Embassy of Japan
Tonga

PRESS RELEASE

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His Majesty the Emperor of Japan's 66th Birthday celebrated in Nuku'alofa

Their Majesties, King Tupou VI and Queen Nanasipau'u of the Kingdom of Tonga were the chief guest of honor at the reception to commemorate the 66th Birthday of His Majesty, the Emperor Naruhito of Japan, hosted by His Excellency Mr. INAGAKI Hisao, Ambassador of Japan to Tonga at his residence in 'Anana, on Thursday evening 12 February, 2026.

The reception was graced also by the presences of Their Royal Highness, Crown Prince Tupouto'a 'Ulukalala and Crown Princess Sinaitakala Tuku'aho.

Lord Fakafanua, the Prime Minister of Tonga, Lord Vaea, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Lord Ma'afu, Lord Fakatulolo, were present along with Heads of Diplomatic Missions, Cabinet Ministers, Members of Parliament, International Organizations In-country Representatives, Government Executive Officials, Public and Private Business Managers, Japan related alumni representatives and many guests attended the reception.

"It is truly a joyous occasion to gather here with Your Majesties, Your Royal Highnesses to mark this special day."

"Since ascending to the Throne in May 2019 as the 126th Emperor of Japan, His Majesty the Emperor Naruhito embodies the timeless traditions of the Imperial Household while guiding Japan through a rapidly changing world. The Emperor remains the symbol of the Japanese State and the unity of its people, carrying the weight of centuries of history with humility and dedication."

"Japan continued to support Tonga's socio-economic development through key initiatives such as the ongoing improvement and expansion of Fua'amotu International Airport, a vital lifeline for Tonga's connectivity, tourism, and trade, and the introduction of e-passport project, modernizing Tonga's border management system in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration, and for the first time provided Official Security Assistance to Tonga, supplying drones and military uniforms to the His Majesty's Armed Forces committing to Tonga's security and regional stability," said Ambassador INAGAKI in addressing the occasion.

"Through diverse exchanges in education, culture and sports, Japan and Tonga continue to build a foundation of goodwill that complements our economic and security partnerships, ensuring a robust and enduring friendship for generations to come," he said.

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Lord Fakafanua, Prime Minister of Tonga congratulated the occasion and extended best wishes to His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Japan on behalf of His Majesty's Government and the people of the

Kingdom of Tonga. “This occasion is not only a celebration of the Emperor’s birthday, but also is a reflection of the enduring friendship between Tonga and Japan, a friendship build on mutual respect, shared values and a commitment to cooperation across generations.

“Japan’s support for Tonga has been steadfast and generous. Together, Tonga and Japan can continue to build a future that is resilient, prosperous and peaceful,” said Prime Minister Lord Fakafanua.

Both leaders proposed a toast, to the health and happiness of Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan and to the everlasting friendship between Tonga and Japan. Japanese cuisines and a selection of Japanese sake were served for the delight of the many guests.

END.
Attached: Photos

Their Majesties, King Tupou VI and Queen Nanasipau‘u of the Kingdom of Tonga graced the reception celebrating the 66th Birthday of His Majesty, the Emperor Naruhito of Japan on Thursday 12 February 2026 in Nuku’alofa. Their Majesties were welcomed by H.E. Mr. INAGAKI Hisao Ambassador of Japan to Tonga and Mrs. INAGAKI.

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Their Majesties arrival at the Ambassador's residence in 'Anana

Their Royal Highness Crown Prince Tupouto'a 'Ulukalala and Crown Princess Sinaitakala Tuku'aho were present also at the Emperor of Japan's 66th Birthday reception, hosted by Ambassador INAGAKI.

The welcoming address to welcome Their Majesties and invited guests, by H.E. Ambassador INAGAKI.

The Prime Minister of Tonga, Lord Fakafanua and Lady Fakafanua together with Lord & Lady Fakatulolo at the reception on February 12, in Nuku‘alofa.

Lord Ma’afu and Lady Ma’afu welcomed by H.E. Mr. INAGAKI Hisao and Mrs. INAGAKI at their residence in ‘Anana.

The reception to celebrated the Emperor’s Birthday, in Nuku’alofa on Thursday 12 February 2026.