

Emperor's birthday

A life dedicated to learning, conserving water resources

THE JAPAN TIMES AGENCY

Emperor Naruhito, who was born 63 years ago today as the eldest son of Emperor Emeritus Akihito and Empress Emerita Michiko, is known as the first Japanese emperor to have studied abroad.

After making his first overseas trip to Australia in 1974, he studied at the Department of History in the Faculty of Letters of Gakushuin University. His broad interests and sociable personality took him to Britain in 1983 to deepen his academic research. He spent two years living in a dormitory and studying at Oxford University's Merton College.

In 2022, amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the emperor participated in numerous public activities either in person or online, often together with Empress Masako.

One of these events was his virtual attendance with the empress at the 4th Asia-Pacific Water Summit in the city of Kumamoto in April. Issues associated with water and waterways have drawn his interest since his schooldays in Britain, when he studied the history of transport on the Thames River.

At the summit, held at Kumamoto-jo Hall under the theme of "Water for Sustainable Development: Best Practices and the Next Generation," the emperor gave a commemorative lecture and made remarks in English during the opening ceremony. In one of his remarks, he referred to Kumamoto as a "sustainable and resilient city" on the way to recovery from the devastating Kumamoto Earthquake in 2016, and touched on the joint efforts of multiple stakeholders "in activities to foster groundwater and conserve the aquatic environment." He also described water as "a cross-cutting issue" that is connected to multiple issues listed among the United



Emperor Naruhito (fourth from left), accompanied by Empress Masako and Princess Aiko, waves to well-wishers at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo on Jan. 2 as Crown Prince Fumihito (third from left) waves with Crown Princess Kiko and second daughter Princess Kako (left). KYODO

Nation's sustainable development goals.

In May, the emperor and empress participated in the Okinawa Reversion 50th Anniversary Ceremony remotely.

In September, the imperial couple attended the state funeral of Queen Elizabeth II in London, where Emperor Naruhito attended a reception hosted by King Charles III at Buckingham Palace.

The emperor first met the queen in 1975, during her one and only visit to Japan. He had warm meetings with the queen while studying at Oxford and had built close ties with her over the decades.

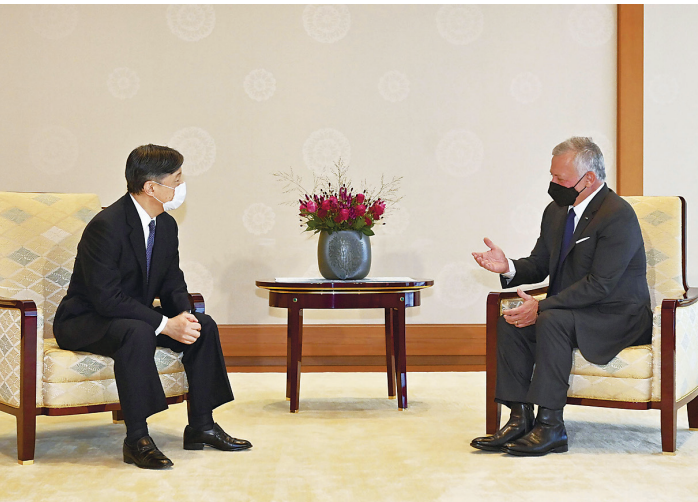
The imperial couple had planned to visit Britain at her invitation as state guests in

2020. It was supposed to be their first trip abroad after his accession to the throne in May 2019, but the COVID-19 pandemic delayed it, and the queen died two years later on Sept. 8. In a message released the day after her death, the emperor expressed deep sorrow and sincere condolences.

In November, the emperor visited the Tokyo National Museum in Taito Ward during the special exhibition held to commemorate its 150th anniversary, accompanied by Empress Masako and Princess Aiko. The museum, founded in 1872, is the oldest institution of its kind in Japan and the largest in terms of National Treasures, possessing nearly a tenth of the 902 known



Emperor Naruhito speaks remotely from the Imperial Palace on June 5 to address a national tree-planting ceremony in Koka, Shiga Prefecture. KYODO



Left: Emperor Naruhito and Jordan's King Abdullah II hold talks at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo on Sept. 28. Right: The emperor and empress pose with Palau President Surangel Whipps Jr. and his wife, Valerie, before talks at the palace on Sept. 9. KYODO



Left: Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako arrive at a hotel in London on Sept. 17, two days ahead of the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II. Above: The emperor and empress chat with students practicing for a music festival in Ginowan, Okinawa Prefecture, in October. KYODO



Congratulations on the Emperor's Birthday

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

Emperor's birthday



Left: Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako attend the annual Imperial New Year's Poetry Reading at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo in January 2022. Above: The imperial couple visit the Tokyo National Museum on Nov. 24 with their daughter, Princess Aiko (left). KYODO

Best wishes to Emperor Naruhito on his majesty's birthday



Embassy of the Republic of Angola

H.E. Rui Orlando Xavier
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

Best wishes to Emperor Naruhito on his majesty's birthday



Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan

H.E. Gursel Ismayilzada
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

Best wishes to Emperor Naruhito on his majesty's birthday



Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan

H.E. Sabr Yessimbekov
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

Best wishes to Emperor Naruhito on his majesty's birthday



Embassy of the Republic of Kenya

H.E. Tabu Irina
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

Best wishes to Emperor Naruhito on his majesty's birthday



Embassy of the Republic of Kosovo

H.E. Sabri Kicmari
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

Best wishes to Emperor Naruhito on his majesty's birthday



Embassy of the Federated States of Micronesia

H.E. John Fritz
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

Best wishes to Emperor Naruhito on his majesty's birthday



Embassy of the Republic of Mozambique

H.E. Jose Maria Morais
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

Best wishes to Emperor Naruhito on his majesty's birthday



Royal Thai Embassy

H.E. Singtong Lapisatepun
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

Best wishes to Emperor Naruhito on his majesty's birthday



Embassy of the Republic of Uganda

H.E. Kaahwa Tophace
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

Best wishes to Emperor Naruhito on his majesty's birthday



Embassy of the Republic of Zimbabwe

Stewart Nyakotyo
Ambassador-Designate



Embassy of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire

On behalf of the government and people of
the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire,
I extend my best wishes to
His Majesty Emperor Naruhito
on the occasion of his birthday



H.E. Jerome Kloh Weya
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary



Embassy of the State of Qatar

Heartiest congratulations to
H.M. Emperor Naruhito on his 63rd birthday.
Best wishes to their majesties, the imperial family
and the people of Japan for
good health, peace and prosperity



H.E. Hassan bin Mohammed Rafei Al-Emadi
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary