner) to marry into the Imperial Family.

The Emperor and Empress have three children: sons [Naruhito, Crown Prince of Japan](/wiki/Naruhito,_Crown_Prince_of_Japan) (born 23 February 1960, formerly The Prince Hiro) and [Fumihito, Prince Akishino](/wiki/Fumihito,_Prince_Akishino) (born 30 November 1965, formerly The Prince Aya) and daughter Mrs. [Sayako Kuroda](/wiki/Sayako_Kuroda) (born 18 April 1969, formerly The Princess Nori).[[3]](#cite_note-3)

## Official functions[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

[thumb|right|Emperor Akihito and](/wiki/File:Emperor_Akihito_and_empress_Michiko_of_japan.jpg) [Empress Michiko](/wiki/Empress_Michiko) of Japan on 28 June 2005 Despite being strictly constrained by his [constitutional](/wiki/Constitution_of_Japan) position, he also issued several wide-ranging statements of remorse to [Asian](/wiki/Asia) countries, for their suffering under Japanese occupation, beginning with an expression of remorse to [China](/wiki/China) made in April 1989, three months after the death of his father, [Emperor Shōwa](/wiki/Hirohito).

In June 2005, the Emperor visited the [U.S.](/wiki/United_States) territory of [Saipan](/wiki/Saipan),[[14]](#cite_note-14) the site of a battle in [World War II](/wiki/World_War_II) from 15 June to 9 July 1944 ([Battle of Saipan](/wiki/Battle_of_Saipan)). Accompanied by Empress Michiko, he offered prayers and flowers at several memorials, honoring not only the Japanese who died, but also American soldiers, Korean laborers, and local islanders. It was the first trip by a Japanese monarch to a World War II battlefield abroad. The Saipan journey was received with high praise by the Japanese people, as were the Emperor's visits to war memorials in [Tokyo](/wiki/Tokyo), [Hiroshima](/wiki/Hiroshima), [Nagasaki](/wiki/Nagasaki) and [Okinawa](/wiki/Okinawa) in 1995.

## Succession[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

[thumb|thumbtime=7|The Emperor of Japan, at](/wiki/File:Emperor_of_Japan_-_Tenno_-_New_Years_2010.ogv) [Chōwaden Reception Hall](/wiki/Chōwaden_Reception_Hall), giving a New Year's address to the people of Japan in 2010. On 6 September 2006, the Emperor celebrated the birth of his first grandson, [Prince Hisahito](/wiki/Prince_Hisahito_of_Akishino), the third child of the Emperor's younger son. Prince Hisahito is the first male heir born to the Japanese imperial family in 41 years (since his father Prince Akishino) and could avert a [possible succession crisis](/wiki/Japanese_succession_controversy) as the Emperor's elder son, the Crown Prince, has only one daughter, [Princess Aiko](/wiki/Aiko,_Princess_Toshi). Under Japan's current male-only succession law, Princess Aiko is not eligible for the throne. The birth of Prince Hisahito could mean that proposed changes to the law to allow Aiko to ascend the [Chrysanthemum Throne](/wiki/Chrysanthemum_Throne) will not go through after being temporarily shelved following the announcement of [Princess Kiko's](/wiki/Princess_Akishino) third pregnancy in February 2006.[[15]](#cite_note-15) The supporters of changes criticized the current law as it placed a burden on the few aging males old enough to perform royal duties as females left the family. [[16]](#cite_note-16)

## Ichthyological research[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

In extension of his father's interest in [marine biology](/wiki/Marine_biology), the Emperor is a published [ichthyological](/wiki/Ichthyology) researcher, and has specialized studies within the [taxonomy](/wiki/Taxonomy_(biology)) of the [family](/wiki/Family_(biology)) [Gobiidae](/wiki/Goby).[[17]](#cite_note-17) He has written papers for scholarly journals, namely [*Gene*](/wiki/Gene_(journal)) and the *Japanese Journal of Ichthyology*.[[18]](#cite_note-18) He has also written papers about the [history of science](/wiki/History_of_science) during the [Edo](/wiki/Edo_period) and [Meiji eras](/wiki/Meiji_period), which were published in [*Science*](/wiki/Science_(journal))[[19]](#cite_note-19) and [*Nature*](/wiki/Nature_(journal)).[[20]](#cite_note-20) In 2005, a newly described goby was named [*Exyrias akihito*](/wiki/Exyrias_akihito) in his honour.

* Member of [the Ichthyological Society of Japan](/wiki/The_Ichthyological_Society_of_Japan)
* Foreign member of [the Linnean Society of London](/wiki/The_Linnean_Society_of_London) (1980)
* Honorary member of the Linnean Society of London (1986)
* Research associate of the [Australian Museum](/wiki/Australian_Museum)
* Honorary member of the [Zoological Society of London](/wiki/Zoological_Society_of_London) (1992)
* Honorary member of the [Research Institute for Natural Science of Argentina](/wiki/Research_Institute_for_Natural_Science_of_Argentina) (1997)
* Honorary degree of the [Uppsala University](/wiki/Uppsala_University) (2007)

## Titles and styles[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

[Template:Infobox royal styles](/wiki/Template:Infobox_royal_styles)

* **23 December 1933 – 10 November 1952**: *His Imperial Highness* The Prince Tsugu
* **10 November 1952 – 7 January 1989**: *His Imperial Highness* The Crown Prince
* **7 January 1989 – present**: *His Imperial Majesty* The Emperor

## Honours[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|right|300px|Crown Prince Akihito on his wedding day, 10 April 1959](/wiki/File:Crown_Prince_&_Princess_&_Emperor_Showa_&_Empress_Kojun_wedding_1959-4.jpg)

### National honours[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

* Collar and Grand Cordon of the [Supreme Order of the Chrysanthemum](/wiki/Order_of_the_Chrysanthemum)
* Grand Cordon of The [Order of the Rising Sun](/wiki/Order_of_the_Rising_Sun) with the Paulownia Blossoms (renamed Grand Cordon of The [Order of the Paulownia Flowers](/wiki/Order_of_the_Paulownia_Flowers) from 2003)
* Grand Cordon of the [Order of the Sacred Treasure](/wiki/Order_of_the_Sacred_Treasure)
* [Order of Culture](/wiki/Order_of_Culture)
* The Golden Medal of Merit of the [Japanese Red Cross](/wiki/Japanese_Red_Cross)
* The Golden Medal of Honorary Member of the [Japanese Red Cross](/wiki/Japanese_Red_Cross)

### Foreign honours[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

[thumb|180px|](/wiki/File:Hillary_Rodham_Clinton_Emperor_Akihito_and_Empress_Michiko_20110417.jpg)[United States Secretary of State](/wiki/United_States_Secretary_of_State) [Hillary Clinton](/wiki/Hillary_Clinton) meets Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko at the [Imperial Palace](/wiki/Tokyo_Imperial_Palace) in April 2011.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Country** | **Awards** |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | [Order of the Supreme Sun](/wiki/Order_of_the_Supreme_Sun) |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | [Decoration for Services to the Republic of Austria](/wiki/Decoration_for_Services_to_the_Republic_of_Austria), Grand Star [[21]](#cite_note-21) |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | [Order of al-Khalifa](/wiki/Order_of_al-Khalifa), Collar |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | [Order of Leopold](/wiki/Order_of_Leopold_(Belgium)), Grand Cordon |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | [Presidential Order](/wiki/Presidential_Order) |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | [Order of the Southern Cross](/wiki/Order_of_the_Southern_Cross), Grand Collar |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | [Royal Order of Cambodia](/wiki/Royal_Order_of_Cambodia), Grand Cross |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | [Order of Valour](/wiki/Order_of_Valour), Grand Cordon |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | [Order of the Merit of Chile](/wiki/Order_of_the_Merit_of_Chile), Grand Collar |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | [Order of the Cross of Boyaca](/wiki/Colombian_military_decorations#Order_of_Boyaca_(Orden_de_Boyacá)), Grand Collar |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) / [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | [National Order of the Leopard](/wiki/National_Order_of_the_Leopard), Grand Cordon |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | [National Order of the Ivory Coast](/wiki/National_Order_of_the_Ivory_Coast), Grand Cordon |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | [Order of the White Lion](/wiki/Order_of_the_White_Lion), 1st Class (Civil Division) with Collar Chain |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | [Order of the Elephant](/wiki/Order_of_the_Elephant) (8 August 1953)[[22]](#cite_note-22) |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | [Order of the Nile](/wiki/Order_of_the_Nile), Grand Collar |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | [Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana](/wiki/Order_of_the_Cross_of_Terra_Mariana), The Collar of the Cross[[23]](#cite_note-23) |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | [Order of Solomon](/wiki/Order_of_Solomon), Grand Collar |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | [Order of the White Rose](/wiki/Order_of_the_White_Rose), Grand Cross with Collar |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | [Légion d'honneur](/wiki/Légion_d'honneur), Grand Cross |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | [Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany](/wiki/Order_of_Merit_of_the_Federal_Republic_of_Germany), Grand Cross, Special Class |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | [Order of the Redeemer](/wiki/Order_of_the_Redeemer), Grand Cross |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | [Order of Merit of the Republic of Hungary](/wiki/Order_of_Merit_of_the_Republic_of_Hungary), Grand Cross with Chain |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | [Order of the Falcon](/wiki/Order_of_the_Falcon), Grand Cross with Collar |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | [Star of Adipurna](/wiki/Orders,_decorations,_and_medals_of_Indonesia), 1st Class |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | [Freedom of the City of Dublin](/wiki/Freedom_of_the_City_of_Dublin), awarded by Lord Mayor of Dublin |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | [Order of Merit of the Republic](/wiki/Order_of_Merit_of_the_Republic), Grand Cross with Cordon |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | [Order of al-Hussein bin Ali](/wiki/Order_of_al-Hussein_bin_Ali), Collar |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | [Order of the Golden Eagle](/wiki/Order_of_the_Golden_Eagle) |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | [Order of the Golden Heart](/wiki/Order_of_the_Golden_Heart_of_Kenya) |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | [Order of Mubarak the Great](/wiki/Order_of_Mubarak_the_Great), Collar |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | [Order of the Three Stars](/wiki/Order_of_the_Three_Stars), Commander Grand Cross with Chain[[24]](#cite_note-24) |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | [Order of the Star of Africa](/wiki/Order_of_the_Star_of_Africa), Knight