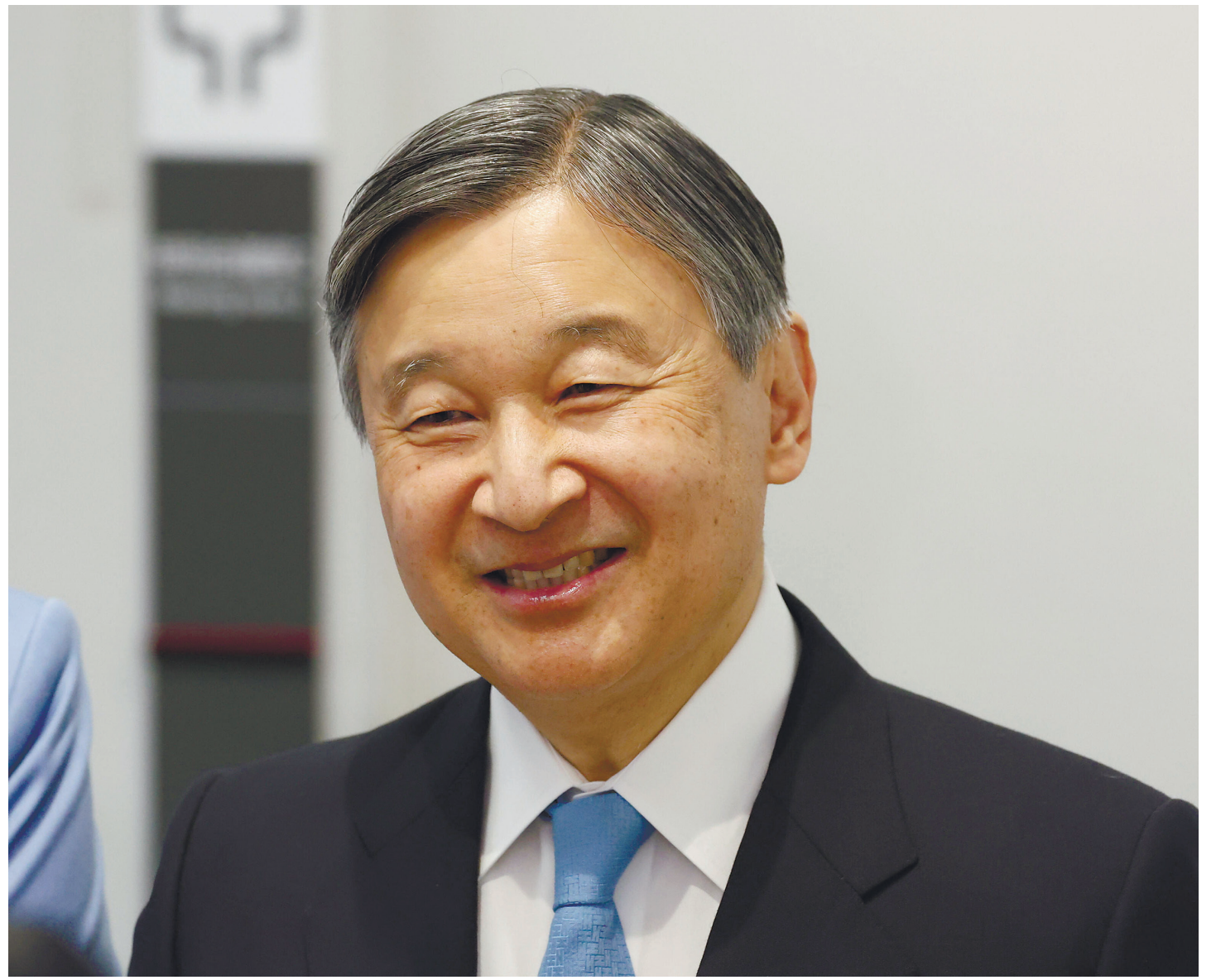


# Emperor's birthday



Empress Masako, Emperor Naruhito and their daughter, Princess Aiko, chat during a walk through the grounds of the Nasu Imperial Villa in Nasu, Tochigi Prefecture, on Sept. 12. 川井



Emperor Naruhito arrives at the Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium for the 50th Japan Wheelchair Basketball Championship on Feb. 2. 川井

## Fostering cordial ties abroad, supporting people at home

**THE JAPAN TIMES AGENCY**

Emperor Naruhito, the eldest son of Emperor Emeritus Akihito and Empress Emerita Michiko, celebrated his 65th birthday on Sunday.

He is known as the first emperor to have studied abroad. After making his first overseas trip to Australia at the age of 14 in 1974, he studied at the Department of History in the Faculty of Letters of Gakushuin University. He then traveled to the United Kingdom in 1983 where he deepened his research on the history of transportation on the River Thames. His warm and sociable personality helped him fully enjoy the two years of dormitory life he experienced while studying at Oxford University's Merton College.

Together with Empress Masako, who received her education overseas and worked as a diplomat, the emperor has made a significant contribution to deepening the bonds between the Japanese imperial family and foreign countries.

