

Together with Next Generation Nikkei

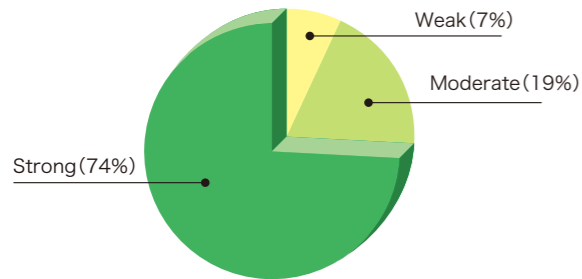
– “What does it mean to be a Nikkei in the 21st century?” Global survey of young Nikkei –

What kind of awareness do young people have? The Nippon Foundation, in collaboration with the Japanese American National Museum, conducted the first global awareness survey of 3,800 young people (ages 18-35) of Japanese descent around the world. Results of the survey clearly indicated the presence of young persons of Japanese descent who, despite the change in generations, maintain a strong sense of identity and consciousness as “Nikkei.” The survey indicated that these young persons not only maintain their ties with Japan but also have a desire to expand their horizontal ties with Nikkei of other countries and communities.



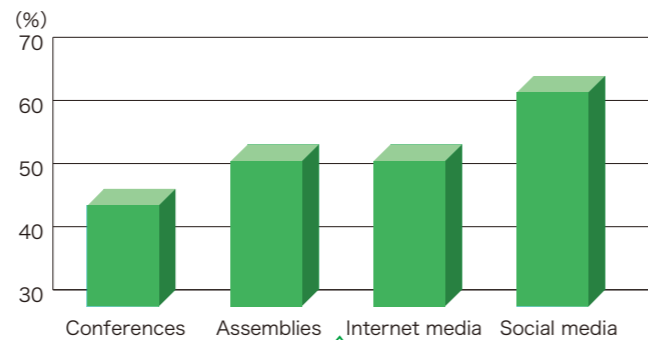
▲Global Youth Nikkei Research Project members (Japanese American National Museum, Los Angeles, 2019)

“How much sense of Nikkei identity do you feel?”



74% of Nikkei young adults have a strong sense of Nikkei identity

“How would you like to connect with Nikkei in other countries?” (multiple answers allowed)



Young Nikkei seek to connect with other Nikkei through online and other means

New initiatives in response to feedback from today's Nikkei

The above survey revealed that many young Nikkei seek global ties with Nikkei from other countries. In everyday life, however, there are few opportunities for Nikkei to interact outside the community to which they belong. The survey results also showed that many people are unaware of the history of Nikkei communities in other countries and the hardships early immigrants endured.

In response to the findings, with the funding from The Nippon Foundation, Japanese American National Museum is developing an online platform* to serve as a hub for Nikkei communities around the world for learning about the history, culture, experiences and values of Nikkei and promoting mutual exchanges among Nikkei.

※The portal site "Discover Nikkei" <<https://www.discovernikkei.org/en/>>, is supported by The Nippon Foundation and operated by the Japanese American National Museum. The site is undergoing renewal at present but is still accessible during renewal.



