

Philippine Nikkei-Jin Legal Support Center Inc.

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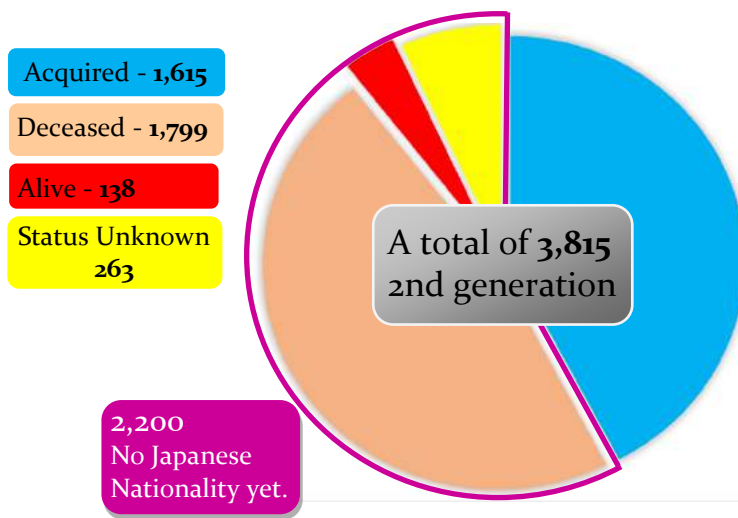
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April 2024

2024 Survey Result on War-displaced Japanese descendants

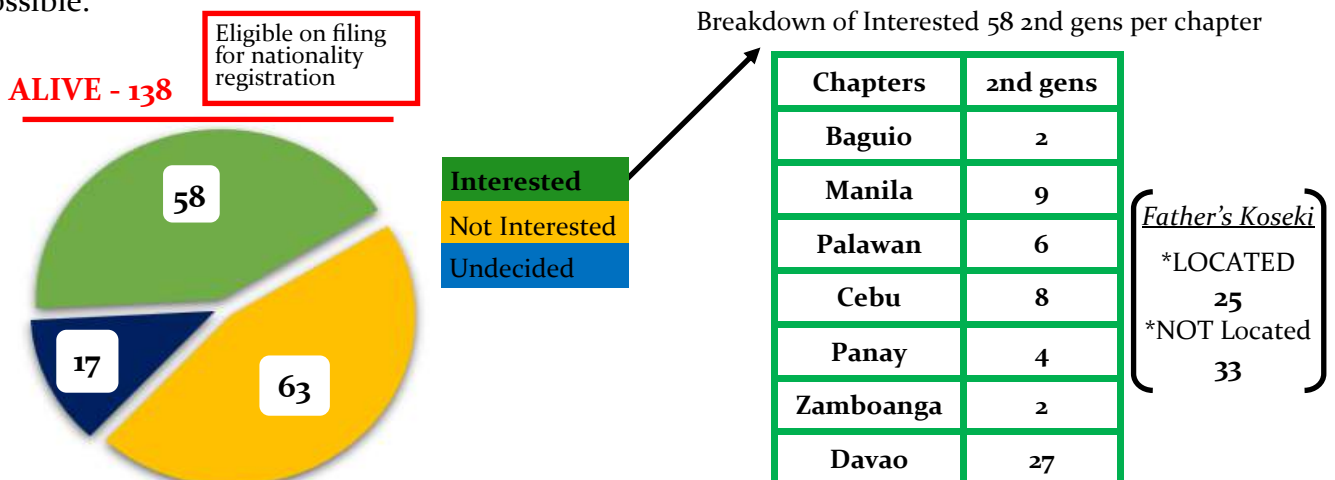
The 17th MOFA survey covers June 2023 to March 2024. Another 10 months of challenging searching had just finished. For this year's list, there is a recurring list with over 300 2nd generations who were once interviewed and found almost 10 years ago and now searching again to update their information, health, and nationality status.

The 17th Survey resulted in as follows:



As of March 2024, we have 3,815 2nd gens records in our database. Within this totality, we have categorized them under **Acquired** (those who already are Japanese nationals); **Deceased** (those who passed away without acquiring); **Alive** (those who are eligible for filing nationality); and **Status Unknown** (those who lack information and have not been yet contacted individuals.) Within the Deceased, Alive, and Status Unknown, there are two categories: B and C. Under this category, B comprises 2nd gen whose 1st gen Koseki was identified but not registered while category C consists of those whose 1st gen was NOT yet located at all.

It has been established that the 2,200 2nd gens (Alive, Deceased, and Status Unknown) do not currently hold Japanese nationality. Among them, 401 second gens (Alive and Status Unknown) are considered as being stateless. The eligible individuals to apply for their nationality registration are the 138 confirmed Alive 2nd gens. Of these, 58 expressed interest, 63 expressed disinterest, and the remaining 17 were still undecided. 7 of them were found to be new cases and 35 of them had already been interviewed by the Japanese Consul General. Back to the 16th MOFA Survey, there were 76 2nd gens alive. Of them, 18 had successfully recovered their nationality with Shuseki approval, and 7 had passed away. Research, documentation, and preparation for the Shuseki filing are currently ongoing for the 51 2nd gens that were left over from the previous survey and the 7 additional cases that were added this year. Now, the total of 58 2nd gens are the priorities to assist with filing as soon as possible.



Philippine Nikkei Jin Essay Writing Contest Result



WINNERS OF ROUNDTRIP TICKET TO JAPAN!



Adult section

Rhoda Joyce Alcaide Morandarte, 4th gen
 “Rediscovering My Heritage:
 my life as a Philippine Nikkeijin”

Youth section

Kintaro Garth Bartolome Padua, 5th gen
 “Living as Nikkeijin”



WINNERS OF OTHER PRIZES!



***Adult Category** (age 25 and up) [21 participants]

Best Award: Natsumi Uemura Ating (2nd gen, English essay)
Excellent Award: Mera Basilion Taguchi (4th gen, English essay)
Fine Award: Roel G. Lodronio (3rd gen, English essay)
 Aiko Matsumoto (4th gen, English essay)

***Youth Category** (age 16 to 24) [10 participants]

Best Award: Dizziree Mae Palma Gil (5th gen, Japanese essay)
Excellent Award: Giancarlo O.Villacin (5th gen, English essay)
Fine Award: Zchusku Zaymun A. Libago (4th gen, English essay)
 Desiree B.Paulino (5th gen, English essay)
 Kim Aiko Villareal (4th gen, Japanese essay)

***Child Category** (age 15 and below) [3 participants]

Best Award: Joshua Alebango Parilla (5th gen, Japanese essay)
Excellent Award: Jus Kenzo Takumi (4th gen, English essay)
Fine Award: Ven Kenri S. Austero (4th gen, English essay)

Thank you very much to our generous sponsors!



We received 34 participants from 8 y/o to 90 y/o, 5th generation to 2nd generation, from both living in the Philippines and in Japan.

Written language : Japanese (4), English (28), Filipino (2)
 Age range : under 15y/o (3), 16-19 y/o (6), 20-24 y/o (4), 25 y/o (4), 30s (6), 40s (2), 50s (5), 60s (2), 80s (1), 90s (1)

Once again, thank you to all participants for your hard work and enthusiasm. We hope that every one of you will keep participating in the future in any kind of event that will encourage you to be proud of becoming a nikkeijin; To our generous sponsor for participating and giving donation for the prizes; and to the Panel of Judges, for their support in this contest. We sincerely appreciate your contributions.

Comments from the Judges

“Personally, I was inclined to give higher points to the older participants, particularly 2nd generation, because the information and the sentiments who directly experienced the communication with their fathers and also the war experiences are something that I strongly believe to be handed on to the next generation, otherwise that memory and experiences narrated by themselves will disappear once they were gone.”

Prof. Michiyo Yoneno-Reyes (University of Shizuoka)



Online judging session held on March 12, 2024.

“In the case of Hawaii, Canada, or other countries, Nikkeijin identities have disappeared or not so much existed after 4th generation. But in this contest, even the 4th or 5th generation Nikkeijin also joined, and they are also forming Nikkeijin identities. That was an interesting point for me. And I learned that even young Nikkei generations have inherited a stigma caused by Japanese military occupation during WWII.”

