

Embassy of Japan Tonga

PRESS RELEASE

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His Majesty the Emperor of Japan's 65th Birthday celebrated in Nuku'alofa

Their Majesties, King Tupou VI and Queen Nanasipau'u graced the reception to commemorate the 65th 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 20 February, 2025.

Their Royal Highnesses, Crown Prince Tupouto'a 'Ulukalala and Crown Princess Sinaitakala Tuku'aho were present at the ceremony.

Honourable Dr. 'Aisake Eke, Prime Minister of Tonga, Heads of Diplomatic Missions, Cabinet Ministers, Parliament Members, Nobles of the Realm attended the reception, along with many guests including International Organizations In-country Representatives, Government Executive Officials, Public and Private Directors and Managers, as well as Japan-alumni representatives, and also friends of the Japanese Embassy in Nuku'alofa

"I am particularly grateful that Your Majesties and Your Royal Highnesses have accepted our request to celebrate this evening, which is a reflection of the cordial relationship between the imperial Household of Japan and the Royal Household of Tonga."

"The strength of our relations had many significant highlights," stated H.E. Mr. INAGAKI Hisao. In the year 2024 HRH Crown Prince Tupouto'a 'Ulukalala led Tonga's delegation to the Japan Pacific Islands Defense Dialogue in Tokyo, and in July, the Government of Tonga attended the 10th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting, PALM 10 tri-annually hosted by Japan.

"This year, will also mark a significant and further milestone in Japan-Tonga relations, as we proudly celebrate the 55th anniversary of the establishment of our diplomatic ties."

"Over the years, our relationship has evolved and today, our cooperation is robust across multiple areas-not only in economic cooperation through Japan's official development assistance including the tugboat 'Fanga-'I-Lifuka," which Your Majesty graciously named, but also in defence, culture, sports, and education," said the Ambassador.

While Japan is getting ready to host the 2025 Expo in Osaka, Kansai, Ambassador INAGAKI anticipates the international exposition will be a unique platform for Tonga to share its charm and cultural heritage with Japan and the world. The Osaka Expo will open for six months from April 13th, and Tonga's national day will be Friday, 18th April.

Hon Dr. 'Aisake Eke, Prime Minister of Tonga extended warm birthday wishes to His Imperial Majesty, The Emperor of Japan, and congratulated the invaluable friendship between the two nations. “What we have is not just a diplomatic partnership - it is a true friendship. A unique and enduring connection that continues to flourish with every cultural exchange, development project and, of course, every delicious plate of sushi shared among friends.”

“At the heart of this relationship is trust and friendship – qualities that transcend politics and geography.”

“The Government of Tonga deeply appreciates Japan’s ongoing bilateral assistance. Our people and communities have greatly benefited from Japan’s generosity,” said Prime Minister Eke

His Majesty, the Emperor Naruhito of Japan became the 126th Sovereign of Japan after acceding to the throne in May 2019.

END.

Attached: Photos



Their Majesties, King Tupou VI and Queen Nanasipau'u, welcomed by H.E. Mr. INAGAKI Hisao, Ambassador of Japan to Tonga to the reception commemorating the 65th Birthday of His Majesty, the Emperor Naruhito of Japan on Thursday evening 20th February 2025 in Nuku'alofa.



Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince and Crown Princess of Tonga arriving for His Majesty Emperor Naruhito's 65th Birthday Reception, hosted by H.E. Mr. INAGAKI Hisao at his residence.



Strengthening Japan-Tonga relation, by H.E. Mr. INAGAKI Hisao during his address at the reception on Thursday 20th in Nuku'alofa.



H.E. Mr. INAGAKI Hisao with Prime Minister, Hon. Dr. 'Aisake Eke and Lady Lusitania Eke joined by Lt. Colonel HIRONO Kenichi, Defense Attache of the Embassy of Japan.



CAPT Sione Ulukai and CDR Sione Lino of HMAF with Filipe Fifita and 'Atunaise Taumoepeau from Tonga Police attended the reception.



Police Commissioner, Shane McLennan, with Viliami Malolo, Secretary for Ministry of Foreign Affairs Tonga amongst guests at the 65th Birthday Reception for HM The Emperor of Japan.



Japanese Language Teachers in Nuku'alofa also jointed the reception on Thursday 20th February 2025.



The Reception hosted by Ambassador INAGAKI at his residence in 'Anana.



Japanese cuisines including sushi were served during the reception.