One World One Family



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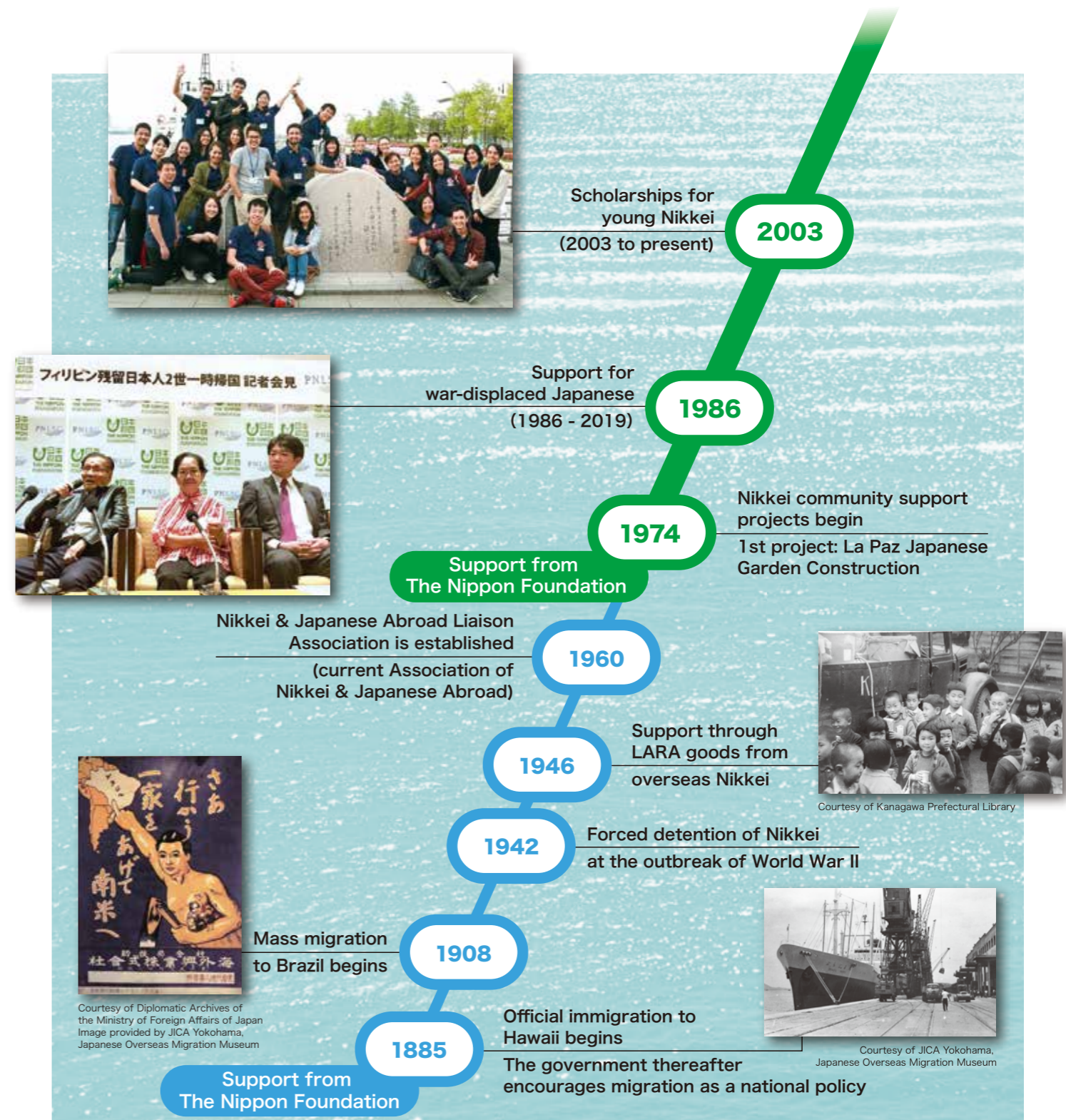
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The Nippon Foundation Support for Nikkei Communities



Courtesy of Diplomatic Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan
Image provided by JICA Yokohama, Japanese Overseas Migration Museum

