

Keizo Obuchi

Prime Minister of Japan

Keizo Obuchi was born on June 25, 1937, at Nakanojo in the Gunma prefecture. He graduated from Waseda University in 1962 and continued his studies at the university's graduate school of political science.

Mr. Obuchi began his political career in 1963 after winning a seat in the House of Representatives, and he went on to win 12 consecutive terms in the lower house as a Liberal Democratic Party candidate. Appointed parliamentary vice-minister of Posts and Telecommunications in 1970 and parliamentary vice-minister of Construction in 1972, Mr. Obuchi became deputy director general of the Prime Minister's Office in 1973.

In 1979, Mr. Obuchi was appointed director general of the Prime Minister's Office and director general of the Okinawa Development Agency. In 1987, he became chief cabinet secretary.

Mr. Obuchi subsequently held key posts with his party, including secretary general and vice-president. In 1997, Mr. Obuchi was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs and, in July 1998, he was elected party president.

On July 30, 1998, Mr. Obuchi became Prime Minister of Japan.

Mr. Obuchi is married and has three children.