

Prince Hisahito Coming-of-Age

Looking forward to fulfilling duty

THE JAPAN TIMES AGENCY

Sept. 6 marks not only the 19th birthday of Prince Hisahito, the son of Crown Prince Akishino and Crown Princess Kiko, but also his imperial coming-of-age ceremony. It will be the first coming-of-age ceremony for a male member of the imperial family in 40 years, the previous one being for the crown prince.

Reaching the age of maturity is typically observed in Japan on Seijin no Hi (Coming-of-Age Day), held on the second Monday of January. For someone second in line to the Japanese throne, the coming-of-age ceremony carries with it an added layer of tradition and formality.

According to the Imperial Household Agency, the prince is scheduled to start the day by receiving a crown during a private rite. Next, he will visit the Imperial Palace for the Kakan-no-Gi (crown-wearing ritual) before visiting Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako. His attire, for the first time ever, will consist of adult court dress. Prayers at shrines and mau-

soleums are planned for the rest of the day, as well as a visit to his grandparents, Emperor Emeritus Akihito and Empress Emerita Michiko, at their residence in Minato Ward.

In April, the prince enrolled in the College of Biological Sciences at the University of Tsukuba, expressing his wish for a typical campus life experience, including plenty of biking to classes. His other recent activities involved a lot of peer collaboration and fieldwork, from learning about aquaculture to observing a biotope initiative, as well as attending an entomological research conference.

At his first official news conference in March, the prince said, "I hope to carry out my role as a member of the imperial family with the awareness of being an adult member."

While imperial formal events are bound to be solemn, traditional affairs, the atmosphere at the prince's coming-of-age ceremony is expected to be warm, thanks to the presence of family members.



Prince Hisahito speaks at a news conference on March 3. Far left, top: The prince and his father Crown Prince Akishino (right) examine a hornet's nest during a visit to Tamagawa University's insect science laboratory in Machida, Tokyo, on April 6. Far left, bottom: The prince attends his entrance ceremony at the University of Tsukuba in Ibaraki Prefecture on April 5. YJI



The prince, his father and Princess Kiko attend the prince's entrance ceremony at Ochanomizu University Elementary School on April 7, 2013. KOJI SASAHARA, POOL / AFP-JIJI

Best Wishes to His Imperial Highness Prince Hisahito
on the Occasion of his Coming-of-Age Ceremony



**Embassy of
the Republic of Azerbaijan**

H.E. Gursel Ismayilzada
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

Best Wishes to His Imperial Highness Prince Hisahito
on the Occasion of his Coming-of-Age Ceremony



**Embassy of
the Republic of Mozambique**

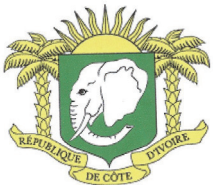
H.E. Alberto Paulo
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

Best Wishes to His Imperial Highness Prince Hisahito
on the Occasion of his Coming-of-Age Ceremony



**Embassy of
the United Republic of Tanzania**

H.E. Baraka Luvanda
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary



**Embassy of
the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire**

On behalf of President Alassane Ouattara of Cote d'Ivoire,
we convey our heartfelt congratulations to
His Imperial Highness Prince Hisahito on this milestone,
wishing him a future filled with promise and honor.



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



**Embassy of
the Republic of Kenya**

The Embassy of the Republic of Kenya congratulates
His Majesty Emperor Naruhito, the imperial family
and the people of Japan on the occasion of the
19th birthday of Crown Prince Hisahito.



H.E. Moi Lemoshira
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary



**Embassy of
the Republic of Liberia**

With deepest respect and admiration, I extend heartfelt
wishes to His Imperial Highness Prince Hisahito.
May your year be graced with wisdom, health and
enduring peace as you continue your noble service.



Edward Wade Appleton Jr.
Ambassador-Designate



Royal Thai Embassy

On behalf of the government and people of Thailand,
I humbly extend our heartfelt congratulations and
best wishes to His Imperial Highness Prince Hisahito
on his 19th birthday and coming-of-age.



H.E. Witchu Vejjajiva
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary