

Light Up the local for the FUTURE!

PNLSC hold a workshop of assembling small solar lights to assist a Nikkei-jin community in Jose Abad Santos, Davao Occidental. The project was supported by Liter of Light (NPO based in Manila), Philippine Nikkeijin Kai - Davao (PNJK), Mindanao Kokusai Daigaku (MKD), and Municipality of Jose Abad Santos.

The area is abandoned from social infrastructure improvement, and 60-80% of the residents are said to be Nikkei-jin. For this project, PNLSC started crowd funding from July 11, and corrected funds needed. At the same time, PNLSC called for Japanese volunteers to join and help this project.

Thanks to all the participants and supporters, the project was successfully finished, and 160 solar light was distributed to each household in barangay Meybio, Jose Abad Santos. Thank you and Mabuhay!



Day 1 (Sept 12)

5 volunteers from Japan arrived in Davao one after another. A kick-off meeting was held in PNJK, where Japanese volunteers met with student volunteers from MKD. There, announcement was made about the collaboration of Filipino and Japanese buddy volunteers. After the meeting, dinner was shared together, including the staff of Liter of Light. Eating together is a starting point of the project!

Day 2 (Sept.13)

6 hours travel from Davao city brought us to the municipality of Jose Abad Santos by noon. Ms. Pinky Kimura, 3rd gen Nikkeijin, welcomed and introduced us to some high-school student volunteers who will join this project.

Day 3 (Sep.14)

More than hundreds of residents gathered in the Barangay Gym. Liter of Light staffs gave lecture to the volunteers on how to assemble the solar light and how to check it. The kit was then distributed one by one to each household representative, and learned how to assemble, use and fix it. With the support of volunteers, all of the representative completed making the solar light and brought it home for their family.

Day 4 (Sept 15)

The volunteers divided into 3 groups and visited different areas for monitoring. They interviewed the family who has used the solar light in their house. Here are some voices from the beneficiary:

'We are happy because we can do things without hassle and difficulties. It is convenient especially for our 1-year-old son.'

'We used flashlights, lighters or improvised lights before. Now, our house became brighter, and kids can study properly not only Saturdays and Sundays.'

'Electricity here was inconsistent with frequent brownouts, but now it is okay. We are glad it brought a lot of relief.'



On this day we had chance to greet municipal mayor Jason John Joyce. We had closing ceremony before MKD students went back to Davao city. All participants gave a talk on how they found those 4 days, and each buddy did performance that they secretly prepared and practiced.

(continuation on page 2)

Day 5 (Sept.16)

On the way back to Davao, we dropped by the house of Mr. Sergio Habuchi in General Santos city, and informed the approval of his Japanese nationality.

It was amazing that those who have various background gathered from different areas and worked together for the project of providing light and hope in the community. We could learn a history and present situation of Nikkeijin in our own eyes, which is a priceless experience. Thank you very much for all who welcomed us and took care of us during our stay in Jose Abad Santos. We appreciate also for those who gave support/donation to this project, and all the related parties.



Message from Filipino MKD students

*“There are still areas in the Philippines that electricity cannot reach. I only watched those scenarios of problems on a TV program or documentaries. And now I am here. This experience opens my mind. It also inspired me to do more. I feel lucky because I have electricity in my house. Now, because of this opportunity, I realized that there might be a purpose why I’m here.”

Message from Japanese Volunteers

**“This tour was more than I expected. I was shocked to see inside the house without electricity. Though the house was self-made, the rooms inside were very clean. I learned the background and history why those Nikkeijin had to live there. I’d like to share this experience to my friend/ family, and keep on thinking about them.”

**“It was once in a life-time experience for me to see and know how some Nikkeijin is living in Jose Abad Santos. Their lives seem hard, but I was impressed by the kids’ smile, they look so happy! I also thank all the local supporters and people I met. They are all very kind.”

**“Most impressive event was to meet war displaced Japanese descendant for the first time. It made me think of my identity”

**“I d like to do volunteer work again like this, if there is such needs.”



Reaffirmation of Japan to support Filipino-Japanese descendants

The support provided by the Japanese government to the Nikkeijin community is very important to them. Like the commissioning of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to PNLSC on doing research and locating for the remaining alive 2nd generation in the Philippines. Its purpose is to give them the right to be recognized as children of Japanese.