Grand Band [Order of the Pioneers of the Republic](/wiki/Order_of_the_Pioneers_of_the_Republic) Knight Grand Band |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | [Order of Vytautas the Great](/wiki/Order_of_Vytautas_the_Great), the Great Grand Cross with Collar[[25]](#cite_note-25) |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | [Order of the Gold Lion of the House of Nassau](/wiki/Order_of_the_Gold_Lion_of_the_House_of_Nassau), Knight |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | [Order of the Lion](/wiki/Order_of_the_Lion_(Malawi)), Grand Commander |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | Honorary Recipient of the [Order of the Crown of the Realm](/wiki/Order_of_the_Crown_of_the_Realm) |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | [National Order of Mali](/wiki/National_Order_of_Mali), Grand Cordon |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | [Order of the Aztec Eagle](/wiki/Order_of_the_Aztec_Eagle), Grand Collar |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | [Order of Muhammad](/wiki/Order_of_Muhammad), Grand Collar |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | [Order of Ojaswi Rajanya](/wiki/Order_of_Ojaswi_Rajanya), Member (19 April 1960)[[26]](#cite_note-26)  King Birendra Coronation Medal (24 February 1975)[[27]](#cite_note-27) |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | [Order of the Netherlands Lion](/wiki/Order_of_the_Netherlands_Lion), Knight Grand Cross[[28]](#cite_note-28) |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | [Order of the Federal Republic](/wiki/Order_of_the_Federal_Republic), Grand Cordon |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | [Royal Norwegian Order of St. Olav](/wiki/Order_of_St._Olav), Grand Cross with Collar[[29]](#cite_note-29) |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | [Order of Oman](/wiki/Order_of_Oman), Superior Class |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | [Nishan-e-Pakistan](/wiki/Nishan-e-Pakistan), 1st Class |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | [Order of Manuel Amador Guerrero](/wiki/Order_of_Manuel_Amador_Guerrero), Gold Collar |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | [Order of the Sun](/wiki/Order_of_the_Sun_(Peru)), Grand Cross in Brilliants |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | [Philippine Legion of Honor](/wiki/Philippine_Legion_of_Honor), Chief Commander[[30]](#cite_note-30)  [Order of Sikatuna](/wiki/Order_of_Sikatuna), Rank of Raja[[31]](#cite_note-31)  [Order of Lakandula](/wiki/Order_of_Lakandula), Grand Collar |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | [Order of the White Eagle](/wiki/Order_of_the_White_Eagle_(Poland)) |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | [Order of Saint James of the Sword](/wiki/Order_of_Saint_James_of_the_Sword), Grand Collar  [Order of Prince Henry](/wiki/Order_of_Prince_Henry), Grand Collar[[32]](#cite_note-32) |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | [Collar of Independence](/wiki/Collar_of_Independence) |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | [Badr Chain](/wiki/Badr_Chain) |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | [Order of the Lion](/wiki/Orders,_decorations_and_medals_of_Senegal), Grand Cordon |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | [Order of Good Hope](/wiki/Order_of_Good_Hope), Grand Cross in Gold |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | [Order of the Golden Fleece](/wiki/Order_of_the_Golden_Fleece), Knight[[33]](#cite_note-33)  [Order of Charles III](/wiki/Order_of_Charles_III) Grand Cross [Order of Charles III](/wiki/Order_of_Charles_III) Collar |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | [Royal Order of the Seraphim](/wiki/Royal_Order_of_the_Seraphim), Knight with Collar[[34]](#cite_note-34) |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | [The Most Auspicious Order of the Rajamitrabhorn](/wiki/The_Most_Auspicious_Order_of_the_Rajamitrabhorn) [The Most Illustrious Order of the Royal House of Chakri](/wiki/The_Most_Illustrious_Order_of_the_Royal_House_of_Chakri) |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | [Order of the Republic of Gambia](/wiki/Order_of_the_Republic_of_Gambia), Grand Commander |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | [Order of Prince Yaroslav the Wise](/wiki/Order_of_Prince_Yaroslav_the_Wise), First Class |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | [Collar of the Federation](/wiki/Collar_of_the_Federation) |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) | Stranger Knight of [Order of the Garter](/wiki/Order_of_the_Garter) (985th member; 1998) Honorary Knight Grand Cross of the [Royal Victorian Order](/wiki/Royal_Victorian_Order) (?) [Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Medal](/wiki/Queen_Elizabeth_II_Coronation_Medal) |
| [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag)\* | [Order of the Yugoslav Star](/wiki/Order_of_the_Yugoslav_Star) |
|  |  |

