



Nikkei-Jin News No.70

Philippine Nikkei-Jin Legal Support Center Inc.

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Jose Abril Takei Reunites with Kin and Heritage in Japan

TOKYO, JAPAN — After decades of uncertainty and a lifetime of unanswered questions, *Jose Abril Takei*, an 82 years old Filipino-Japanese national born in San Pablo, Laguna, finally embarked on a deeply emotional journey to his father's homeland in search of kin and identity.

He is one of the many war-displaced second-generation children left behind in the Philippines after World War II, and his petition for *Shuseki* has just been filed on August 5, 2025.

Prior to his departure, on the afternoon of August 5, Mr. Jose Takei attended an interview to a local Japanese press at the Embassy of Japan in the Philippines and held a pre-departure discussion with Ambassador Kazuya Endo. Furthermore, in the early morning of August 6, Minister Matsuda and Deputy Chief of Mission sent him off at Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

This landmark moment paved the way for his first official visit to Japan, which also marked as the first one funded by the Japanese government. His five-day trip was filled with long-awaited meetings, visits to ancestral sites and government offices, and formal recognition from the Japanese officials.



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Day 1 – Arrival and Emotional Reunion in Osaka

On August 6th, Mr. Takei arrived at Osaka International Airport, where he was welcomed by *Senator Mizuho Umemura* whom he has once met in Manila.

Then, a two-hour taxi ride brought him to the area where his father spent most of his life after returning to Japan.

He was welcomed by his half-brother, *Hiroyuki Takei*, who he met for the very first time—a meeting 82 years in the making. At first, it was a bit of awkward, but little by little they got to know each other and shared life experiences.

“I’m glad that you accept me as your brother.”, said Mr. Takei to Hiroyuki.

Day 2 – A Walk Through the Past

Accompanied by his half-brother, Takei visited Kubota Corporation, where his father had worked after the war — a tangible link to a life Takei never knew. He had also a chance to see the famous Osaka castle on his way to his father’s grave.

The highlight of the day was a solemn visit to his father’s grave, where he lit a candle which he brought from the Philippines and paid respects and offered prayers.



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Day 3 – The Meetings in Tokyo

Takei visited the office of the honorable Councilor Ayaka Shiomura, where he expressed his heartfelt gratitude for meeting his half-brother in Osaka.

After that, He met some executives at the *Ministry of Foreign Affairs*, who funded the homecoming tour. Then, he attended a press conference.

Finally, he visited *the Philippine Embassy in Tokyo*, where he expressed gratitude for their assistance over the years and reaffirmed his cultural and emotional ties to both nations. To end the long day, he visited Sakura Kyodo Law office where he met his attorney who is in charge of his case.

Day 4 – Honored Guest at Waseda University

Takei's story took center stage at *Waseda University*, one of Japan's most prestigious institutions. Before attending a conference he walked around down the area where his father spent his school days.

The Conference organized by the youth group of Stateless Network, one of the NPO in Japan, started at 4PM. There, he met with students, academics, and media representatives, sharing his story and answering questions. *Ms. Hiroko Koyama*, another second generation Nikkeijin and Japanese passport holder, also joined the event and shared her experience.

The event highlighted the importance of addressing statelessness and preserving the histories of war-displaced individuals.



Day 5 – Departure and a New Chapter

On August 10th, Mr. Takei departed Haneda International Airport and arrived back in Manila, closing this unforgettable chapter of connection and discovery.

Legacy and Hope for Others

Mr. Takei's journey is one of a thousand—a story of loss, perseverance, and the triumph of identity. His heartfelt visit to Japan, funded by the Japanese government provided hope to the others in the Nikkei-jin community still seeking recognition.

With the continuing support of PNLSC and both the Philippine and Japanese governments, we do hope that more stateless individuals like Takei may soon find their way home—not just to a country, but to a family, a history, and a long-awaited sense of belonging.

*"I am very happy
because finally my dream
came true—to visit
my father's place in Japan.*

*I finally met my half-brother and visit my father's
grave.*

*I am very thankful to the
people who helped me and
this homecoming tour
possible, I hope this is just
the beginning.*

Arigato gozaimasu!
— **Jose Takei**



Senator Raffy Tulfo Express Support to Philippine Nikkeijin



Senator Raffy Tulfo, a third-generation Nikkeijin and leading candidate for the next Philippine presidency, accepted a courtesy visit of Councilor Ayaka Shiomura from Japan, together with Mr. Norihiro Inomata, Representative Director of PNLSC, Prof. Shun Ohno, Board Member, and Atty. Zuniega, Legal Counsel, in his senate office on Monday, August 18, 2025.

Mr. Tulfo showed great interest upon learning that over 3,000 Japanese descendants were left behind in the Philippines after the war. He stated, *"I want to help the Japanese government to find these remaining Japanese descendants. I want to do everything possible to help them."* He even revealed his aim to pass a possible legislation to thoroughly locate and identify the surviving Nikkeijin as Japanese citizens with the assistance of the Philippine government.

Also invited to this meeting was Ms. Pacita 'Chit' Teshiba Aguirre, a second-generation, auntie of the senator and youngest sister of his mother, Caridad. Ms. Pacita revealed that locating her Japanese father and reuniting with relatives in Japan had been her long-held dream. Mr. Inomata pledged his cooperation on this matter.

Sen. Tulfo proudly remarked on the Japanese traits he inherited from his mother, Caridad, such as generosity, respect, honesty, and helpfulness to others, which formed him as a public servant.

Mr. Shun Ohno expressed hope that declarations of support from influential politicians like Mr. Tulfo will provide significant momentum toward resolving the lingering issue of Japanese descendants, a race against time.

PALAWAN CHAPTER

CHAPTERS REPORTS:

A two-day visit with Councilor Ayaka Shiomura in Palawan, Philippines

On August 20th, 2025, as Councilor Ayaka Shiomura arrived in Puerto Princesa City, we, together with the officers of Nikkei-jin Kai Chapter, welcomed her with warm greetings. We were so proud and grateful that she had the time to visit us.

In the morning, she had a meeting with Gov. Amy Alvarez at her office in the Capitol of Palawan. They discussed important topics such as the situation of tourists in Palawan, more possible projects in the city, and the issue of the West Philippine Sea. They also talked about concerns of the Japanese descendants here in the city.

After the meeting, we visited the *Mendoza museum*, where it preserved the original artifacts from World War II and all the history during the war. Then, we went to *Plaza Cuartel*, the hideout of the Japanese military during World War II.

In the afternoon, we visited Veronica Jikuhara, 93 years old, a 2nd generation Japanese descendant who often stays at home and, due to her old age, can barely recognize people.

It is a great pleasure to accompany the honorable Councilor Ayaka Shiomura with her generosity and kindness. We appreciate her as she brought us another hope and continued trust in the Japanese government.
(By Michiko Schmidt, V.P.)



ILOILO CHAPTER

Commemoration of the Japanese War Dead Memorial

In commemorating the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II, The Iloilo City local government in partnership with Panay Nippi Kai, Inc. (Iloilo Chapter) held a solemn blessing and dedication ceremony last August 22, 2025, Friday at Sunburst Park, Iloilo City, themed as *“The Commemoration of the Japanese War Dead Memorial”* at Sunburst Park, Iloilo City.



The event was divided into three parts:

1.) Meet and greet with the Panay Nikkeijin members, especially the remaining alive 2nd generations in Panay island, by Hon. Japan Senator Ayaka Shiomura, with PNLSC Director, Norihiro Inomata, and the PNKI officers and staff. The meeting ended with an inspirational impact because of the strong commitment to helping the remaining unrecognized Nikkei-jins in the country.

2.) The blessing and dedication of the Japanese War Dead Memorial was the highlight of this ceremony. A wreath and lighting of candles were offered.

Iloilo City Mayor Raisa Treñas-Chu welcomed all the visitors and remarked, *“The memorial was a tribute to the lost and a symbol of peace.”*

Special guest Hon. Councilor Ayaka Shiomura, in her memorial dedication, stated that: *“If the war had not happened, perhaps children could have lived happily with their parents.”*

Deputy Consul-General Toshio Yadomi of the Consulate-General of Japan in Cebu said in his memorial reflections: *“The memorial represents the friendship between Japan and the Philippines. He quoted it as “One of the genuine partnerships that began on mutual trust and cooperation.”*

As per reflections from Former Senate President Franklin Drilon: *“The memorial stands not only as a marker of the past but as a call for the present and future that reconciliation is possible, that peace is fragile yet the sacrifice of the dead no matters their origin urge us to choose compassion over country.”*

3.) Lecture of Dr. Ricardo T. Jose (Professor, Emeritus of U.P. Diliman). Topic: *“From Hatred to Understanding: Rebuilding Relations and Tragic Memories”*, followed by an open forum and celebratory messages from different delegates.

The commemoration is also a part of their healing among the 2nd generation, even though there are still instances of inequity.

Special thanks to the PNKI Adviser Prof. Ma. Luisa “Meloy” Mabunay for her all-out support for the success of this event. (By: Ma. Leah Takara M. De la Cruz, Pres.)

CEBU CHAPTER



On August 15, 2025, the Peace Memorial Day, (CNJK) Cebu Nikkeijin Kai gathered at Marco Polo Plaza Cebu with the Japanese community to honor the past and offered prayers to those perished during the World War II.

The highlight of this event is a commemoration which represents a transformed sanctuary of remembrance, the *“Cebu Kannon,”* which is known as the statue of Goddess of Mercy, a symbol of healing and compassion. The Philippines and Japan unite together, not as former rivals, but as continuing partners of peace and friendship. (By Sylvia Apuado, PA)

NEGROS CHAPTER



On August 3, 2025, Officers of Nikkei- Jins Association in Negros Occidental gathered for a monthly meeting at the Westown Hotel in Bacolod City. They discussed an activity that will be participated by Nikkei-Jins in Visayas area. And its main goal will focus more on and work eagerly for the recognition of our member as Nikkei-Jin.

They also celebrated the 4th anniversary of Negros Occidental Filipino Japanese Descendants Association, Inc.

On the other hand, a special meeting was held on August 17th, 2025, where the officers of the NOFJDAI and the Nikkei-jin community honored a memorial ceremony to those who passed away during the world war II. *(By Rodolfo Toledo, Pres.)*

MANILA CHAPTER

The Meet at the Assembly



The successful general assembly of Manila Central Luzon Nippi Association recently held last August 23, 2025, attended by more than 80 members, including Board of Directors and Guest of Honors gracing the assembly with their presence, Mr. Norihiro Inomata, Director or PNLSC and honorable Councilor Ayaka Shiomura.

The general assembly key highlights the election of officers, with oath-taking conducted by the Councilor Ayaka Shiomura alongside Dir. Norihiro Inomata as key witness and all present. She also took the time to addressed some questions from Nikkei-jins showcasing her commitment to the community's concern and well-being. *(By Aileen Santos, VP)*

DAVAO CHAPTER

The Visit of Congressman Yamato Aoyama

Congressman Yamato Aoyama, a member of the House of Representatives from Ibaraki Prefecture visited the Nikkei Community in Davao City last September 7, 2025. He was welcomed by the Ret. Judge Antonina B. Escovilla, President of the Philippine Nikkei Jin Kai, Inc., Dr. Ines P. Mallari, President of Philippine Nikkei Jin Rengokai Inc., and the heads of Philippine Nikkei-Jin Kai-International School, Mindanao Kokusai Daigaku and their graduating students.

A short program was prepared for him, including a video presentation explaining the composition and creation of Philippine Nikkei Jin Kai, Inc. and highlighting its goal to strengthen the relationship between Philippine and Japan.

The Congressman then visited Mintal Cemetery to offer prayers for the dead. According to him, visiting the Cemetery was the main purpose of his travel to Davao. After visiting the cemetery, the delegation proceeded to Calinan to meet the Nisei, and at the same time to see the museum "IMIN"-The Philippine Japan Historical Museum.

After seeing the museum, he took the time to sit and talk with the 2nd generations. He could not believe how despite the pain caused by the war, the Nikkei-jins did not hold any resentment towards Japan, but in fact still desired to go and live in Japan. Indeed, it is commendable how the Niseis, 80 years after the war, still choose to live peacefully, with much hope for the future, and prioritize the reclaiming of their Japanese identities. *(By Helen Tiu Escovilla, Head Legal)*





Approved Shuseki Messages



"I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Japanese Government for approving my application. I am truly honored by the trust and confidence you have shown in me through this decision.

I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to PNLSC and *Abong* for this especially to *Ma'am Nida Laroco* for her guidance and support throughout the process. Their assistance has been invaluable in ensuring the success of my application.

This successful endeavor has given me the opportunity to move forward with my goals, and I am deeply appreciative of the time, effort, and consideration you extended. Once again, thank you for your help on my application. I look forward to making the most of this opportunity." ~**Miriam Sakai Doctor**

Good day everyone! I am **Natsue Julita Idemoto**, I sincerely want to thank the unexpected success of my whole family. The Philippine NikkeiJin Kai is truly a place of hope. I'm very happy to hear the news that we have our koseki already. We are very thankful to all those staffs of PNJK especially to Atty. Hirota and to PNLSC too. We will never forget all your concerns and dedication. We thank God for guiding us always. May you'll be blessed to your aspiration to help families like us. *Again, from our hearts, thank you very much!*



I will be forever thankful and grateful for the help of your team has extended to me. The long wait is over. I am now officially a Japanese citizen. *Arigatou Gozaimasu!* My dream came true because of all your efforts.