On August 21, during the official visit to the Philippines of the state minister for Foreign Affairs Japan, Yoshifumi Tsuge, he had a meeting with a second-generation Nikkeijin, Jose Takei with his eldest daughter, Marissa. Takei has been one of the oldest cases by PNLSC and is under Category B (1st gen Koseki located). However, due to the challenge in collecting his evidences, until now, tatay Jose is still hoping and praying for his nationality petition. He also shared his own experiences and hardships over the years. This meeting with the Minister Tsuge will be a great honor and opportunities to Takei family and hoping that this may help him in the future on his petition. Also present in the meeting were Manila Nippi chapter President Stephen Querico Buñi and Representative Director of PNLSC Norihiro Inomata. Both explained the current situation and activities aimed at identifying Filipino Nikkeijin in the country.

The Japanese Embassy stated that it will continue to provide its full support to as many remaining Filipino Nikkeijin as possible in order to expedite their swift restoration of Japanese nationality and smooth return to Japan.



State Minister Yoshifumi Tsuge, 2nd generation Jose Takei and daughter, Marissa

Consul-General Interview

Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the representation of Consul General Ishikawa of Embassy of Japan in Davao together with PNLSC Director Mr. Norihiro Inomata and from PNJK, Inc, Ms. Helen T. Escovilla visited the house of two second generations, Rosalina Kamba and Alicia Chieko Kodaira.

July 19, 2024
Davao

Rosalina Kamba is 93 years old now. Her memories with her father, Kamba Rita is slowly fading due to her age. One memory she could remember about her father is the necklace that was given to her but she lost it at a young age. Her father said, through this necklace I can recognize you as my daughter. Another memory she said to us, that her father said that someday you can go to Japan.



Consul General Ishikawa and Mr. Inomata with second generation Rosalina Kamba and family.

Alicia Biliran Jambo now 83 years old. Her father, Tomeo gave them a Japanese name together with her elder brother Hisao Kodaira. Both Chieko and Hisao were born in Cebu City since their parents got married in Cebu before the war. Chieko Kodaira presented to us the old family photo as their evidence that indeed her father is a Japanese. Unknowingly, at the back of that family photo pasted in an old album the photo of marriage between Kodaira Tomeo and Januaría Biliran were discovered by Mr. Inomata. The family never discovered it since it is all faded but if you look closely, the photo was the wedding of her parents. Now the photos we saw during our visit only confirms their statement that there was really a wedding held in San Nicolas Parish Church in Cebu but the church upon their verification of Chieko's children could not provide records because it was destroyed during the war.



Consul General Ishikawa and Mr. Inomata with second generation Alicia Kodaira, calmly sitting.

With the visit of Consul General Yoshihisa Ishikawa, the smile of the faces of Kamba and Kodaira is immeasurable. The families are all delighted with the presence of the Consul General Ishikawa. They might be deprived of a fatherly love but in their heart, they are hoping that someday they could visit the homeland and the tomb of their father.

The Nikkeijin Community especially the 2nd generation were very grateful for the house visit of Consul General Yoshihisa Ishikawa. Your visit kept them holding their HOPES that someday with God's perfect time for those unrecognized as a child of Japanese may come soon before it is too late. (Helen Escovilla)

July 25, 2024
Cebu

The Interview of Purificacion Idemoto took place at their residence. Sir. Nori, and Hon. Umemura, Mrs. Siega, and I, began our journey about 7 in the morning and arrived at Boljoon, Cebu around 1 in the afternoon. Consul Toshio Yadomi from the Cebu Japanese Consulate office attended the interview via online. Nanay Purificacion was surprised when she saw us. Her daughter, Francisca, who had recently left for Japan, returned to Cebu to accompany Nanay on this interview. Francisca's son will also be leaving soon to Japan and was just visiting her.



Consul Yadomi (on phone), Sen. Umemura and Mr. Inomata with second generation Purificacion Idemoto.

We were then introduced to Nanay and explained the purpose of our coming was to visit Nikkei-jin like her. When Nanay was already relaxed and confident, Senator Umemura and sir Nori approached her and started asking questions and checking information. Nanay Purificacion, at the age of 86 years old, still has sharp memory and can still remember everything and can recognize the people on the photos shown to her. She stated, "*I am a child of Japanese by blood and heart*". The interview went on really smoothly and the family were extremely cooperative and accommodating. The interview concluded around 3:00 pm. (Sylvia Apuado)

Chapter's Report

Honorable Mizuho Umemura. A Japanese politician who has served as a member of the House of Councillors of Japan since 2019. She represents the Osaka district and is a member of the Nippon Ishin no Kai (Japan Innovation Party). A second member of the House of Councillors to visit the Philippines and has special heart for the Philippine Nikkeijin. Among her destinations, she included the recognition of the Nikkeijin chapters from Cebu, Davao, and Manila.

As a member of Japanese Diet, she wants to pay tribute to the war dead and Filipinos who lost their lives during the World War. Her plans to visit the Philippines is to research the war displaced and learn about the various hardships faced by Japanese Filipinos, who should have served as a bridge between Japan and the Philippines. She wanted to engage with the Nikkeijin living in the Philippines and hear their stories.



On July 24, 2024, Sir CNJK officer Benedicto Onari, Epifanio Caballero Jr., Maryli Soriano, Sylvia Apuado and I had a luncheon meeting with Senator Umemura. During the meeting, we each gave a quick introduction to ourselves and our positions and we also briefly discussed our organization, its current issues, and our future plans. We went to our office where she did some ocular inspection and look into the files of Nikkeijin with teary eyes. (Estrella Siega)



On July 30, 2024, during her visit at the Philippine Nikkei Jin Kai compound, they greeted her with a lei and a welcome banner upon arrival. Ret. Judge Antonina B. Escovilla warmly welcomes her along with the entire PNJK Inc. staff. Since the language is kind of struggle, we had Sensei Marvin to help bridge the communication barrier. She had a short tour within the PNJK Inc. office and Sensei Marvin share the back story of the institution as well as the people behind this office throughout the years.

They went up to Dr. Ines P. Mallari's office where she opens up her heart with teary-eyed, saying that she feels pity for the descendants, after knowing their stories and situations. She feels that it's her duties to protect the nikkeijin and she feels responsible for those that were left behind by their Japanese ancestors and for that, the Philippine Nikkei Jin Kai will always have her full support for their programs. She tours around the entire PNJK compound and was amazed to know that the Japanese language was integrated on its' educational curriculum.

On July 31, she visited Japanese Cemetery in Mintal and the Imin Museum and in the afternoon, she went to Tamugan Memorial and office of Indeginous people in Calinan, Malagos.



The celebration of Ireisai was solemnly held last August 16, 2024, at the Mintal Public Cemetery with various local and abroad officials in attendance. On this occasion, we were privileged to also have the presence of Hon. Senator Shiomura Ayaka, who came from Japan to show her condolence to the Japanese migrants and gave speech. The holding of this annual Ireisai would not have been possible without the unwavering support of the Consulate General Office of Japan in Davao now led by Honorable Consul General Yoshihisa Ishikawa. We are so grateful to our friends from the Japanese Community who have been participating in the annual Ireisai for so many years - we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We have successfully celebrated the occasion due to the support extended. (Imee Hazzel Gantala)





On Aug. 3, 2024, She met with officer and some nikkeijin members of the Manila Central Luzon Nippi Association (Manila Nippi) at Malate, Manila. This meeting was a significant opportunity for Honorable Umemura to engage directly with the nikkeijin, one of which under Category B, Jose Takei, a second generation himself and his family and 2 third generations from Kurosawa clan. The discussions centered on strengthening the relationship between Japan and the Nikkeijin community, addressing legal support. (Anna Santos)

Approved Shuseki Message



Teresita Nitta Escultura

A good privilege to know that my Japanese citizenship petition was approved in the court. I am grateful to the PNLSC staff Manila and Tokyo Ms. Kyoko Ishii and Atty Yokosawa who helped us in processing the documents. It was an honor to have the approval from the government of Japan. And we appreciate that they listened to every story being a child of the Japanese. Thank you once again, me and my family are happy to know this good news.



Antonio Denda

When I received the good news that my Shuseki petition was granted, I am very happy as well as my family. This is a great opportunity, and I am really thankful that my desire to live in Japan with full citizenship is now nearly to fulfill. Thank you so much to PNLSC Japan and Manila staff, for all the support and effort throughout the whole process. Also, to Atty. Yuusuke Kin who handle my case. It wouldn't happen without their help. This Japanese citizenship means a lot to me and my family.



Lydia Morine Galalan

Thank you very much to all the people who helped prove that we have Japanese ancestry and are very happy. I appreciate the assistance that was given to me. Truly, I don't think this would have ever happened without all of you. Although we are too old to travel, we would like to visit Japan if given the chance.

Esperanza Morine Cabrillos

Thank you to everyone who helped for my Japanese citizenship to be approved. To PNLSC Tokyo and Manila staff, Atty. Sato, and Palawan Nikkeijin Kai. I appreciate your kindness, patience, and wisdom. I am very happy to think that soon, I will be able to meet my relatives in Japan. Thank you very much again.



Sergio Habuchi

I am 85 years old now. It's been a long time since I am longing and hoping that I will be recognized as a child of Habuchi. I want to thank the Lord for giving me 85 years of existence. Second, I want to thank our association, Philippine Nikkei Jin Kai, Inc., Philippine Nikkei Jin Legal Support Center especially Mr. Norihiro Inomata who has helped me realize my dream. I would like to thank the lawyer in charge who has helped me in legal matters. Again, I am requesting, I hope the Japanese government help my children to go to Japan. I want to see them living in Japan while I am still alive. Thank you very much.

Learn from History and Experience for Peace and Better Future



Online award ceremony and Workshop was successfully done on August 24. 15 Nikkei-jins from second to fifth generation, 6 judges, 13 Japanese citizens joined the event from different areas in the Philippines, Japan, and even from China. 4 Award winners, Ms. Rhoda Joyce Morandarte (Special Award, 4th gen from Manila), Ms. Natsumi Uemura (Gold Award, 2nd gen from La Trinidad, Benguet), Mera Basilonia Taguchi (Silver Award, 4th gen from Kagoshima), Villareal Kim Aiko (Bronze Award, 4th gen from Saitama) introduced themselves and their essays.

As representatives of the panel of judges, Deputy Head of Mission and Consul General Charmaine A. Serna-Chua (on behalf of Philippine Ambassador to Japan, H.E. Mylene J. Garcia-Albano) and President of the Philippine Nikkei-jin-kai-Rengokai Ines Mallari shared their messages.

"I realized that one of the common things in the essays is the search for identity. Their parents or their grandparents were separated from family, from their ancestry and all from Japan, when they headed to the Philippines. But some of the writers also wrote about their search for their ancestral connection as they sense that their identity and values have considered a big change from that of their ancestors. Always follow your heart, and everything else is secondary." (Deputy Head of Mission Chua)

"Through this project, I have come to realize that the Nikkei-jin in the Philippines may be scattered in different regions or areas, but we share common stories of challenges and the life's difficulties. And to our young generations, please become out strong bridges that will help connect and strengthen the bonds of friendships and promote mutual understanding and respect between Japan and the Philippines." (President Mallari)

In the Workshop, first, they watched a documentary "Japan's Forgotten-Struggle for citizenship in the Philippines" in a TV program "Telementary" by TV asahi. Then divided into 4 breakout rooms and exchanged opinions freely in each group. After an hour-long conversation, each group made a presentation.

Important learnings from each group.

G1: "Leaning Nikkei-jin history through documentary is important for young Nikkeijin who had least chance to listen to the voice of 2nd gen."

: "As a Japanese I am thinking how to help Nikkeijin residing in Japan."

G2: "It is important for Nikkei-jin to get together and think of their own situation and do necessary tasks in their local area. "

: A 2nd generation Nikkeijin shared her hardship as a child of Japanese during and after the war, and all the participants earnestly listened it.

G3: A 3rd generation Nikkeijin enthusiastically argued that he wanted to advocate to Japanese government for the remaining stateless 2nd gen. that there was no longer enough evidence due to the war, and to ask for consideration

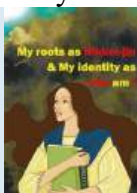
G4: A fourth generation born and brought in Japan talked that she felt discriminated in her childhood, but when she was a high school student, a priest told her "You are not a half, but a double," which was a big turning point of her life.

Before the workshop ended, Prof. Shun Ohno, PNLSC board member gave a message.

"This is the first challenge for PNLSC to have this kind of contest. It showed us a new possibility or potential to provide our fresh venue for Nikkei-jin and Japanese, across generations and regions. I understand the PNLSC has a very new potential to become a place between Nikkei-jin and Japanese, not only for second generations but also next generations. It is expected to be a new bridge or a new road of PNLSC in the future."

We appreciate very much the facilitators and interpreters, especially Dr. Ines Mallari, Prof. Shun Ohno, Prof. Michiyo Yoneno-Reyes, and Atty Zuniega. Without your support, we could not have this wonderful opportunity. And thank you for everyone who participated for your cooperation and patience.

**BOOK
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'My roots as Nikkei-jin & My identity as who I am'

Prize-winning and selected essays will be published SOON in November 2024.

Wish to get a copy? Please contact US. (tentative title and design)

When I was still at my very young age, my loving mother, the late Salvacion Akagishi Verba, always kept on telling us about her life story during the World War 2 and being a daughter of a Japanese soldier. It was her father, who took care of them, when her mother passed away because of sickness.

My siblings and I were just simply listening in awe at how did my mother and her two younger sisters survive the cruelty of that war at their very tender age as they were separated from their Japanese father and 4 other siblings. I thought all the while, this is just a story that we will have to treasure from our heritage but at the deepest time of my life, this story became our greatest gift handed down to us by our late Japanese grandfather.

In 2000, my husband and I were deeply thinking about how we can cope up with our day-to-day needs having 4 children that we have to support. One day, we got an information from my former co-office mate regarding Nikkeijin visa. We immediately went to the Japanese Embassy in Manila to check the veracity of the matter and it was really a big surprise for us that this is it! We really started from scratch because all the pertinent documents needed seemed to be very remote to produce. Even my own mother has no birth certificate and her siblings as well so we started filing the late registration. I also went to the province where my grandparents got married, death certificates, etc. but to my amazements they were all negatives. In this regard, we need to obtain Affidavits, Certificates of No Records, etc. to support our papers.

Lack of money and time, sleepless nights and negative criticisms from other people, were some of the challenges we faced but we made this as our inspiration because what my mother were telling me about her life story during and before the World War II were vital points.

We worked out the documents needed for almost 3 years and so in November 2005, we got a call that they were able to locate the Kosekitohon of our grandfather. By December of the same year, we filed for a Visa at the Japanese Embassy. After an almost two-hours each of personal interview with the Japanese Consul for my aunt, myself and my husband, finally, I was told to come back on Wednesday the next week, to pick up our visa. I still can't stop believing that it was true, my visa was courtesy of my late grandfather. This was the start of our working and living in Japan.

We arrived in Japan, March 2006. Being in the Land of the Rising Sun is really a big no joke! I worked at a food processing company in

Yanasegawa, Saitama and there were no days I was not crying! I thought I was already a very strong person, but when it comes to my job, I was really crying. I was so tensed every day because of communication problems. Work in the factory was very physical, in Japan, might is power, no time to waste and you must be a fast pacer and fast learner or else the program of the day-to-day work will be hampered. I still kept on holding to my faith that God has a reason for bringing me here in Japan, to be a blessing to my family and to be a blessing to the Japanese people as well.

When I heard that one of the Board of Education in Saitama was hiring teachers for elementary, I went and applied immediately. It was indeed a great blessing because I was hired as an Elementary English Teacher in Niiza and it really fitted to what I needed. I must not speak Japanese in my teaching but purely English only! Voila, this is really for me!!! Until now, I am enjoying my profession as a Native English Teacher, and I am a fulfilled Nikkejin here in Japan because Japan is not only helping me to work and live here together with my family, siblings, my relatives but most of all my dream to help Japanese children and adults as well, to enjoy learning English was my sense of fulfillment in life being a Nikkeijin living in Japan.

We are now in the process of upgrading our status, for my beloved mother to be recognized as a child of a Japanese and be listed on her father's kosekitohon. It is my fervent prayer that our application for upgrading be given favorable attention because my family really wishes to stay here in Japan for our lifetime.



Nikkeijin Members and Donors

[July 1 to September 30, 2024]

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Teach Me Nihongo

Lesson 3: Simple Sentences

* Sore wa anata no keitai desu ka?

(Is that your cellphone?)



* Are wa dare no kaban desu ka?

(Whose bag is that?)



* Nihongo kyoushitsu wa koko desu.

(Japanese classroom is here.)



* Otearai wa doko desu ka?

(Where is the restroom?)



* Kore wa ikura desu ka?

(How much is this?)



* Ima nanji desu ka?

(What time is it?)



A Heartfelt Thank You as I Bid Farewell to PNLSC

As I prepare to embark on the next chapter of my career, I can't help but express my deep gratitude for the incredible experience of working at PNLSC and how grateful I am for the remarkable journey this has been. Filled with both challenges and achievements, I feel privileged to have been part of my tenure. The experience and skills I've gained are invaluable and will certainly be beneficial in my future endeavors.

I am hoping that all 2nd gen will get their approval for their petition and no one will remain a stateless person. I will be no longer connected to PNLSC to start a new journey in my career but I will definitely miss all my work, especially having interviews and listening to the stories of the Nissei's about what they went through during the war and how they felt growing up without their father beside them. To all the supporters from the Local Chapter and members, thank you very much.



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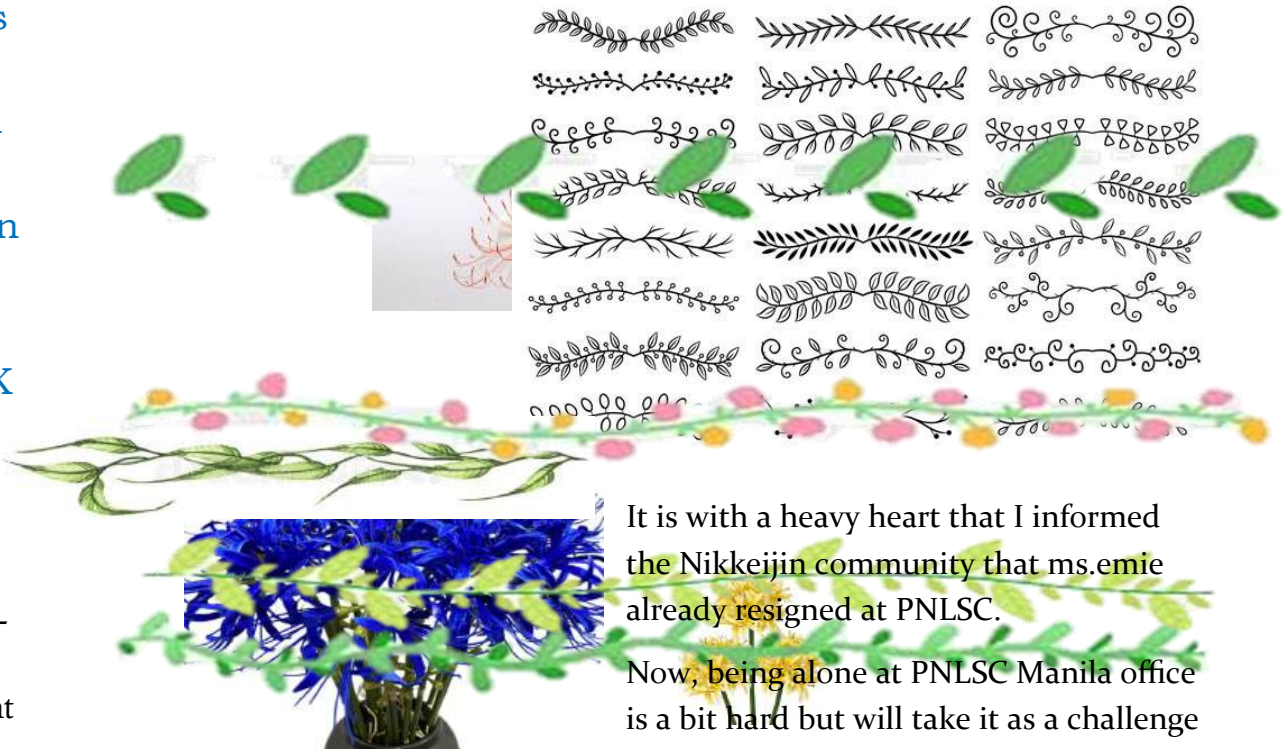
Representative Director: Hiroyuki Kawai
Norihiro Inomata



News

- News on MOA between PSA and PNJK

July this year, the upgrading of Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)



It is with a heavy heart that I informed the Nikkeijin community that ms.emie already resigned at PNLSC.

Now, being alone at PNLSC Manila office is a bit hard but will take it as a challenge on my growth to still give the same attention on each and everyone's petition. Please bear with me that it may take more time now but be sure that any updates will work on time. I will do my best to assist you and give update whenever it is available. Cheers for the success of Ms. emie on her new endeavor!

Konnichiwa. Mae desu.
(Hello! My name is Mae.)

Gakusei desu. Anata mo gakusei desu ka.
(I am a student. Are you a student too?)

Nihon

Ano, sore wa nihongo de nan desu ka.
(Um, what is that in Japanese?)

Sou ka. Ee? Kore wa dare no kaban desu ka.
(I see. E, whose bag is this?)

Dou itashimashite.
(You're welcome.)

Konnichiwa Ken desu.
(Hi I am Ken.)

Nikkeijin desu. Hafu

Ah kore wa keitai desu.
(Ah, this is called keitai.)

Watashi no desu.
Arigatou!
(That is mine. Thank you!)