Affiliated Prof. Shun Ohno (The Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University)

"I think these essays made them curious about where they really came from, and they really research on their own family background and be aware of the identity as Nikkeijin. All of them were trying hard to express what they felt about life experiences as Nikkei-jin. I hope this exercise would have succeeded at least on their part to be more aware of their identity and their background, and this project could give birth to a more interesting and more substantive project for PNLSC. "

Ms. Bituin Shimada (Court interpreter, President of Kakehashi) ←

"From those essays I found the variety of perspectives from the 2nd generation up to the younger generation. They all shared heartfelt stories. 2nd generation shared their past experiences, while younger ones wrote how they are trying to accept the situation and realization. Both are equally good."

→ **Consul Mary Joy Ramirez (on behalf of H.E. Ambassador Mylene J Garcia-Albano, Philippine Ambassador to Japan)**

"This essay contest was really challenge for nikkeijin, especially for young generations to share their perspective on what is to be a Nikkeijin. Some Nikkeijn eventually found work in Japan, talked about their dilemma being Filipino and being a Nikkeijn. It is quite interesting for me because they have varied perspectives and very touching also. From some of the essays, we see the harsh realities when they started working in Japan."

Atty. Josue Sim Zuniega (Attorney at law, Legal Counsel of PNLSC Inc.) ←

"What was an eye-opener for me was those essays written by the Nisei or the 2nd generations. They articulated well their ideas despite the fact that there was no questions coming from us. It was really free-flow ideas and impactful stories that they openly shared to all of us. It was a wonderful learning experience for me. I appreciate also the stories shared by the younger generations, and the experiences that they had, including the hardships. Even though they encountered so many challenges, they conquered it all and are doing their best, so their outlooks are still positive. It is indeed quite amazing."

→ **Dr. Ines Mallari (President of Philippine Nikkeijin-Kai Rengokai)**

"All the essays are interesting and I was able to get a better understanding on the present situation of Nikkeijin. Thank you very much and more power!"

Atty. Hiroyuki Kawai (PNLSC representative of the board) ←

[MOFA Interviews]

PNLSC and the Japanese Embassy visited 2nd generation nikkeijin on a two-day trip to Palawan

< by Emelyn Bañadera, chapter officer >



Harada residence

On February 5, a team consisting of Mr. Norihiro Inomata of the Philippine Nikkei-jin Legal Support Center (PNLSC), Minister and Consul General Takahiro Hanada, and Consul Motoyori Yamaguchi of the Japanese Embassy embarked on a mission to Palawan to interview war-displaced Japanese descendant families from the municipalities of Taytay and Rizal. The team arrived at the Municipality of Taytay early in the morning and proceeded to interview Rosalina Mondragon, a descendant of the Harada Family from Sitio Sigpit.



Oshita residence

The following day, on February 6, the team made a courtesy visit to Mayor Norman S. Ong of the Municipality of Rizal before heading to their next interview with Solidad Rurong, a descendant of the Oshita Family. The two of them were the surviving 2nd gen of each clan.

The interviews are part of the PNLSC's ongoing efforts to advocate for the reunification of war-displaced Japanese descendant families with their roots. The interviews provide valuable information to the PNLSC, which can be used to further strengthen their advocacy efforts.

[MOFA Interviews]

Valentines Day interviews in Baguio City < by Nida Laroco, Focal person >

On February 14, 2024, two (2) MOFA interviews were held at the Abong Office, Baguio City, conducted by Consul Motoyori Yamaguchi of the Japan Embassy to the Philippines and representing the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan (MOFA) together with Mr. Norihiro Inomata, Representative Director of Philippine Nikkei-Jin Legal Support Center Inc. (PNLSC). Joining them were Mr. Arnel Cabanisas, Executive Director of the Filipino-Japanese Foundation of Northern Luzon (FJFNLI); and Ms. Nida B. Laroco, the PNLSC Focal Person for Abong. The two (2) second-generation Nikkei-jins who were interviewed were as follows:

Mrs. DELIA TOMITA

Aged 82, was accompanied by her daughter, Marlyn Tulepa. They are both residents of Baguio City. It was during this interaction that nanay Delia shared a special moment by singing a Japanese song that was taught to her by her father.



