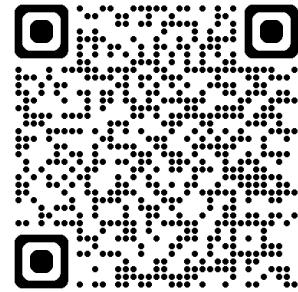


LDP's first female leader gets ready for office



<https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/news/videos/20251006164108846/>

Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party has started a new week with a new leader. Former economic security minister, Takaichi Sanae, has become LDP's first ever female president and is set to be the first women to serve as Japanese Prime Minister. Takaichi won after heading into a runoff vote against agricultural minister Koizumi Shinjiro on Saturday.

With all of you, I will strive to fire up the LDP into a positive party which turns people's anxieties into hopes.

Takaichi's ascent comes after a year of declining popularity for the LDP punctuated by two disappointing national elections. In response, the new leader has called on LDP members to work tirelessly. Attention is now focused on how she appoints the LDP's new executives. On Sunday, Takaichi met with former Prime Minister, Aso Taro, who backed her in the runoff. NHK has now learned that she's preparing to appoint former finance minister Suzuki Shunichi as her party's security general. Suzuki is Aso's brother-in-law. Takaichi has also said she plans to give key positions to those who ran against her in the leadership race, hoping to bring together their energy and resources. Diet lawmakers will hold a vote later this month with Takaichi expected to be elected the next Prime Minister. Now let's take a look at Takaichi's journey into being just steps away from being the first woman to lead Japan's government.

This was Takaichi Sanae's third time running for party leadership. The 64-year-old started her political career in Nara prefecture where she grew up. After graduating university, she served as a congressional fellow in the United States. She then returned to Japan and worked as a TV anchor before jumping into politics as an independent. Takaichi was first elected in 1993 and later joined the LDP in 1996. A close ally of late Prime Minister, Abe Shinzo, Takaichi entered the cabinet as part of his first administration. She was known for her conservative views. Takaichi went on to serve as the internal affairs and communications minister. She stayed in the role for a record number of days. Over 1400 in all. Takaichi

enjoys wide range of hobbies. As a student, she played drums in a heavy metal band. She also enjoys riding motorcycles. As a politician, Takaichi says she takes inspiration from Britain's iron lady, Margaret Thatcher, calling her a role model. She said she admires Thatcher's determination to push forward with tough but necessary policies.

Source: (NHK World News)

Now discuss the questions with a partner.

1. What is your reaction to Takaichi's win?
2. Do you think having a female Prime Minister will have any effect on Japan or its image?
3. What do you expect or hope from Takaichi?
4. What is your opinion about Takaichi appointing someone with family ties to Aso?
5. What qualities do you think are most important for a Prime Minister to have?