

Philippine Nikkei-Jin Legal Support Center Inc.

Rm.322 Asian Social Institute (ASI) Bldg. 1518 Leon Guinto St. Malate, Manila

SEC Reg. No.: CN2007 14774 TIN No.: 006-879-312-000

Telefax No.: 02-83533096; Mobile No.: 0999-881-5358

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## New approach on second-generation's Live Birth Late Registration

*Registering a birth is important. Getting this document can be life-changing. It is a process that takes time, so start today. It is worth the effort. It gives access to basic rights and services. And most importantly, it gives a feeling of being a whole person knowing you are accepted as you.*

A birth record is served to be the most crucial legal document in a person's life. It helps to establish one's rights. In addition to proving a person's identity, this document will also be utilized for education, employment, obtaining government benefits, and other purposes. It is the foundation for many legal papers and deals, and how you prove you belong. Despite this, still many Filipinos were unable to obtain it at this time. For this, late registration can be applied. Late registration occurs for a variety of circumstances including lack of awareness (some people don't know about the process), geographical distances (others live far from registration offices) financial constraints, some think it is not important, different cultural beliefs and home birth (common problem in remote areas where children born through traditional midwife or

hilot). What more those children of Japanese descent born before and during World War II?

In the process of obtaining Japanese nationality for second-generation Japanese descent, birth certificate is one of the primary documents required by the Japanese family court. The crucial problem is most of the record in the civil registration offices before and during the war were destroyed due to the chaos during the war. Also, never forget, the anti-Japanese sentiments. Who would want to keep a record that could endanger their life? The reality is that there still number of second-generation lacks it.

This is why late registration is very necessary and important for 2nd generation Nikkeijin to prove their identity. The first Memorandum of Agreement between the Federation of Nikkeijin Kai and NSO, predecessor organization of PSA, was executed in 1995, where role of Regional Screening

*Late registration might seem tough. Expect bumps along the road. Information might conflict and you might lack some documents but stay calm. Gather more proof and seek help.*

Late Registration of Live Birth  
(2nd gen Nikkeijin, 80y/o and above)



Under Memorandum  
Circular No.2024-31

Requirements:

1. Affidavit of Two Disinterested Persons Certification from Regional Screening Committee (RSC)
2. Other requirements.

RSC shall

- A. Conduct evaluation and assessment on 2nd gen
  - a member of nikkeijin chapter
  - aged 80 and above
- B. Attest to the truthfulness and veracity of information and document
- C. Certifies recommendation of late registration with signed by authorized officer of Rengokai.

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Committee was prescribed. The MOA was updated in 2006, and then in August 2024, MOA between PNJK Rengokai and the PSA was signed by National Statistician and Civil Registrar General Claire Dennis S. Mapa, PhD and Dr. Ines P. Mallari, President of PNJK Rengokai.

**F**urthermore, with the understanding and cooperation of both Japanese and Philippine government, on November 15, the PSA issued a Memorandum Circular No.2024-31: “Clarificatory Guidelines on Memorandum of Agreement between Nikkei Jin Kai Rengokai, Inc. for the Delayed Registration of Aging Second Generation of Filipino-Japanese Descendants”, that has eliminated the mandatory requirement of ‘Affidavit of Two Disinterested Persons’ in the delayed registration of aging 2nd generation who are from the age of 80 and above. In lieu of the affidavit, the Regional Screening Committee (RSC) shall issue certification after the evaluation and assessment of the second-generation applicant signed by Chapter President as authorized representative of RSC. This certification serves as an important part of the supporting

document that must be provided to the Local Civil Registry offices. All other requirements by the LCR offices that are not affected by the guidelines will remain in effective. PSA vows to assist second-generation nikkeijin in acquiring late registration in the most efficient and timely manner possible. This agreement is one of the Philippine government’s responses to the challenge of the second-generation in their twilight years.

