

Makasaysayang Pagtitipon Kapiling si PM Ishiba

(The Historic Gathering with PM Ishiba)

Isang karangalan na maatasang maging tagapagsalin sa isang makasaysayang pagtatagpo ng Punong Ministro ng Bansang Hapon Shigeru Ishiba at ang ating mga 2nd generation Nikkeijin - G. Carlos Teraoka (95), G. Jose Takei (82), at Bb. Esterlita Matsuda (90). Naganap ito sa Shangrila Hotel sa BGC nitong ika-29 ng Abril 2025.

(It was an honor to be assigned to be the interpreter for a historic meeting between Japanese Prime Minister Ishiba and our 2nd generation Nikkeijin - Mr. Carlos Teraoka (95), Mr. Jose Takei (82), and Ms. Esterlita Matsuda (90). This took place at the Shangrila Hotel in BGC on April 29, 2025.)

Sa maiksing 20 minutong pagtitipon, inilahad ng ating mga 2nd generation Nikkeijin ang kanilang damdamin na kakaunti na lang ang nalalabing panahon para maisulong ang kanilang hangaring tanggapin sila ng lipunang Hapon at nang sa gayon ay matamo nila ang pagkakakilanlan bilang ganap na anak na mga Hapon.

(In a short 20-minute gathering, our 2nd generation Nikkeijin expressed their feelings that there is little time left to advance their desire to be accepted by Japanese society and thus achieve their identity as fully child of Japanese.)

The meeting started with PM Ishiba expressing his admiration and respect for the 2nd gen Nikkei-Jin who have endured many difficulties and hardships over the years and at the same time expressing his sadness that not all have been able to obtain Japanese nationality. The Prime Minister gave assurance that he will do his best, as head of the Japanese government, for our 2nd generation Nikkei-jin to be given official recognition as Japanese citizens and to give them the opportunity to visit Japan as soon as possible.

Pagkatapos magsalita ni G. Teraoka sa wikang Hapon, bahagyang nagbahagi si Lola Esterlita at Lolo Jose tungkol sa kanilang amang Hapon at kanilang hangaring makatungtong sa bansa ng kanilang ama habang sila ay nabubuhay. Sa pangwakas, ipinahiwatig nila ang kanilang lubos na pasasalamat sa mga hakbang na nasimulan at ipapagpatuloy pa ng Bansang Hapon tungo sa pormal na pagkilala sa kanila bilang ganap na mga Hapon.

(After Mr. Teraoka spoke in Japanese, Grandma Esterlita and Grandpa Jose shared a little about their Japanese father and their desire to step foot in their father's country while they were still alive. Finally, they expressed their deep gratitude for the actions that Japan has begun and will continue to take towards formally recognizing them as full Japanese.)

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The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA) and the Embassy of Japan in Manila have been supportive of the acquisition of Japanese nationality for our Nikkeijin, in cooperation with the Philippine Nikkei-Jin RengoKai and the PNLSC.

Parami na ng parami sa ating mga 2nd gen ang pumapanaw at hindi man lang nakasulyap at nakayapak sa bayan ng kanilang amang Hapon.

(More and more of our second generation are passing away without even setting foot in the homeland of their Japanese fathers.)

Ngunit ang katiyakang ipinahiwatig ni PM Ishiba sa pagtulong sa mga 2nd gen, sa abot na kanyang makakaya, ay magbubukas pa ng mga pinto tungo sa agarang mga hakbang na magaganap pa sa pagkakakilala sa mga 2nd gen bilang mga Hapon na naiwan sa Pilipinas dulot ng digmaan. Tayo'y umaasa na ang mga hakbang na ito ay magpapatuloy hanggang ang kahuli-huling 2nd gen ay mabigyan ng pagkakakilalang matagal nang inaasam.

(But the assurance expressed by PM Ishiba in helping the 2nd gen, to the best of his ability, will open the doors to immediate actions that will take place in recognizing the 2nd gen as Japanese who were left behind in the Philippines due to the war. Let us hope that these initiatives will continue until the last 2nd gen are given the long-awaited recognition.) (By Atty. Josue Sim Zuniega, Legal Counsel)

PALAWAN CHAPTER

CHAPTERS REPORTS

Morine sisters in Palawan met their relative from Okinawa:

It was the unforgettable and heart-warming experience for Lola Esperanza, 87 years old, despite of her inability to hear due to old age and Lola Lydia, 85 years old, a pro-active sister, to see their relatives from Okinawa, Japan. An untold dream became a surprise reality when their relatives visited them and the whole family from Okinawa, Japan.

“Kamata” was the name of their biological father. It was the love story of their parents that brought their families together and discovered such bloodlines are still real. I witnessed the heartfelt excitement of the Japanese relatives, Mr. Yasuhiko Morine and Mr. Naoaki Morine, son and grandson of sister’s first cousin as they arrived from Okinawa, Japan to Lio airport, EL Nido Palawan. It was a dream come true for both them as they finally met Lola Esperanza and Lola Lydia. They were also accompanied by Mr. Norihiro Inomata, the PNLSC Head Director. They were even interviewed on June 1, 2025 by (KMJS) Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho reports, a tv program in the Philippines. Even though there’s a language barrier, the relatives took advantage of conversing to one another thru translating the Japanese language into “Cuyonon”, a Bisayan language to understand each other. The communication barrier was not a hindrance to communicate since from their hearts, bloodlines are real.



It was a dream come true for Lola Lydia and Lola Esperanza as they both witnessed and discovered that their relatives came to their place even though it was far. The memory of Lola Lydia about her late Japanese father still remains especially when he returned in the Philippines to work as a fisherman. She also remembers their father died when she was eight years old. This story remains in her heart and to the whole family as well. (by Michiko O. Schimdt, V.P.)

Two-Day Heritage Visit in Rizal, Honoring Japanese-Filipino Roots

The Philippine Nikkei Jin Legal Support Center (PNLSC) led by Representative director Norihiro Inomata recently conducted a two-day heritage visit to Pankol, Taytay, and Rizal, Palawan where the team met with the two second-generation Japanese descendants, *Rosalina Harada*, and *Soledad J. Oshita*.



The primary purpose of the visit was to formally record their testimonies and confirm their family history. This initiative is a component of PNLSC's continuous endeavor to recognize and preserve the identities of Japanese-Filipino descendants, particularly those who live in isolated areas such as northern and southern Palawan.



The participation of NHK Japan, which joined the team to record stories and conduct interviews, was a tour highlight. The lives and hardships of Nikkei descendants in the Philippines, many of whom are still trying for legal recognition and a stronger bond with their Japanese heritage, will be shared globally thanks to NHK's broadcast. *(By Emelyn Bañadera, Member)*

DAVAO CHAPTER

PNJK GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2025 & NAIL ART PROJECT

A theme of “PNJK at 45th - A Celebration of Shared History and a Joyful Anticipation of the Future” was held last May 18, 2025. The registration starts at 8:00 am but descendants from all over Davao arrived even earlier. Before the program starts, the guests had the opportunity to have themselves avail of free medical services such as RBS & blood typing offered by PNJK Polyclinic & Diagnostic Center Inc. Meanwhile by 10:00 am, the 11 new set of PNJK Board of Trustees for C.Y. 2025-2027 has been presented by the COMELEC Officer, Ms. Luz Josol.



Afterwards, the next activity was wearing of Yukata for the Nisei which excites the guests & family seeing their 2nd gen showcasing the traditional outfit of Japan and the best part is that - the Nisei gets to bring home their chosen Yukata. After the wearing of Yukata activity, the second part of the program started which now includes the invited Honorary Guests & Speakers.

To wrap up the day, the beautiful ladies who brought the yukata all the way from Japan, who are also nail artists by profession, namely: Ms. Kouno Naoe, Ms. Kouno Yuriko, Ms. Shindo Mayumi, Ms. Daimon Maiko and Ms. Arika Matsuzaki, shared their skills and talent by doing the nails of the guests and they even giveaways some of the nail set & materials.



The last part of the morning program, is the awarding of Plaque of Appreciation for the Guests Speakers and the Certificate of Recognition with T-shirts as a souvenir for the Nisei.

Also, Judge Antonina B. Escovilla, Mrs. Carmen C . Apigo and Mrs. Adelaida S. Panaguiton has been awarded with a special Plaque of Recognition not only for being a Nisei but being a member of PNJK Board as well.

Guests went home with big smiles on their faces, and though the day was long, it was filled with laughter, love, and unforgettable moments. The **PNJK General Assembly 2025** and **45th Founding Anniversary Celebration** may have come to a close, but the joy, the connections, and the memories made will live on in our hearts for years to come. **Cheers to 45 amazing years—and to many more ahead!** (by Imee Gantala, PA)



MANILA CHAPTER

Home Visit Interview with NHK



On May 2, 2025, PNLSC Representative Norihiro Inomata visited a second generation, Tatay Jose Takei in his residence in Laguna. He was one of the three fortunate Japanese who were chosen to have a close meeting with the Japan Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba on April 29, 2025 at the Shangrila hotel.

The visitation of Tatay Jose is to document his life story, struggles and challenges faced as a second-generation Japanese descendant.

Until now, Tatay is still hoping and praying that this year will be his year. He hopes that finally, this year will be good to him and that his nationality petition will be approved. Not just for himself, but most and foremost, for his third and forth generation's future.

Tatay Jose is one of those second generation who is not giving up on his claim that is why he is always participating in every event that needed him to represent the resiliency of a hopeful second generation.

BAGUIO CHAPTER

Abong Lenten Recollection

As part of the 2025 Easter celebrations, Abong members and scholars gathered for a meaningful Lenten Recollection led by Rev. Fr. Manuel G. Flores, Jr. on April 13, 2025. Fr. Manny emphasized of "*pagiging totoo*"- staying true to oneself- encouraging reflection and renewal of these values during the Lenten season.



Following the successful rug-making activity in October, 2024, Abong members came together on May 18, 2025, to celebrate Mother's Day. In addition to rug-making, a crochet flower-making activity was also conducted, crating a fun and meaningful experience. It was a perfect day for mothers, daughters, and even fathers to come together and craft something beautiful in honor of Mother's Day 2025. (by Nida B. Laroco, Focal Person)

The Minister and Consul Visited Puerto Princesa

On June 3, 2025 at 2:00 pm, the Minister and Consul General Hon. Takahiro Hanada and First Secretary and Consul General Hon. Shinobu Kurihara of the Embassy of Japan arrived at Puerto Princesa International Airport. Greeted with a warm welcome shown by a dance from the tourist office of the city government of Puerto Princesa.

Nikkei-jin are also present coming from different parts of Palawan. At 4pm they had a meeting with the provincial governor of Palawan and discussed concerns regarding the descendants of Japan. At 5pm, a meeting with the members of Nikkei-jin was held.

One of the main agenda of the meeting is the discussion of the memorandum of agreement no. 2024-31 which is The MOA, a special agreement between the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) and the Philippine Nikkei Jin Kai Rengokai, Inc. (PNJK Rengokai), dated August 2, 2024, which

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Approved UPGRADING message



Felomino Kimura

When I was child, I used to dislike my father's last name because my classmates often bullied me since it had a great impact during the WWII. Back when I was in high school, if my teacher asked to pay for my tuition fees, my Lolo provides for it.

Now, as a grown-up, I have learned that having a Japanese blood, my last name "KIMURA" brings great impact in my life.

Thank you very much Lolo Minoru for being a Japanese citizen. To My Auntie Pinky and my relatives, thank you everyone for all your support. To PNLSC and PNJK, "Daghan Salamat. May you continue to help more unrecognized descendants."

- Joecelle Kimura Sulla, 4th Gen



Clarina Cleofe Masako Kimura

Today, my heart is overflowing. We feel delighted and joyful. After all the waiting, countless prayers, endless paperworks, and quiet hopes—we finally received the successful upgrade of my Lola's papers! Lola, *this is truly it!* Thank you for all the sacrifices you made, the love you gave, and the life you built with so much grace, strength, and perseverance.

To Auntie Pinky Kimura, 'te—thank you so much! To Ma'am Helen Tiu Escovilla and Judge Escovilla—our deepest thanks for your kindness, guidance, and unwavering support. You kept reminding us and never gave up on helping us move forward—we even forgot to take a photo with you because we were overwhelmed with joy! To PNLSC and PNJK, thank you for Your dedication and efforts.

- Kimberly Ancho Baliad, 4th Gen



Greetings! I, Edwin Kainuma Wayan together with my entire family, would like to extend our heartfelt "thank you" for all your help and support in the Koseki registration of my mother, **Asuncion Kainuma**. A fulfillment of our dreams. GOD BLESS!



aims to assist Filipino-Japanese descendants with the delayed registration of civil documents at local civil registry offices which makes the processing of the documents such as an affidavit for delayed registration will be easier. Questions are raised about the memorandum because this is mostly the problem faced by the descendants because most of the second generation are too old or dead.

“This birth registration initiative aims to recognize Filipino-Japanese descendants not only by their relatives in the Philippines and Japan but also by the Philippines and Japanese government, to enjoy the rights and privileges of being Japanese descendants in the Philippines that would strengthen the progress and service of the organization through continuous assistance of the PSA.” Philippine Statistics Authority, Memorandum Circular No. 2024-31: Waiver of the affidavit of two disinterested persons for the delayed registration of civil registry documents by 2nd generation Filipino-Japanese descendants.

Ending the meeting with a message of gratitude from different members and hope that everyone will have an opportunity and will be blessed to visit Japan and meet their family. (Sopheia Ormidos, 4th Gen. Member)



Homecoming Tour 2025

It gives us great pleasure to announce that we will be holding homecoming tour this year. This will be the first time that the Japanese government has provided financial support.

It is Ministry of Foreign Affairs to entrust PNLSC to conduct home coming tour for war-displaced Japanese descendants in the Philippines. Two of our second-generation will be able to travel to visit Japan. They are Jose Takei of Luzon, 82 years old, and Leonora Uehara of Mindanao, 85 years old.

Their Homecoming will take place tentatively between August 6 to 10, and by end of August. Jose Takei and Leonora Uehara will get the opportunity to visit their father's land and hopefully meet their father's relatives in Osaka and Okinawa, respectively. We hope that this moment touches their hearts and allows them to bond, even if for a short time .PNLSC is trying its best to make further research and call for information of their father in coordination with local government and media in Japan.

This is merely the first part of our homecoming. We anticipate that with the ongoing assistance of the Japanese government, we will be able to assist more second generation, particularly those who are still awaiting recognition, in visiting their relatives in Japan. We hope that this occasion will support their claim to be approved by the Japanese court and become a Japanese national.

My Introduction



It is a great honor to be a part of PNLSC!



Hi, everyone! Nice to meet you! My name is Maria Catherine Oviedo, born on the 19th of May, 1990. Please call me “Cathy.” I am a new hire admin staff of PNLSC Manila area. It is an amazing privilege to be a part of this non-profit organization. I look forward discovering more Nikkei-jins in the future!
Hajimemashite!!!

Nikkeijin in Japan: Life Story

A Joyful Life in Japan

My name is KRIS YAWAKA MUMAR-EVANOSO, 36 years old, 3rd generation Nikkei-jin. I came to Japan in 2010 at the age of 22 and have been working in a car parts factory. For 15 years, I have been living here in Mie-ken, Japan with my family, and some of my brothers. My mother is *Julieta Baon Yawaka*, born in Davao to a Japanese father and a Filipino mother. Her father died during the war my and mother was left behind in the Philippines with her mother and siblings.

When I was a child, I wondered why our middle name sounds different. Our mother told us that she is a half-Japanese and her father is a Japanese. She also told us that she loves to cuddle or play with her father. In the year 2005, I remember my father started to process all the documents for recognition of being a child of Japanese, working hard, almost everyday going back and forth to comply and submit all the requirements.



With the help and support of our mother, their hardships and sacrifices paid off and they finally located the koseki of our grandfather. Then my brothers and sisters applied visa to Japan Embassy, and later on flew over here in Japan. By that time, I was with my parents since I am the youngest. And in 2008, one of my brothers decided to get me and applied for eligibility.

I was terrified when I first came here in Japan because it was my first time to be apart from my parents, and my first time to work. When I was in the Philippines, I don't have any work. It is hard to speak and understand Japanese language, therefore I studied it through watching videos on *youtube*, reading Japanese vocabulary and even trying to have a conversation with the Japanese people at work.

Later on I adapted the culture of Japan. We are so blessed and grateful for our parents, for their hard works, because we can live and work here.

Our mother died on July 2014 in Davao city, two days before her birthday. And that was the most difficult part of our lives. I got married in 2018 and gave birth to my first son here in Japan in May 2019. My father died in the same year, May 2019. Moving forward, I enrolled my son to a "*Hoikuen*" or nursery school here in Japan. Sometimes in the morning, he often says he's tired going to nursery school, but when he's already there, he enjoys it. He speaks and understands a little Japanese, but at home, we speak English, and a little Japanese and *bisaya*. Sometime I teach him Japanese characters, like hiragana and katakana.



Raising a child in Japan is not easy, but we need to teach him Japanese, aside from our own dialect. Luckily, I have a driver's license here so I can drop him off and pick him up at the nursery school.

I would like to continue to live here in Japan, because I can say, our life, work, and my son's education are here. Maybe we will go to the Philippines for vacation only for a few weeks or months. Living here in Japan is not easy but the quality of life here is very convenient.

Nikkeijin MEMBERS and DONORS

[April 1 to June 30, 2025]

RENEWAL

Reynaldo Kataoka Nulud	Rosel Suzette Magbanua
Edwin Partosa Sakaue	Patrick Matthew Partosa
Gavita Buladas Tigdig	Noel Fujishima Biang
Romeo Casiano Toda	Norman Nakasone Pao
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Noreto Zapanta Shiraishi	Uriel Gaspar Acocoro
Luisa Jatap Africano	Oswaldo Yawaka Mumar
Machiko Miyagi	Josefina Michiko Yagi,
Julietta Y.V. Avila	Pablito Yagi Vicencio
Paul Yagi Vicencio	Perlita Yagi Vicencio
Pinky Y.V. Rival	Perla Yagi Vicencio
Precy Y.V. Manlangit	Pretzel Y.V. Sun
Kurt Ethan Yagi Vicencio	Khloe Michiko Y.V. Sun
Kari Aleksei Y.V. Sun	Vincent Kanashiro

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Adrian Timothy Partosa
Erlinda Matsusaki
Arnold Yawaka Mumar
Rey Yawaka Mumar
Kris Mumar Evanoso
Rosselle Nneka Yagi-Vicencio
Rea Nneka Yagi-Vicencio
Rielle Nneka Yagi-Vicencio
Louis Philip Nneko Yagi-Vicencio

DONOR

Rosel Suzette Magbanua

Become the new member of PNLSC Japan



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.



It has been 80th year since the world war II ended. Yet, there are still more remaining second-generation in the Philippines that has yet to recover their identity. Help us in making their life-long dream come true! **We need you!**

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

Membership Benefits

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

☒ **ALL are welcome!**

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

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