

New heir to Chrysanthemum Throne?

Japan's Princess Kiko, the wife of Emperor Akihito's second son, is soon to give birth to her third child. If Kiko has a boy, he would be a potential future heir as his uncle, Crown Prince Naruhito, has a daughter but no sons

Emperor Akihito

Born 1933,

Acceded 1989

125th in imperial
line believed to be
unbroken for
2,600
years

m

Empress

Michiko

b1934

**Crown
Prince
Naruhito**
b1960

m

**Masako
Owada**
b1963

Princess Nori*
b1969

**Prince
Akishino**
b1965

m

**Kiko
Kawashima**
b1966

Princess Aiko *b2001*

Plan to change
Imperial House Law
to allow Aiko to succeed
temporarily shelved due to
Kiko's pregnancy

Princess Mako
b1991

Princess Kako
b1994

?

Sep 6, 2006: Princess Kiko due to give birth
by Caesarean section. **Current law allows
only a male to inherit the throne**

**Japan's Imperial Family, the oldest hereditary monarchy in the world, has
failed to produce a male heir since Prince Akishino was born in 1965**

**Left Imperial Family in 2005 on marriage to commoner, as required by law*

Source: Japanese Imperial Household

Pictures: Associated Press

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