



Naoto Kan

Japan's governing DPJ has chosen Naoto Kan as its new leader, paving the way for the outspoken Finance Minister to become prime minister

■ **Born:** October 10, 1946

■ **Political career:** Entered parliament in 1980. Founded **Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ)** with Hatoyama in 1998

■ **1996:** As Health Minister, Kan exposed government cover-up of HIV-tainted blood products that caused thousands of haemophilia patients to contract AIDS virus

■ **2010:** Appointed Finance Minister by Hatoyama. In his first news conference Kan surprised markets by advocating weaker yen to help exporters and stimulate economy