

Yukio Hatoyama, 63

93rd prime minister of Japan,
from Sept. 16 to June 2

Political experience

As a founder of the Democratic Party of Japan, he has served in the party's leading posts, including president and secretary-general between April 1998 and June 2010.

Education

University of Tokyo, engineering degree. Stanford University, PhD. Worked as an assistant professor before entering politics.

Family

Wife, Miyuki, and a son.

Interests

Touch football, classical music.

Favorite food

Wife's home cooking, ramen and nabeyaki udon, a Japanese hot pot soup with udon noodles, shrimp, eggs and vegetables.

Japanese press nickname

"The Alien" for his aloofness.

Background

Born in Tokyo on Feb. 11, 1947, into the fourth generation of a political family; grandson of the owner of Bridgestone. His grandfather, Ichiro Hatoyama, was the first prime minister from the Liberal Democratic Party, the conservative party that ruled Japan for more than five decades. Yukio Hatoyama left the LDP in 1993 and helped found the DPJ.



Popularity

Last summer's election and the DPJ's victory as the ruling party became Hatoyama's biggest win, though many saw him as a figurehead to the party's powerful boss, Ichiro Ozawa. In capturing the victory, the DPJ relied on support from two other political parties, including a relatively small group called the Social Democrats who have fought for years to decrease the U.S. military footprint on Okinawa.

Failures

An accusation he improperly reported a 900 million yen donation from his mother damaged Hatoyama's reign as prime minister, causing his approval rating to plummet in late 2009. His alliance with the Social Democrats grew into a promise to rewrite plans for the relocation of a Marine air station on Okinawa. One of his last acts as prime minister was to accept another agreement with the United States about the air station that is very similar to the one agreed upon in 2006.

Naoto Kan, 63

94th prime minister of Japan,
from June 4 to present

Political experience

Health minister from Jan. 11, 1996, to Nov. 7, 1996; member of the Diet's lower house from Tokyo; served as deputy prime minister and finance minister in Hatoyama's cabinet.

Political affiliation

Democratic Party of Japan.

Education

Tokyo Institute of Technology, physics.

Family

Wife, Nobuko, and two sons.

Interests

Go, a chesslike board game, and scuba diving.

Favorite food

Grilled fish and pickles.

Japanese press nickname

"Ira-Kan," short for Irritable Kan, for his temper.

Background

Born on Oct. 10, 1946, in Ube city, Yamaguchi prefecture, in western Japan, to a working class – or "salaryman" – family. Kan first worked at a patent firm before beginning his political career as a civic activist. He helped a women's suffrage leader, Fusae Ichikawa, win an upper



house election in 1974. Kan ran three unsuccessful campaigns for the Diet before winning his own seat in 1980 as a member of the United Social Democratic Party. In 1996, he joined the DPJ and is considered one of its founders.

Popularity

Became a political hero when, as health minister in 1996, he took on Japan's bureaucracy and exposed the government's involvement in failing to protect the public from HIV-positive blood.

Failures

Kan stepped down as DPJ leader in 2004 after admitting he failed to make his own personal state pension contributions. Shortly after resigning, he shaved his head and made an 11-day pilgrimage to Buddhist temples. He also fought back reports in 1998 that he had an affair with a television newscaster.

What's ahead

In addition to working on the relocation of the Futenma air station, Japan and the U.S. will renegotiate the amount that Japan pays toward U.S. military costs. Traditionally, the agreement is voted on by the Diet every two years. Japan pays for most U.S. base utility costs, Japanese workers' salaries, land leases and all new construction.



July

Upper house elections in the Diet. Kan and the DPJ are expected to remain in power, though not with a simple majority. It's very likely they will have to reach out to other parties and maintain a coalition government, as last year.

September

Local elections in Okinawa, including the city council in Nago City, the site of the proposed expansion of Camp Schwab for the Marines' aircraft.

November

Gubernatorial elections in Okinawa. In Japan, a local governor can block any project that involves filling in public water with landfill, which the expansion plans propose.



June

July

August

September

October

November

December

August

Self-imposed deadline by U.S. and Japan to hammer out more exact plans about the new Marine air station at Camp Schwab in Henoko, which would replace Marine Corps Air Station Futenma. If the plan is substantially new from previous years, it may require another environmental impact statement, a delay the U.S. military does not want. Anti-military and environmental activists remain concerned about the proposed runway that would stretch across landfill into the sea.