Mrs. MIRIAM SAKAI: Aged 78, embarked on a solo journey to Baguio all the way from Quirino Province. Despite her advanced age, she enjoys good health and does not require any regular medication. She is eager and enthusiastic about the prospect of traveling to Japan to explore her father's hometown and reunite with her Japanese relatives. She was accompanied to the interview by her grandson, Mr. Carlos Santiago.



PSA Assured Assistance on 2nd generation Nikkeijins



The Philippine Nikkeijin Rengokai, once again had a meeting with the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) for the revision of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that will help in fast-tracking the application of vital events for 2nd generation descendants. The meeting happened on March 15, 2024, at the PSA Bldg in Quezon City. Attended by the Philippine Rengokai President, Ms.

Ines Mallari, PNLSC Legal Counsel Atty. Josue Sim Zuniega, Manila Nippi chapter President, Mr. Stephen Buñi, and PNLSC Staff, on the other hand, PSA officers headed by Mr. Claire Dennis Mapa, National Statistician and Civil Registrar General Undersecretary and his team. Also the meeting was attended and supported by Minister and Consul General Takahiro Hanada, Consul Motoyori Yamaguchi, and Councilor Makino of the Japanese Embassy.

During the meeting, Director Mapa assured the eagerness on their part to support in helping the Nikkeijins on this matter. They already built a team to lead and monitor, and a mechanism that will carry out this project. PSA thought of sending an introduction email to all regional offices, especially in Palawan, to introduce the Rengokai and spread awareness of the existence of the Nikkeijin organization in the Philippines. Director Mapa exclaimed, 'Once the document reaches the PSA, there is no need to prolong it.' PSA suggested a scheduled online meeting with the coordinator of both parties for monitoring and sharing of information on the progress of the project.



(left to right) Dr. Mallari, Dir. Mapa, ConGen Hanada and Atty. Zuniega



Hopefully, the MOA will be effective and utilized this year for the welfare of all 2nd generation in need. We sincerely appreciate the attention, effort, time, commitment, and full support given by the PSA and the Japanese Embassy on this urgent matter of the war-displaced Japanese descendants in the Philippines.



The opening ceremony of the Japanese Language and Culture class was held on January 28, 2024, at the L'Fisher Hotel with the support of the Japan Foundation Manila and the Philippine Nikkei-Jin Kai Rengokai for the younger generation of Japanese descendants in Negros Occidental, Bacolod City. The activity was graced and attended by Mr. Ben Suzuki, Director of Japan Foundation Manila with its staff and Japanese teachers, Honorable Em Legaspi Ang, City Councilor of Bacolod, Dr. Ines Mallari, President of Philippine Nikkei-Jin Kai Rengokai, officers, members, and student participants of Negros Nikkeijin chapter. The class was started on February 4, 2024, face-to-face, every Sunday from 1 to 4 PM for 6 months.

"During the opening ceremony, I was given the chance to deliver a message as a representative of the participants. We are very thankful to the Japan Foundation Manila and the Philippine Nikkei Jin Kai Rengokai for the wonderful opportunity of free Japanese Language and Culture Lessons that are offered to the Negros Nikkeijins. I am hoping that we participants can comply with all the activities and finish by the end of our class. This may serve as our foundation to fully embrace our belongingness as of Japanese descent and also help us in the future. The ongoing classes are full of excitement and joy despite the difficulty of learning." - Ceasar Ian Gico, 4th gen of Watanabe clan



[Touching messages from our dear 2nd generations/family]

Shuseki Approved

Manuel TANAKA



"On behalf of my father, Manuel, and the whole Tanaka family, I would like to express our sincerest gratitude and appreciation for the efforts made by the PNJK and PNLSC in processing the petition for my father's registration. The success has given new hope and opportunity to our 4th generation who dream of coming to Japan. We almost lost hope and thought it was impossible for them to work and live in Japan. We thank Atty. Kin for handling our case. Ma'am Helen Escovilla and Yoko Tajika from Tokyo office for their guidance, assistance, and unwavering support throughout the process." - Gloria Tanaka Patches, 3rd generation

Esther UEHARA



"I am very happy, even though it took a long time to submit my documents and made repeated interviews, now I'm approved. I am now a Japanese citizen! My children and grandchildren can come and work in Japan. I sincerely appreciate the assistance provided by the Japanese government, sir. Norihiro Inomata, PNLSC Director, and all PNLSC Japan and Manila staff I also thank the Palawan chapter. I sincerely thank everyone from the bottom of my heart."