* FR Yugoslavia split into Serbia and Montenegro.

### Other awards[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

* [The Royal Society](/wiki/The_Royal_Society) [King Charles II Medal](/wiki/King_Charles_II_Medal)

## Issue[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Birth** | **Marriage** | | **Issue** |
| [Naruhito, Crown Prince of Japan](/wiki/Naruhito,_Crown_Prince_of_Japan) | 23 February 1960 | 9 June 1993 | [Masako Owada](/wiki/Masako,_Crown_Princess_of_Japan) | [Aiko, Princess Toshi](/wiki/Aiko,_Princess_Toshi) |
| [Fumihito, Prince Akishino](/wiki/Fumihito,_Prince_Akishino) | 30 November 1965 | 29 June 1990 | [Kiko Kawashima](/wiki/Princess_Akishino) | [Princess Mako of Akishino](/wiki/Princess_Mako_of_Akishino) [Princess Kako of Akishino](/wiki/Princess_Kako_of_Akishino) [Prince Hisahito of Akishino](/wiki/Prince_Hisahito_of_Akishino) |
| [Sayako, Princess Nori](/wiki/Sayako_Kuroda) | 18 April 1969 | 15 November 2005 | [Yoshiki Kuroda](/wiki/Yoshiki_Kuroda) |  |

