

# 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**