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IMPERIAL 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

On April 10, Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress marked the 50th anniversary of their marriage.

“I am greeting our 50th wedding anniversary with true feelings of appreciation and gratitude,” His Majesty the Emperor told a news conference held ahead of the anniversary. “I should like to express my deep appreciation to all those people who have supported the Empress and myself over the 50 years of our marriage.”

His Majesty the Emperor expressed gratitude to Her Majesty the Empress for her understanding and support, saying “She has truly made great efforts over these 50 years.”

Her Majesty the Empress said, “Above all, the



Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress receive greetings from Their Imperial Highnesses the Crown Prince and Princess at the Imperial Palace.

Emperor is sincere, modest, and always broad-minded and has been my mainstay, giving me support during the 50 years I have spent with him.” “For me to be here today by His Majesty's side, welcoming our golden wedding anniversary, it truly seems to me as if in a dream.”

On the morning of the anniversary on April 10, His Imperial Highness the Crown Prince, his wife Her Imperial Highness the Crown Princess, Their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Akishino, and other members of the Imperial family offered congratulations to the Imperial couple. Prime Minister Taro Aso was among a number of dignitaries who also offered

congratulations to the Emperor and Empress.

Later in the day, 100 couples who are also celebrating their golden wedding anniversaries this year attended a tea party with Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress at the Imperial Palace.

The Imperial couple became acquainted at a tennis court in the summer resort of Karuizawa, Nagano Prefecture in central Japan, in August 1957. They married one year and eight months later in April 1959. The Japanese people welcomed the Emperor's choice of his wife from an ordinary family and filled the streets in central Tokyo to see the Imperial parade that followed the wedding ceremony.

The Imperial couple, who wish to share their joys and sorrows “together with the people,” have twice during the past 50 years—once as the Imperial Highnesses the Crown Prince and Princess and once in their current capacity—visited all 47 prefectures across Japan. They have encouraged disaster-stricken people in times of natural disasters and paid official friendship visits to a total of 48 countries.

The Emperor is currently 75 years old and the Empress 74 years old. In November, the Emperor will mark the 20th anniversary of his ascending to the throne.



On the Internet

<http://www.kunaicho.go.jp/eindex.html>

Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress take part in a parade after attending their marriage ceremony in April 1959 when they were the Crown Prince and Princess.

