

The Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor

On 7 January 1989, upon the demise of Emperor Hirohito, posthumously known as Emperor Showa, His Majesty Emperor Akihito acceded to the throne as the 125th Emperor of Japan. The Ceremony of Enthronement was held at the Imperial Palace on 12 November 1990. From abroad, representatives of 158 countries, including Monarchs and Heads of State, and two international organizations attended the ceremony.

As stated in the Constitution of Japan, the Emperor is “the symbol of the State and of the unity of the people” and derives His position from “the will of the people with whom resides sovereign power”.



The Imperial Family are greeted by the public during the New Year celebrations. (January 2012)



Emperor Akihito wears the traditional robe, the *Sokutai*, at the Ceremony of the Enthronement. (November 1990)



Empress Michiko wears the traditional twelve-layered robe, the *Junihitoe*, at the Ceremony of the Enthronement. (November 1990)



Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko in ceremonial attire at the Imperial Sanctuary on the day of the Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor and for the *Daijosaï*. (November 1990)



Emperor Akihito at the *Daijosaï*. This ceremony is performed at the *Daijokyu* (Daijokyu Halls), where the new Emperor, for the first time after His enthronement, offers newly-harvested rice to the Imperial Ancestors and the deities of heaven and earth and partakes of the rice Himself. On behalf of the country and its people, His Majesty then expresses gratitude and prays to the Imperial Ancestors and the deities for continued peace and abundant harvests. (November 1990)



Over 30,000 well-wishers bearing lanterns gather at the Imperial Palace Plaza for a Grand People's Festival to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Emperor Akihito's accession to the throne. Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko wave paper lanterns in response. (November 2009)