**W**e hope that this motivates alive second-generation and their family not to lose hope. Seek assistance from Nikkeijin chapters for applying late registration. This birth registration initiative aims to recognize Filipino-Japanese descendants by the Philippines and Japan governments. This is the outcome of extensive discussion and negotiations with PSA, with the generous support of the Japanese Embassy. We express our gratitude to Minister and Consul General Takahiro Hanada for his unwavering supports and contributions regarding the late registration matters of second-generation. He is the driving force behind this discussion and we owe him a lot on this progress.

## 18th MOFA Interviews with Consul General

**C**onsul General YOSHIHISA ISHIKAWA from Consulate-General of Japan in Davao City visited two stateless Filipino-Japanese War displaced descendants. Director Norihiro Inomata from Philippine Nikkei Jin Legal Support Center lead the visit of the two stateless members of Philippine Nikkei Jin Kai, Inc on February 28, 2025. The visit of Congen Ishikawa together with Mr. Inomata in identifying stateless will be of beneficial to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Generations who are appealing for recognition as child of Japanese in Court.

**J**ulita Natsue Idemoto Tampos married to Sergio Tampos, residing in Upper Limonzo, Padada, Davao del Sur. She was separated from her father during the war when she was still an infant. Her father Jiro Idemoto came from Hiroshima Japan who got married to Natividad Alviola in Padada, Davao del Sur. During their

union, they had 9 children and the youngest is Julita who has a Japanese name of Natsue. Jiro Idemoto children can speak Japanese, but they stopped using the language after the war for fear of persecution. When the war ended in 1945, Idemoto was repatriated to Japan. But he returned to Davao in December 1973 to look for his children. He was able to reached Padada by asking Filipinos about how to get to Padada, Davao del Sur, and eventually found the location. This is the first time the family has reunited since the war, but he discovered that two of his children perished during the war.



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## 2nd gen Nikkeijin to appeal in Japan

The Japanese government will invite the stateless 2<sup>nd</sup> generation from the Philippines is the answer of the Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba when Councillor Ayaka Shiomura asked about the matters on the recognition of remaining 2<sup>nd</sup> generation nikkeijin in the Philippines in a parliamentary session on Mar. 5, 2025.



Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba

This year marks the 80<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the end of World War II and there are still number of stateless child of Japanese that are yet to be recognized as Japanese citizen. It is timely to ask what the Japanese government has instore for the children of Japanese left behind in the Philippines because of the war.

Prime Minister answered that 'The children of Japanese immigrants in the Philippines "have every right to travel to Japan and look for their relatives at the expense of Japanese citizens," and added, 'I am interested in meeting them to facilitate the dissemination of Japan's perspectives."



Councillor Ayaka Shiomura

The Japanese government will assist them in gathering information to facilitate the process of obtaining Japanese citizenship. Additionally, it will organize meetings with Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba.

The family celebrated the visit of Jiro Idemoto, and he even gave his wife Natividad a wedding ring as a gift. After the visit, Jiro went back to Japan again where he sadly passed away without his wife and children at his side. Julita Natsue knew from the time she was born that her father is a Japanese. However, she had no idea that she should acquire that nationality from her father. Only now that she understands the importance of her identity, not only for the good of herself but also for her children and grandchildren, who live in Japan.

Salvacion Nakagawa also known as Yuriko was born in Davao City on October 27, 1944. Her parents were Yoshitake Nakagawa and Concepcion Roel. Her father is from Hiroshima, Japan. He came to the Philippines before the war, met her mother, Concepcion Roel and got married. Salvacion is the youngest among 7 children of Yoshitake and Concepcion. During the war, her father left while she was still inside her mother's womb. Among the children of Yoshitake, only Salvacion was not registered in the kosekitohon, or family registry, because Yoshitake died during the war. Her elder sister Remedios and mother talked about

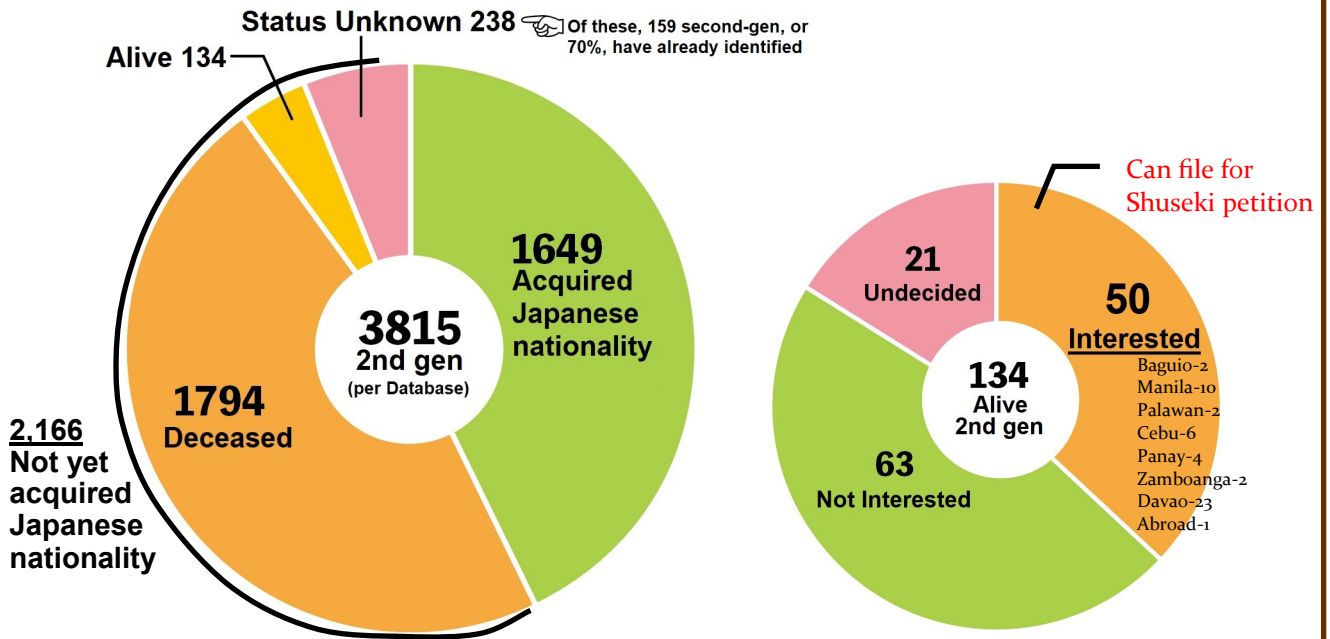
her father Yoshitake.

Salvacion now lives alone in her house in Toril, Davao City. All of her children and grandchildren currently living in Japan. At her age, her children are quite concerned about her current situation, as her health is not doing good due to her Alzheimer diseased. Her children wanted to bring her to Japan, so they applied Philippine Passport for her but was denied due to her status as child of Japanese. Because of her old age, the family were praying that her petition to become a Japanese would be decided as soon.

Both Julita Natsue and Salvacion Yuriko were impressed and very happy for being interviewed by ConGen Ishikawa in their house.



## Update on 2nd generation Survey



The results of the 18th MOFA survey, which was conducted from May 2024 to March 2025, are shown graphically above. PNLSC Tokyo database still contains 3,815 second-generation records. These include the 1,649 having successfully obtained Japanese nationality and 2,166 no Japanese nationality yet divided in the following categories: Alive, Deceased, and Status Unknown. The 134 confirmed Alive second generation are able to file for their nationality registration. Out of them, 50 interested, 21 undecided, and 63 Not interested. The 50 second-generation interested individuals are prioritized to help with petition filing: Baguio-2, Manila-10, Palawan-2, Cebu-6, Panay-4, Zamboanga-2, Davao-23, and Abroad-1. Since 2006, PNLSC has a total of 323 successful approved shuseki and currently, 6 ongoing shuseki cases.

## Nikkeijin CHAPTERs Updates and Events



### CEBU CHAPTER

This year's Japan National Day & 65th Birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan was celebrated in a revitalizing setting & fresh venue, at the Nustar Ballroom, Fili Hotel Nustar Resort, Cebu City, Friday, February 21, 2025. Hosted by the Japanese Consul General in Cebu Hideaki Matsuo and Madam Kanami Matsuo. As ever, it was graced by well-wishers from Local and Foreign Dignitaries & Personalities in the government, business sector, academe, arts & culture. Apart from the "Kagami Biraki" or barrel-opening ceremony and joint toast for Longevity and Good Fortune, various Japanese restaurants shared the flavorful taste of Japan & local food as well. The reception was lightened up by the Japanese Association Cebu sponsored NPO Seven Spirits Inc. Kids' orchestra, as they played both the Japanese and Philippine national anthems, and set the ambience with some Japanese and Philippine Folk songs. Cebu Nikkei Jin Kai is grateful for the customary invitation.

This year, not only the officers of CNJK joined the celebration, the invitation was also extended to each of the officers' spouses and some founding members, giving emphasis on family and fostering the relationships among Nikkeijin, Philippinejin and Nihonjin. A significant direction and initiative by the Japanese Consulate we are honored, respected and privileged with. *(Jun Takamiya Caballero, CNJK Board of Director)*

## MANILA CHAPTER

Masakazu Iwasaki, a Japanese artist, held a solo exhibition at the Beato Angelico Building Gallery, University of Santo Tomas College of Fine Arts and Design, showcasing his "Neo Japanism" style airbrush paintings. This is in cooperation with PNLSC and ANEST IWATA Corporation. On March 5 was the Exhibit opening, followed by an airbrush workshop on Mar.6. CFAD students participated in the workshop as part of the exhibit. Then on March 7, Mr. Iwasaki discussed his journey from apprentice to master and showed admiration for the artists at the UST College of Fine Arts and Design. He discussed AI, professionalism, and perfection during his address.



We would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Masakazu Iwasaki and Mr. Norihiro Inomata for the successful exhibit held from March 5 to 13 at the UST, Manila. Through Mr. Iwasaki's generous sharing of airbrush techniques with the College of Fine Arts and Design (CFAD) students, many were inspired to explore and cultivate this artistic method. Mr. Iwasaki's inspiring life story further encouraged students to pursue their passion for art and strive for success as artists. Additionally, Mr. Inomata's insightful presentation on the history of Filipino-Japanese mutual relations, shared through the PNLSC office — a non-government organization dedicated to supporting war-displaced Japanese descendants in the Philippines — provided valuable historical perspective. We would also like to express our gratitude to ANEST IWATA Corporation for providing essential equipment, as well as to the College of Fine Arts and Design and the UST administration for their invaluable support in making this event possible. *(Stephen Buñi, MCLNA President)*



**PAINTINGS.**  
(With a touch of 24karat GOLD)

## NEGROS CHAPTER



The Filipino Japanese Descendants in Negros Occidental celebrates its 2024 Christmas Party at the Chairman Hall of Business Inn Hotel in Bacolod City last December 22, 2024 where officers and members came together. Alongside the celebration, joint Executive and Board meeting and election of officers of the Nikkeijin chapter was initiated. *(Mark Anthony Rivera, NOFJDAI Secretary)*

### NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS

President: Rudy *Watanabe* Toledo  
 Vice President: Noel *Tonoga* Villacastin  
 Secretary: Mark Anthony *Irie* Rivera  
 Treasurer: Rhea *Matsumoto* Cervana  
 Auditor: Razel *Akagishi* Camposano  
 Chairman of the Board: Stella *Takahara*  
 Advisers: Cynthia and Hideki Miyoshi

Board Members:  
 Nancy *Yanada* Densing  
 Erlyn *Tanaka* Cabrillos Onayan  
 Febel Faith *Hamamura*  
 Rossana *Akagishi* Campos  
 Russ Daphne *Matusa Miyage*  
 Mark Vincent *Watanabe* Abalos  
 Sheila *Ishiwata*

## BAGUIO CHAPTER

His Excellency Ambassador Kazuya Endo, Ambassador of Japan to the Philippines, brought honor to the Filipino-Japanese Foundation of Northern Luzon, Inc. during his visit last December 23, 2024, a distinct and a rare privilege for the Japanese descendants (2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th generations) through the efforts of the Foundation Chairman Carlos B. Teraoka and the Executive Director Arnel M. Cabanisas. His visit give the members a chance to mingle and meet him personally.



To delight the members present during his visit, Ambassador of his Excellency posed for picture taking. The Ambassador had the chance to visit Kennon Road, Japanese Garden and the Japanese Cemetery together with the Executive Director Arnel Cabanisas. (Nida Larroco, Abong Focal Person)

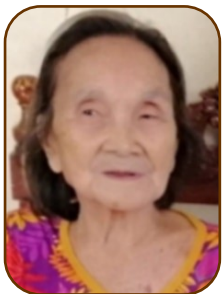
### Approved SHUSEKI message

#### Pamfila & Maria Uehara

We are overjoyed to have heard the news of being approved and have become a Japanese national. We are extremely grateful to all those who assisted us in obtaining our documents, to the people who never gave up on us even though it was quite hard because we are living in an island, particularly PNLSC Tokyo and Manila and Sir Nori. This is a significant assistant that will enable our children and grandchildren to work in Japan. May God bless each and every one of you.



#### Alicia Kodaira

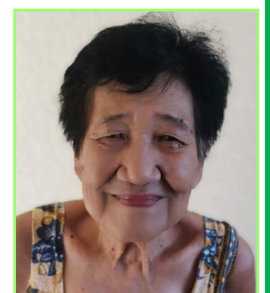


I want to express my deepest gratitude for the time, effort, and dedication your esteemed organization has devoted to processing my Japanese identity. Your unwavering support and commitment have been truly invaluable throughout this journey. I AM GENUINELY HAPPY. The outcome has not only helped in securing the rightful recognition of my Japanese identity but has also provided immense peace of mind and a renewed sense of belonging. On behalf of my children—Johnny, Marilyn, Maribel, and Joel, we extend our heartfelt appreciation for the dedication and hard work of Philippine Nikkei Jin Legal Support Center and Philippine Nikkei Jin Kai, Inc. as well. Your efforts have made a lasting impact, and we will always be grateful for your invaluable contribution to this meaningful endeavor. Thank you once again for your kindness.

### Approved UPGRADING message

#### Felisa Shiraishi (deceased 2nd generation)

It's a glorious day! We are very grateful to grab this wonderful opportunity that was given to us. We sincerely appreciate the effort of your team of looking for us and working in the land of the rising sun, and it will be a splendid experience. Everything is well appreciated and a big pleasure to see where our ancestors grown. Thank you very much for the manifestation of all of our dreams. - Florentina Shiraishi Badua Reyes, 3rd gen



## Nikkeijin in Japan: Life Story



### Initially alone, but with family soon...

My name is CRISTY SHIRAISHI AQUE, 55 years old. I am a 3rd generation Nikkei-jin, currently working here in Japan. My mother's name is Benita Shiraishi and she was born to a Japanese father named Shozo Shiraishi and a Filipino mother named Dionisia Fortaliza.

I have been working here for almost 15 years now. Currently, at bread factory in Hiroshima. I came here alone for the first time in November 2010. I was a little bit scared because I don't even know how to speak and understand Nihongo at that time. I told myself that I would only work here in Japan for two years only and I will be going back to the Philippines for good. But after two years, I had changed my mind. Despite the high cost of living in Japan, I used to love Japan because of its cleanliness and safety, and Japanese are very polite. In addition, I could see my cousins here, so I didn't feel lonely at all. I will just take a vacation in the Philippines and go back again in Japan to continue my work, which I've been doing for the past 14 years.

My Japanese grandfather, Shozo, came to the Philippines and worked as a carpenter in Pangasinan. I remember when I was 8 years old, my mother told us that her father was a Japanese. He was very friendly and had many friends. Some of his Japanese friends would always visit him at their house. She also told us that when they were young, my grandfather wanted to bring his family in Japan but my grandmother refused to go. Unfortunately, my grandfather was killed by guerrillas during the War. That's why they stayed in the Philippines. My mother was a dressmaker. She had her own sewing machine in our house and accepted clients to sew their dresses. Until she passed away in 1987. And that was the hardest part for us, being her children, to lose a mother.

However, faith works differently. Although application of birth registration of my mother was once rejected in 2023 by the local civil registration section of Fukuyama city, appeal against that administrative decision was filed in the family court with assistance of Atty. Ohiwa and PNLSC, and won the favorable decision before the end of 2024. Finally my mother's name was registered in our grandfather's Koseki and she is now a Japanese national. I am very happy with that outcome because my daughter and siblings will be with me soon.



# Nikkeijin MEMBERS and DONORS

[ January 1 to March 30, 2025 ]

## RENEWAL

Antonino Pot Hoshiko	Ma. Melissa Sakai Roales
Reneboy Esteban	Joseph Kanzaki
Vicenta Baguio Aguio	Larni Mumar Alpes
Henry Ramos Irie	Oliva Mumar Olbes
Rafael Tanaka Maquiling	Alfred Matsumoto
Mera Basonia Taguchi	Bernie Esaki Danoy
Ramon Antonio Suhot Jr.	Robert Francis Kanashiro

## NEW MEMBER

Ruth Gomez  
Joel Padilla

## DONOR

Antonino Pot Hoshiko  
Reneboy Esteban  
Rafael Tanaka Maquiling  
Mera Basonia Taguchi

We extend our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to each and every PNLSC members for their continued support in the organization's endeavor to assist the remaining numbers of Nikkeijin in the Philippines with their filing of petition. Over the past 20 years, your contributions have been crucial in helping our organization fulfill its objective and mission. We look forward to achieving even more together. May God bless you always!



### JOIN US!



**Become a Member  
of PNLSC Japan**

- Filipino*
- Japanese*
- Filipino-Japanese*
- Japan*
- Philippines*
- Anywhere in the world*
- Individual*
- Family*
- ALL are welcome!*

Let us help in fulfilling the dreams of remaining second-generation Japanese descendant to achieve their lifelong dreams to become a JAPANESE national! We need you!

#### Membership Benefits

- Informed about various events, symposium and meetings
- Translation service (Eng-Jap) three certificates per year
- FREE PNLSC Nikkeijin News copy (English)

PNLSC is a non-profit organization whose mission is to support Philippine Nikkei-jin to restore their identity of Japanese or Nikkei-jin by providing the following services:

- Research of family roots in Japan
- Help to file a petition in Japan family court through Shuseki
- Strengthening the network of Philippine Nikkei-jin in Japan and the Philippines.

For questions, or further information, you may contact us below.

Annual membership fee is only **3,000 yen** or **Peso** (equivalent to current exchange rate)

### **Philippine Nikkei-Jin Legal Support Center Inc. (Philippines)**

Address : Rm.322 ASI Bldg. 1518 Leon Guinto Street  
Malate, Manila 1004

Contact Nos.: 02-83533096 / 0999-881-5358

Email Add: pnpsc\_mla@yahoo.com /  
pnpscmla@gmail.com

Website: <https://pnpsc.org/>


President: Juseven Austero

Chairman: Stephen Querico Buñi



### **Philippine Nikkei-Jin Legal Support Center (Japan)**

Address: B1 Sakura Kyodo Bldg., 4-15 Yotsuya  
Honshio-cho Shinjuku-ku Tokyo, Japan

 160-0003

Tel.: 03-6709-8151/ Fax: 03-6709-8152

Email Add: [info@pnpsc.com](mailto:info@pnpsc.com)

Website: <http://www.pnpsc.com>

Representative Director: Hiroyuki Kawai

Norihiro Inomata

