



# Naoto Kan

*Japan's outspoken Finance Minister and Deputy Premier is seen as the frontrunner to succeed Yukio Hatoyama as 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