## Ancestors[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

[[35]](#cite_note-35)[Template:Ahnentafel top](/wiki/Template:Ahnentafel_top)

[Template:Ahnentafel-compact5](/wiki/Template:Ahnentafel-compact5)

[Template:Ahnentafel bottom](/wiki/Template:Ahnentafel_bottom)

### Patrilineal descent[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

|  |
| --- |
| **Patrilineal descent** |
| Akihito's patriline is the line from which he is descended father to son.  [Patrilineal descent](/wiki/Patrilineal_descent) is the principle behind membership in royal houses, as it can be traced back through the generations, which means that Akihito is a member of the [Imperial House of Japan](/wiki/Imperial_House_of_Japan).  Imperial House of Japan   1. Descent prior to Keitai is unclear to modern historians, but traditionally traced back patrilineally to [Emperor Jimmu](/wiki/Emperor_Jimmu) 2. [Emperor Keitai](/wiki/Emperor_Keitai), ca. 450–534 3. [Emperor Kimmei](/wiki/Emperor_Kimmei), 509–571 4. [Emperor Bidatsu](/wiki/Emperor_Bidatsu), 538–585 5. Prince Oshisaka, ca. 556–??? 6. [Emperor Jomei](/wiki/Emperor_Jomei), 593–641 7. [Emperor Tenji](/wiki/Emperor_Tenji), 626–671 8. Prince Shiki, ???–716 9. [Emperor Kōnin](/wiki/Emperor_Kōnin), 709–786 10. [Emperor Kammu](/wiki/Emperor_Kammu), 737–806 11. [Emperor Saga](/wiki/Emperor_Saga), 786–842 12. [Emperor Ninmyō](/wiki/Emperor_Ninmyō), 810–850 13. [Emperor Kōkō](/wiki/Emperor_Kōkō), 830–867 14. [Emperor Uda](/wiki/Emperor_Uda), 867–931 15. [Emperor Daigo](/wiki/Emperor_Daigo), 885–930 16. [Emperor Murakami](/wiki/Emperor_Murakami), 926–967 17. [Emperor En'yū](/wiki/Emperor_En'yū), 959–991 18. [Emperor Ichijō](/wiki/Emperor_Ichijō), 980–1011 19. [Emperor Go-Suzaku](/wiki/Emperor_Go-Suzaku), 1009–1045 20. [Emperor Go-Sanjō](/wiki/Emperor_Go-Sanjō), 1034–1073 21. [Emperor Shirakawa](/wiki/Emperor_Shirakawa), 1053–1129 22. [Emperor Horikawa](/wiki/Emperor_Horikawa), 1079–1107 23. [Emperor Toba](/wiki/Emperor_Toba), 1103–1156 24. [Emperor Go-Shirakawa](/wiki/Emperor_Go-Shirakawa), 1127–1192 25. [Emperor Takakura](/wiki/Emperor_Takakura), 1161–1181 26. [Emperor Go-Toba](/wiki/Emperor_Go-Toba), 1180–1239 27. [Emperor Tsuchimikado](/wiki/Emperor_Tsuchimikado), 1196–1231 28. [Emperor Go-Saga](/wiki/Emperor_Go-Saga), 1220–1272 29. [Emperor Go-Fukakusa](/wiki/Emperor_Go-Fukakusa), 1243–1304 30. [Emperor Fushimi](/wiki/Emperor_Fushimi), 1265–1317 31. [Emperor Go-Fushimi](/wiki/Emperor_Go-Fushimi), 1288–1336 32. [Emperor Kōgon](/wiki/Emperor_Kōgon), 1313–1364 33. [Emperor Sukō](/wiki/Emperor_Sukō), 1334–1398 34. [Prince Yoshihito Fushimi](/wiki/Fushimi-no-miya), 1351–1416 35. [Prince Sadafusa Fushimi](/wiki/Fushimi-no-miya), 1372–1456 36. [Emperor Go-Hanazono](/wiki/Emperor_Go-Hanazono), 1419–1471 37. [Emperor Go-Tsuchimikado](/wiki/Emperor_Go-Tsuchimikado), 1442–1500 38. [Emperor Go-Kashiwabara](/wiki/Emperor_Go-Kashiwabara), 1464–1526 39. [Emperor Go-Nara](/wiki/Emperor_Go-Nara), 1495–1557 40. [Emperor Ōgimachi](/wiki/Emperor_Ōgimachi), 1517–1593 41. [Prince Masahito](/wiki/Prince_Masahito), 1552–1586 42. [Emperor Go-Yōzei](/wiki/Emperor_Go-Yōzei), 1572–1617 43. [Emperor Go-Mizunoo](/wiki/Emperor_Go-Mizunoo), 1596–1680 44. [Emperor Reigen](/wiki/Emperor_Reigen), 1654–1732 45. [Emperor Higashiyama](/wiki/Emperor_Higashiyama), 1675–1710 46. [Prince Naohito Kanin](/wiki/Kan'in-no-miya), 1704–1753 47. [Prince Sukehito Kanin](/wiki/Kan'in-no-miya), 1733–1794 48. [Emperor Kōkaku](/wiki/Emperor_Kōkaku), 1771–1840 49. [Emperor Ninkō](/wiki/Emperor_Ninkō), 1800–1846 50. [Emperor Kōmei](/wiki/Emperor_Kōmei), 1831–1867 51. [Emperor Meiji](/wiki/Emperor_Meiji), 1852–1912 52. [Emperor Taishō](/wiki/Emperor_Taishō), 1879–1926 53. [Emperor Shōwa](/wiki/Hirohito), 1901–1989 54. Emperor Akihito, b. 1933 |