In June 2024, the imperial couple was invited to Britain as state guests and deep-

ened the long-standing friendship with King Charles and Queen Camilla at a state banquet held at Buckingham Palace. The original invitation had come from Queen Elizabeth II, but it was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In an address he made in English at the banquet, he expressed his hope for "building an enduring relationship based on friendship, goodwill and cooperation" between the two countries "as friends like no other." During the visit, the emperor and empress also attended a luncheon hosted by the chancellor of Oxford University.

On the domestic front, the imperial couple hosted garden parties at the Akasaka Imperial Gardens in April and October. Along with Princess Aiko, their only child, and other members of the imperial family, they engaged in lively conversation with the guests.

The emperor and empress attended the general opening ceremony of the Japan Games sports festival in Saga Prefecture in Kyushu on Oct. 5 and enjoyed watching a volleyball game the next day. The annual event began in 1946 as the National Sports

Festival. The 2024 event was the first one after it was rebranded as the Japan Games.

The couple visited disaster-hit Ishikawa Prefecture three times last year. The prefecture and surrounding areas suffered a major earthquake on Jan. 1, 2024, and recovery is still underway. The Okunoto area at the tip of the Noto Peninsula in Ishikawa also suffered severe damage from torrential rains in September.

The imperial family's New Year's greetings event in 2024 had been canceled due to the earthquake, but this year the event was held on Jan. 2. The imperial couple, together with the princess and other members of the imperial family, appeared on the balcony of the Chowaden reception hall at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo's Chiyoda Ward five times to greet well-wishers and wave to the crowd that filled the square in front.

The Imperial Household Agency's Instagram account shares photos and videos taken primarily during the official activities of the emperor and empress, contributing to connecting the public and the imperial family.



The emperor and empress visit flood evacuees at Wajima Junior High School in Wajima, Ishikawa Prefecture, on Dec. 17. 川井



Congratulations on the Emperor's Birthday

Artisanal  
Japanese Sake



Born

BORN Co., Ltd. KatouKichibee Shouten

1-11 Yoshie-cho, Sabae-shi, Fukui Pref. 916-0001 Japan Tel +81-778-51-1507 Fax +81-778-53-1406

<https://www.born.co.jp/>



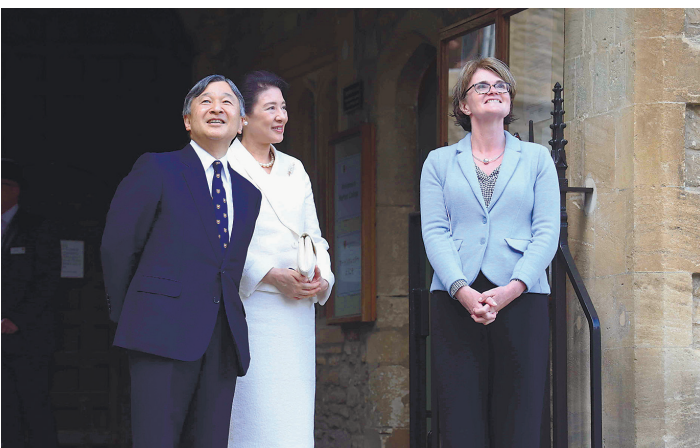
Don't drink and drive. Drink only after the age of 20. Please drink responsibly.



# Emperor's birthday



Emperor Naruhito chats with King Charles III as their carriage arrives at Buckingham Palace in London on June 25.   
 JJI



Left: The imperial couple revisit their old stomping grounds at the University of Oxford on June 28 before leaving the U.K. after an official visit. Right: A procession for Emperor Naruhito, Empress Masako, King Charles III and Queen Camilla heads for Buckingham Palace through the Mall in London on June 25.   
 JJI

Best wishes to Emperor Naruhito on his majesty's birthday



## Embassy of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire

H.E. Ipo Gbolie Desire Wulfran  
*Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary*

Best wishes to Emperor Naruhito on his majesty's birthday



## Embassy of the Gabonese Republic

H.E. Joseph Giraud Effangone-Obaghe  
*Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary*

Best wishes to Emperor Naruhito on his majesty's birthday



## Embassy of the Republic of Iraq

Pewan Zawitai  
*Charge d'Affaires a.i.*

Best wishes to Emperor Naruhito on his majesty's birthday



## Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania

H.E. Sidya El Hadj  
*Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary*

Best wishes to Emperor Naruhito on his majesty's birthday



## Embassy of the Republic of Mozambique

Jose Antonio Justino Nhalungo  
*Charge d'Affaires a.i.*

Best wishes to Emperor Naruhito on his majesty's birthday



## Embassy of the United Republic of Tanzania

H.E. Baraka H. Luvanda  
*Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary*



## Embassy of the Republic of Angola

On behalf of the government of Angola, I have the honor to extend warmest congratulations to His Majesty Emperor Naruhito on his 65th birthday and wish good health and prosperity.



H.E. Teodolinda Rosa Rodrigues Coelho  
*Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary*



## Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines

On behalf of the Philippines, I extend warmest birthday wishes to his majesty. May this year bring blessings and good health to the imperial family and the people of Japan.



H.E. Mylene J. Garcia-Albano  
*Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary*