

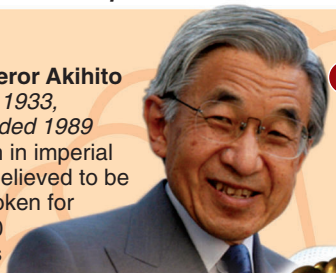
Japan celebrates new royal prince

The birth of a son to Princess Kiko, wife of the Emperor's second son, Prince Akishino, has provided the first new heir to the Chrysanthemum throne in 41 years, easing a looming succession crisis for the centuries-old monarchy

- 660BC** Accession of legendary **Emperor Jimmu**
- 5th century** First historically verified emperor, **Ojin**, rules for 40 years
- 1763** Last reigning empress, **Gosakuramachi**, assumes throne
- 1889** **Imperial House Law** limits sitting monarchy to male descendants

Emperor Akihito

Born 1933,
Acceded 1989
125th in imperial
line believed to be
unbroken for
2,600
years



Empress Michiko

b1934



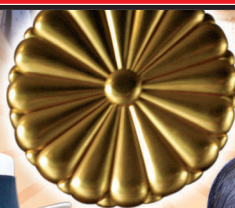
**Left Imperial Family
in 2005 on marriage
to commoner*

Crown Prince Naruhito

b1960



Masako Owada
b1963



Princess Sayako*

b1969

Prince Akishino
b1965



Kiko Kawashima
b1966



Princess Aiko b2001
Plan to change law to
allow Aiko to succeed
temporarily shelved on
news of Kiko's pregnancy



Princess Mako b1991
Princess Kako b1994

Sep 6, 2006: Baby boy – third in line
to throne – born by Caesarean section