

## Public Activities of Their Majesties

Since the Enthronement in 1989, the Emperor, together with the Empress, has been carrying out a wide variety of official duties related to His position as the symbol of the State and of the unity of the people. The 20th Anniversary of the Enthronement of the Emperor was celebrated in 2009 with a number of commemorative ceremonies and colourful events involving people from various walks of life. With Their strong sense of duty and constant attention to the needs of the people, Their Majesties, with warmth and dignity, have brought the Imperial Family much closer to the general public.

At the Imperial Palace, Their Majesties host hundreds of ceremonies, audiences, teas, lunches, and dinners all year around. On these occasions, They meet a large number of people from all walks of life, including government officials, local government leaders, businessmen, farmers and fishermen, social and welfare workers, scholars and artists. State Banquets for visiting Heads of State or lunches and audiences for other visiting dignitaries are also held at the Imperial Palace.



Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko meet members of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers and Youth Volunteers for Nikkei Communities at the Imperial Residence. (September 2013)



Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko invite members of the Japanese team to the Nagano Paralympic Winter Games to tea at the Imperial Palace. (April 1998)



Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko meet members of the Japan Disaster Relief team at the Imperial Palace. (November 2010)



Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko attend the award presentation ceremony of the Ikushi Prize of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science. (February 2011)