

# NEWS RELEASE



Consulate-General  
of Japan in Chicago

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## **“Reiwa” Announced as the name of the new Japanese era**

[April 2, 2019] On April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019, His Majesty the Emperor Akihito will abdicate and His Imperial Highness the Crown Prince Naruhito will accede to the Throne on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019.

It was decided at the Cabinet Meeting on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, that with the accession to the Throne of His Majesty the Emperor Naruhito, the new Japanese era will be called “令和 (Reiwa)” as from May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019.

“令和 (Reiwa)” consists of two kanji, the first 令 (Rei) meaning “beautiful” and the second 和 (Wa) meaning “Harmony.” The word, 令和 (Rei-wa), also encompasses the meaning that “Culture will be nurtured as people bring their hearts together in a beautiful manner.”

This name of the new era, “令和 (Reiwa)”, comes from a passage of the “Manyoshu”. Dating back 1,200 years ago, the “Manyoshu” is the oldest compilation of Japanese Poetry. This will be the first era in Japanese history to be named based on Japanese classical literature.

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About the Japan Information Center (JIC):

The Japan Information Center (JIC) is the cultural and educational outreach office of the Consulate-General of Japan in Chicago. Founded in 1978, the JIC is dedicated to promoting mutual understanding between the US and Japan through various activities within a 10-state jurisdiction. This includes promoting youth exchange through initiatives like the JET (Japan Exchange and Teaching) Program (roughly 160 JETs were sent to Japan in FY2018), fostering sister-city relations, holding and supporting any Japan-related events, delivering cultural presentations at school visits, and more.

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