## See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]

* [The Emperor's Birthday](/wiki/The_Emperor's_Birthday)
* [Imperial Household Agency](/wiki/Imperial_Household_Agency)
* [Imperial House of Japan](/wiki/Imperial_House_of_Japan)
* [Japanese era name](/wiki/Japanese_era_name)
* [List of Emperors of Japan](/wiki/List_of_Emperors_of_Japan)
* [List of longest reigning current monarchs](/wiki/List_of_longest_reigning_current_monarchs)

## References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]

[Template:Reflist](/wiki/Template:Reflist)

## External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]

[Template:Wikiquote](/wiki/Template:Wikiquote) [Template:Commons category](/wiki/Template:Commons_category) [Template:Wikinews](/wiki/Template:Wikinews)

* [Kunaicho | Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress](http://www.kunaicho.go.jp/e-about/activity/activity01.html)
* [Press Conference on the occasion of His Majesty's Birthday (2014)](http://www.kunaicho.go.jp/e-okotoba/01/press/kaiken-h26e.html)
* [Complete transcript (U.S. English and Japanese) and audio mp3 and video of 'Do Not Lose Hope' Address to the Nation](http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/emperorakihitodisasterspeech.htm) at AmericanRhetoric.com

[Template:S-start](/wiki/Template:S-start) [Template:S-hou](/wiki/Template:S-hou) [Template:S-reg](/wiki/Template:S-reg) [Template:S-bef](/wiki/Template:S-bef) [Template:S-ttl](/wiki/Template:S-ttl) [Template:S-inc](/wiki/Template:S-inc) |- [Template:S-prec](/wiki/Template:S-prec) in Japan [Template:S-new](/wiki/Template:S-new) [Template:S-ttl](/wiki/Template:S-ttl) [Template:S-aft](/wiki/Template:S-aft) [Template:S-end](/wiki/Template:S-end)

