



Japan enthrones emperor in ancient ceremony

October 22, 2019

Japanese Emperor Naruhito formally proclaimed his ascendancy to the throne on Tuesday in a centuries-old ceremony attended by dignitaries from more than 180 countries, pledging to fulfill his duty as a symbol of the state.



1. In a centuries-old ceremony, Japan's new emperor Naruhito formally ascended to the throne Tuesday, Japan's new emperor Naruhito formally ascended to the throne Tuesday.
2. While he officially began his rein in May, only now, through a series of rituals called the 'Sokui no Rei', is he enthroned.
3. He was clad in orange robes and a headdress only worn by emperors and stood alongside two of Japan's 'Three Sacred Treasures' an ancient sword and a jewel.
4. The new empress Masako- in her own throne - wore 12 layers of robes.
5. Naruhito read out a proclamation:
NARUHITO OPENING UP SCROLL AND READING FROM SCROLL, SAYING:
"I swear that I will act according to the constitution and fulfill my responsibility as the symbol of the state and of the unity of the people."
6. More than a hundred foreign dignitaries were in attendance, including Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelenskiy, Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam, and Britain's Prince Charles.
7. Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe led them all in giving three cheers for the emperor.
8. Banzai - literally means 'ten thousand years' or long life, effectively, 'long live the king.'
9. Naruhito is unusual among recent Japanese emperors as his only child Aiko is a girl, and in current law, cannot inherit the throne.
10. Instead, the future of the imperial family rests on his young nephew Hisahito, who at 13 years old is second-in-line after his father.

11. Emperor Naruhito's ascension comes in the wake of Typhoon Hagibis over a week ago, a massive storm that left 80 people dead.

12. A parade where Naruhito 'meets the public' was delayed to November out of respect for the victims of the storm.