

Japanese Emperor “to abdicate”

Japan's Emperor Akihito, 82, has expressed his desire to abdicate in the next few years, a step that would be unprecedented in modern Japan. Crown Prince Naruhito, 56, is next in line to the Chrysanthemum Throne.

Emperor Akihito

Born 1933

Acceded 1989

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



Empress Michiko
b1934

Imperial Standard



Crown Prince Naruhito
b1960



Masako Owada
b1963



Prince Akishino
b1965



Kiko Kawashima
b1966



Princess Sayako*
b1969



Princess Aiko
b2001



Princess Mako
b1991



Princess Kako
b1994



Prince Hisahito
b2006



Line of succession

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