[Template:Monarchs of Japan](/wiki/Template:Monarchs_of_Japan) [Template:Current sovereigns](/wiki/Template:Current_sovereigns) [Template:Japanese princes](/wiki/Template:Japanese_princes) [Template:Members of the Order of the Garter](/wiki/Template:Members_of_the_Order_of_the_Garter) [Template:List of Current Heads of State of G20](/wiki/Template:List_of_Current_Heads_of_State_of_G20) [Template:Authority control](/wiki/Template:Authority_control)

[Category:1933 births](/wiki/Category:1933_births) [Category:Living people](/wiki/Category:Living_people) [Category:People from Tokyo](/wiki/Category:People_from_Tokyo) [Category:Gakushuin University alumni](/wiki/Category:Gakushuin_University_alumni) [Category:Heisei period](/wiki/Category:Heisei_period) [Category:Japanese emperors](/wiki/Category:Japanese_emperors) [Category:Japanese ichthyologists](/wiki/Category:Japanese_ichthyologists) [Category:Japanese philanthropists](/wiki/Category:Japanese_philanthropists) [Category:Japanese Shintoists](/wiki/Category:Japanese_Shintoists) [Category:Gold Collars of the Order of Manuel Amador Guerrero](/wiki/Category:Gold_Collars_of_the_Order_of_Manuel_Amador_Guerrero) [Category:Collars of the Order of the Aztec Eagle](/wiki/Category:Collars_of_the_Order_of_the_Aztec_Eagle) [Category:Collars of the Order of Mubarak the Great](/wiki/Category:Collars_of_the_Order_of_Mubarak_the_Great) [Category:Collars of the Order of the White Lion](/wiki/Category:Collars_of_the_Order_of_the_White_Lion) [Category:Grand Collars of the Order of the Southern Cross](/wiki/Category:Grand_Collars_of_the_Order_of_the_Southern_Cross) [Category:Grand Collars of the Order of Prince Henry](/wiki/Category:Grand_Collars_of_the_Order_of_Prince_Henry) [Category:Grand Collars of the Order of Saint James of the Sword](/wiki/Category:Grand_Collars_of_the_Order_of_Saint_James_of_the_Sword) [Category:Grand Crosses with Golden Chain of the Order of Vytautas the Great](/wiki/Category:Grand_Crosses_with_Golden_Chain_of_the_Order_of_Vytautas_the_Great) [Category:Grand Crosses with Chain of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Hungary (civil)](/wiki/Category:Grand_Crosses_with_Chain_of_the_Order_of_Merit_of_the_Republic_of_Hungary_(civil)) [Category:Knights Grand Cross with Collar of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic](/wiki/Category:Knights_Grand_Cross_with_Collar_of_the_Order_of_Merit_of_the_Italian_Republic) [Category:Grand Collars of the Order of Lakandula](/wiki/Category:Grand_Collars_of_the_Order_of_Lakandula) [Category:Grand Collars of the Order of Sikatuna](/wiki/Category:Grand_Collars_of_the_Order_of_Sikatuna) [Category:Grand Cordons of the National Order of the Leopard](/wiki/Category:Grand_Cordons_of_the_National_Order_of_the_Leopard) [Category:Grand Cordons of the Order of the Nile](/wiki/Category:Grand_Cordons_of_the_Order_of_the_Nile) [Category:Grand Cordons of the Order of Valour](/wiki/Category:Grand_Cordons_of_the_Order_of_Valour) [Category:Grand Crosses of the National Order of the Ivory Coast](/wiki/Category:Grand_Crosses_of_the_National_Order_of_the_Ivory_Coast) [Category:Grand Croix of the Légion d'honneur](/wiki/Category:Grand_Croix_of_the_Légion_d'honneur) [Category:Grand Crosses of the Order of Good Hope](/wiki/Category:Grand_Crosses_of_the_Order_of_Good_Hope) [Category:Grand Crosses of the National Order of the Lion](/wiki/Category:Grand_Crosses_of_the_National_Order_of_the_Lion) [Category:Grand Crosses of the National Order of Mali](/wiki/Category:Grand_Crosses_of_the_National_Order_of_Mali) [Category:Honorary Knights Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order](/wiki/Category:Honorary_Knights_Grand_Cross_of_the_Royal_Victorian_Order) [Category:Grand Crosses of the Order of the Sun of Peru](/wiki/Category:Grand_Crosses_of_the_Order_of_the_Sun_of_Peru) [Category:Chief Commanders of the Philippine Legion of Honor](/wiki/Category:Chief_Commanders_of_the_Philippine_Legion_of_Honor) [Category:Grand Commanders of the Order of the Federal Republic](/wiki/Category:Grand_Commanders_of_the_Order_of_the_Federal_Republic) [Category:Chiefs of the Order of the Golden Heart of Kenya](/wiki/Category:Chiefs_of_the_Order_of_the_Golden_Heart_of_Kenya) [Category:Extra Knights Companion of the Garter](/wiki/Category:Extra_Knights_Companion_of_the_Garter) [Category:Knights of the Golden Fleece](/wiki/Category:Knights_of_the_Golden_Fleece) [Category:Knights of the Order of the Gold Lion of the House of Nassau](/wiki/Category:Knights_of_the_Order_of_the_Gold_Lion_of_the_House_of_Nassau) [Category:Members of the Order of Ojaswi Rajanya](/wiki/Category:Members_of_the_Order_of_Ojaswi_Rajanya) [Category:Knights of the Order of the Rajamitrabhorn](/wiki/Category:Knights_of_the_Order_of_the_Rajamitrabhorn) [Category:Knights of the Order of the Royal House of Chakri](/wiki/Category:Knights_of_the_Order_of_the_Royal_House_of_Chakri) [Category:Recipients of the Collar of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana](/wiki/Category:Recipients_of_the_Collar_of_the_Order_of_the_Cross_of_Terra_Mariana) [Category:Recipients of the Grand Star of the Decoration for Services to the Republic of Austria](/wiki/Category:Recipients_of_the_Grand_Star_of_the_Decoration_for_Services_to_the_Republic_of_Austria) [Category:Recipients of the Nishan-e-Pakistan](/wiki/Category:Recipients_of_the_Nishan-e-Pakistan) [Category:Recipients of the Order of al-Hussein bin Ali](/wiki/Category:Recipients_of_the_Order_of_al-Hussein_bin_Ali) [Category:Recipients of the Order of Boyaca](/wiki/Category:Recipients_of_the_Order_of_Boyaca) [Category:Recipients of the Order of Culture](/wiki/Category:Recipients_of_the_Order_of_Culture) [Category:Recipients of the Order of Muhammad](/wiki/Category:Recipients_of_the_Order_of_Muhammad) [Category:Recipients of the Order of Prince Yaroslav the Wise, 1st class](/wiki/Category:Recipients_of_the_Order_of_Prince_Yaroslav_the_Wise,_1st_class) [Category:Recipients of the Order of Solomon](/wiki/Category:Recipients_of_the_Order_of_Solomon) [Category:Honorary Recipients of the Order of the Crown of the Realm](/wiki/Category:Honorary_Recipients_of_the_Order_of_the_Crown_of_the_Realm) [Category:Recipients of the Order of the Falcon](/wiki/Category:Recipients_of_the_Order_of_the_Falcon) [Category:Recipients of the Order of the Rising Sun with Paulownia Flowers](/wiki/Category:Recipients_of_the_Order_of_the_Rising_Sun_with_Paulownia_Flowers) [Category:Recipients of the Order of the Sacred Treasure, 1st class](/wiki/Category:Recipients_of_the_Order_of_the_Sacred_Treasure,_1st_class) [Category:Recipients of the Order of the Supreme Sun](/wiki/Category:Recipients_of_the_Order_of_the_Supreme_Sun) [Category:Recipients of the Order of the Yugoslav Star](/wiki/Category:Recipients_of_the_Order_of_the_Yugoslav_Star) [Category:Special Classes of the Order of Oman](/wiki/Category:Special_Classes_of_the_Order_of_Oman) [Category:Articles containing video clips](/wiki/Category:Articles_containing_video_clips)