Prince Hisahito celebrates his coming of age

Vocabulary Match

succession ● duties ● throne ● tradition ● role ● pressure ●

● tasks ● royal seat ● stress ● order ● position ● custom

Article

Prince Hisahito, nephew of Emperor Naruhito, turned 19 and took part in a coming-of-age ceremony at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo. He received a crown and promised to take his duties seriously as a member of the royal family.

Hisahito is second in line to the throne, after his father, Crown Prince Akishino. Japan's succession rules allow only men to become emperor, even though many people support the idea of a female ruler, like Princess Aiko. The debate continues, but tradition is strong.

For now, Hisahito's role is clear, but in the future he may face pressure to marry and continue the royal family line.

Quiz

1. How old is Prince Hisahito?
2. Who is Hisahito's father?
3. What do Japan's succession rules allow?
4. Who do some people support as a ruler?

Conversation

A: Did you hear about Prince Hisahito's ceremony?
B: Yeah, he just turned 19, right?
A: That's right. He's now second in line to the throne.
B: I wonder if Japan will ever allow a woman to be emperor.
A: Many people want that, but tradition is strong.
B: Either way, it's interesting to see what happens next.

Discussion

1. Do you think traditions are important?
2. What do you think about having a female ruler?
3. What might be good and bad about being an emperor?
4. Would you like to wear a crown? Why or why not?

Copyright © Nick Ramsay