I really prayed that I will soon be recognized as a Japanese citizen. I didn't expect that with your continuous help, the process flow and timeline went very smooth. I will be able to extend this blessing to my children and grandkids. I also look forward meeting my relatives in Japan. *To Ma'am Helen, Ma'am Imee, Kyoko-san, Yoshihisa Ishikawa-san, and Norihiro Inomata San, once again, thank you very much!!* ~**Angelita Amancia Vinculado**

On behalf of my siblings and our mother, we would like to express our deepest gratitude for your immense help in acquiring our mother's Japanese citizenship. Thank you PNJK and PNLSC for your patience for making it possible. A special thanks to Atty. Kin who helped us file our petition. The process was not easy and we deeply appreciate your dedication. We are truly grateful for your support.

Thank you very much and we also thank the people who supported us. More power to you. We hope you can help more Japanese-Filipino descendants. *Domo Arigatou Gozaimasu!* ~**Salvacion Nakagawa**



SCAN ME



and watch this documentary from NHK world!

STATELESS:

The Japanese Left Behind in the Philippines



Between Worlds: A Nikkei-Jin Life



I am **Shena Kaye Matsumoto**, a 4th year senior high school student, living in Aichi-ken, Japan, and I've been living in Japan for three years now. When I was a child, both of my parents went to Japan for work. Growing up without them was difficult because I long for them everyday. But, due to their hard work in Japan, I was able to live comfortably in the Philippines.

When I was 17, the COVID-19 pandemic started. My parents were fearful, so they brought me to Japan. At first, I didn't know what to expect but, I was very happy being with them again. I thought life in Japan would be easy but, I eventually found it was challenging.

To be a senior high school, I have to pass the entrance exam. I arrived in Japan two weeks before the exam and I only knew hiragana, katakana, and some basic *Kanji* from online Japanese classes in the Philippines. I was very blessed with the help of my cousins who are studying and living in Japan, I passed the entrance exam! I was accepted to *Gamagori Senior High School Teijisei*, a senior high school with night classes of 4-year program.

During my first year of senior high school, it was the most difficult. I often cry because I can't make friends or communicate with my classmates. When my teacher asked me to read something, I could not. I failed my first Japanese exam and, it broke me.

One day, I told my homeroom teacher that I just wanted to go back to the Philippines. Then, he told me a Japanese quotation saying: "七転び八起き" – "*Fall down seven times, stand up eight.*" This quote gave me strength and it reminded me to keep going and not to give up.

From that moment on, I became more curious about Japan, our family roots, and my own background. Slowly, I started to improve, not just in school but, also in life. There was a time when I asked my father how we were able to come to Japan. He discussed to me how PNSLC had helped us trace our grandfather's koseki. Without their help, we wouldn't be here. Learning this made me understand deeper about my background and the Japanese culture.

In my second year, I started to improve my Japanese. I made friends and wasn't shy to express myself anymore. I even began doing '*arubaito*' (part-time work) to practice speaking fluently in real-life situations.

By my third year, I became second in my class. My teachers were proud because they saw how hard I worked. I also joined the Japanese speech contest and won both the first and second time. That helped me build my confidence even more. This is also when I realized that coming to Japan has led me to many opportunities.

Now, I'm in my fourth year and planning to go to '*senmon gakko*' (vocational school) to become a cabin attendant. I was very blessed to receive a scholarship to help with my allowance. I'm hoping I will pass and take the next step toward my dream.

Without the help of PNSLC, I don't know what would have happened to us. They made our life better. Thanks to them, I was even able to become a Japanese citizen. Japan is truly a country where dreams can come true, and I hope PNSLC can continue helping more people like me people who carry Japanese blood and are searching for a better future.



Shena Kay, (second from right) with parents and elder sister





NIKKEIJIN MEMBERS AND DONORS

[July 1 to September 30, 2025]



RENEWAL

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Allan Brillo Denda
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We are looking for YOU!

Become the new member of PNLSC Japan



☒ **ALL are welcome!**

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!



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

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

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