Fortunato OSHIRO



"We are very much delighted and pleased to hear such good news. It was both heartwarming and emotional for us to inform our grandfather that we had finally made it after a long time. That hearing such great news brings tears of joy to our grandfather's eyes. We would also like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the PNJK, Atty. Keisuke Hirota and the PNLSC. Thank you!" - Kheyzelle Polinar, 4th generation

BtoA Upgrading Approved

Benita HASEGAWA



"To God Be The Glory! Thank you Lord for our answered prayer. Our most awaited wish came true. Our application for the upgrading from Category B to A of our mother Benita was finally approved. What a wonderful new year blessing to our family! In behalf of my family, we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to PNLSC Tokyo staff and Attorney, and Manila staff. We highly appreciated the full and unwavering support and assistance provided by their joint efforts for the approval of our application. Although it took years for the process it's worth waiting! Indeed heartwarming!"

- Remedios Biag, 3rd generation



Illuminada HASEGAWA



"I remember what I read in an article, 'Patience is the key to achieve your desired goal.' Also, that a 'turtle may be slow but can finish a race'. Plus of course, the saying that I always hear from some Pnlsc staff 'WE NEVER GIVE UP'. Those words kept me going to pursue my moms' dream of obtaining her Japanese nationality. I took over the responsibility of securing the necessary documents requested by PNLSC when my mother died in 2010. It was a long tedious process but fruitful. Our heartfelt gratitude to all of you. May you be continuously blessed for all the hard work on your goals. More power to PNLSC."

- Patricia Hasegawa Abad, 3rd generation



Francisca YOSHIDA



"Upon hearing the good news regarding the approval of Japanese national of my mother, Francisca, whose category fall on category B and now, category A. Francisca is the daughter of Masaaki Yoshida and Brigida Engaña Yoshida, her biological parents. At first, I was shocked and excited when I read the message of good news from PNLSC. Anyways, on behalf of the all the families of Francisca Yoshida Villamil, we are all very happy, very grateful and very thankful about the approval of petition. And we really appreciate all the effort and help of PNLSC. We are praying that this is the start of the Good Future. Thanks to PNLSC Japan and Manila staff for continuing support and for giving us part of their precious time."

- Pablo Yoshida Villamil, 3rd generation



Maria YOSHIDA

"On behalf of our late mother, Maria Yoshida-Mejia, and myself as informant, would like to express our sincerest gratitude regarding the positive outcome of my mom's application to the government authority of Japan to recognize her as a legitimate child of both biological parents, Masaaki Yoshida married to Brigida Nieva Engaña. Likewise, thank you so much to PNLSC Japan and Manila for their kindness and efforts resulting in good consequences."

- Paquito Yoshida Mejia, 3rd generation



Rufino YOSHIDA



"Receiving this significant news fills us with joy and serves as a testament to the years of dedicated effort and perseverance. Finally, we find ourselves one step closer to realizing our family's dream of tracing our ancestral roots and potentially reuniting with our Yoshida clan relatives. The second generation of the Yoshida family deeply values this opportunity to honor the cherished wishes of our late Lolo, enabling us to showcase his homeland and immerse ourselves in its rich culture. Witnessing the immense hard work invested, I am overjoyed to see it come to fruition. Although our beloved Lolo may not be here to witness this day, I am certain his spirit rejoices in this significant milestone."

- Liezel Yoshida Ofana, 4th gen



A Nikkeijin's dream of becoming a Japanese Citizen

< Story of Rudy Vallentos, 4th generation of Aikou clan >



1st gen: Takeo Aikou and wife

By the time I was six years old, I already identified myself as Nikkeijin since I lived with my grandmother, Dolores Aikou. My grandmother told me that her father was Japanese and that her mother died after giving birth to her. She wanted to find her father's relative in Japan, but she did not know how to do so. My father used to tell me that he wanted to go to Japan to meet my mother's relatives, but he passed away in November 2019 without it happening.

My hardship in my childhood was I was not being able to go to school because I had to help my parents work for a living. We earned our income by selling Boholano's sweets called "puto maya."

I feel proud that I am a nikkeijin and I hope that someday I can go to Japan. So, I did my best to make it happen. I found my way to the Cebu Nikkeijin Kai in 2011 through the Kasahara family, who are also Nikkeijin from Bohol and a relative of mine.

I arrived in Japan on September 23, 2023, as a factory worker for the first time with my wife and siblings. My sister came to Japan in October, and three more siblings and cousins in November. We came here through the same agency but in different places in Japan. I and my wife and some cousins are in Gunma prefecture, my sister is in Narita City, while the other two of my sisters are in Shizuoka prefecture. Now nine out of my ten siblings are working in Japan!



With coworker at former company

I have recently changed my workplace and now work at SEKISUI company in Gunma Prefecture, Japan. We are doing carpentry work like installation of tiles and kinds of interior parts of the house. My wife works in another company with my cousin.

I really like Japan because of its cleanliness. Japanese are friendly and well-disciplined. I'm happy working with my wife and my siblings in the same company. The good point in Japan is that we can buy food and things that we like because we are earning and have a good job.

I have sons, ages 4 years old and 19 years old. My mother-in-law is the one taking care of my 2 sons in Bohol. My dream is to get my 2 sons from Bohol to Japan and live together. However, it seems difficult, especially for the eldest son who has reached adulthood because my father's name could not be registered in my grandmother Dolores's Koseki. My only request to the Japanese government is that I will take Japanese citizenship myself, and live here in Japan with my two sons.

I am currently learning the Japanese language through self-study because I'm Nikkeijin. I would like to acquire Japanese nationality, change my last name to Aiko, and become a Japanese passport holder.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to impart my life.



With my siblings in Gunma



My family



Nikkeijin Members and Donors

January 1 to March 31, 2024



Renewal

Feliciana Buladas Asib	Robert Francis Rublico
Juanito Alpes	Pedro Lamsing Yawaka
Larni Mumar Alpes	Josefina Michiko Yagi
Alec Esaki Catalonia	Julieta Yagi Avila
Bernie Esaki Danoy	Pablito Yagi
Cristina Buladas Frias	Paul Yagi
Antonio P. Hoshiko	Perla Yagi
Rafael Tanaka Maquiling	Perlita Yagi Johnson
Alfred Matsumoto	Pinky Yagi Rival
Olbes Oliva Mumar	Precy Yagi Manlangit
Melvin Dagsaan Miwa	Pretzel Yagi Sun

New Members

Reneboy Esteban
Gabriel Bautista Orite
Merly Miyahira Terao
Romeo Casiano Toda

Donors

Alec Esaki Catalonia
Antonio P. Hoshiko
Rafael Tanaka Maquiling
Yagi Family

Thank you for your most generous donation! We are so fortunate to have caught the attention of people like you with large warm hearts.

Teach Me Nihongo

Sentence Pattern

* は です。
wa desu.

The **word** (*) before は is the subject of the sentence.

です is like "be verb" in English.

<Interrogative sentence>

は ですか。
wa desu ka?

<Positive sentence>

は です。
wa desu

<Negative sentence>

は ではありません。
wa dewa arimasen

Example:

Watashi wa Jose desu. (I am Jose.)
Watashi wa gakusei desu. (I am a student.)
Watashi wa juuni sai desu. (I am 12 years old.)



Namae wa nan desu ka? (What is your name?)
Anata wa gakusei desu ka? (Are you student?)

Hai, watashi wa gakusei desu. (Yes, I am s student.)

Iie, watashi wa gakusei dewa arimasen. (No, I am not a student.)

Try to make your own and repeat it 10 times to memorize! What is your

Watashi wa _____ desu.

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