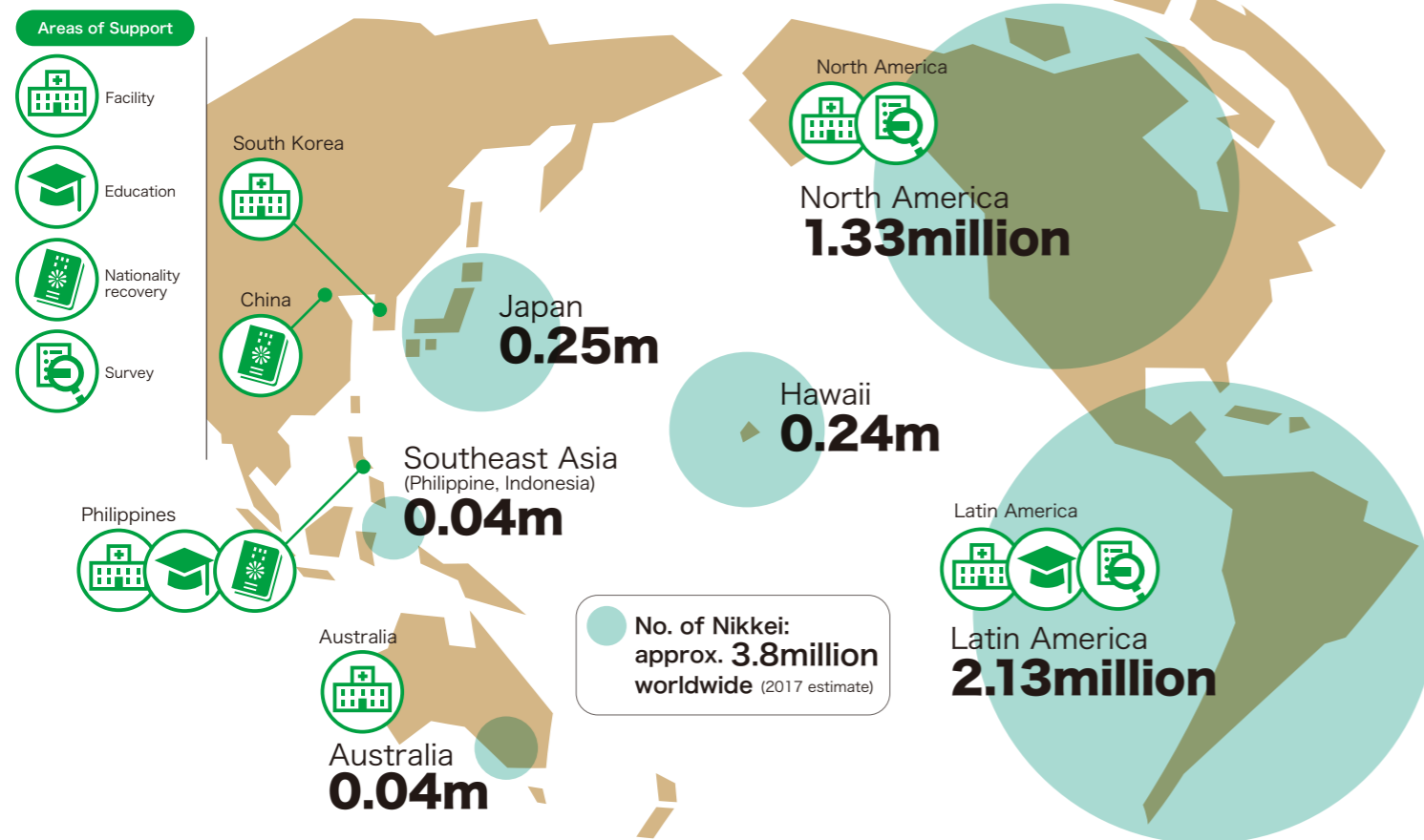


Courtesy of Kanagawa Prefectural Library



Courtesy of JICA Yokohama, Japanese Overseas Migration Museum

The Nippon Foundation has been supporting Nikkei communities around the world for 50 years.



Who are “Nikkei?”

Nikkei is a term that broadly refers to Japanese who emigrated from Japan to other countries to settle there permanently, and their descendants. The backgrounds of these emigrants, the timing of their migration, and the countries where they took up residence are diverse. Today, there are over 3.8 million so-called “Nikkei” living all over the world who have roots in Japan.

Areas of Support

1 Development of welfare, physical education and cultural facilities

Throughout Latin America and North America, there are numerous Japanese associations established mainly by immigrant Japanese to provide mutual support. For nearly 40 years since the 1970s, The Nippon Foundation has been providing support to these associations in areas such as the construction, maintenance and improvement of nursing homes, hospitals, gyms, and cultural centers. Today, these facilities are trusted by people in the local communities and serve as bridges between Japan and the countries where Nikkei have settled.



▲Support for the extension of the Japanese Peruvian Centennial Clinic (Clinica Centenario Peruano Japonesa), a hospital in Lima, the capital of Peru, established in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of Japanese immigration to Peru (2009)

Our Support

The Nippon Foundation began supporting Nikkei communities in various countries in the 1970s as a tribute to the early generations of Japanese emigrants who overcame numerous hardships in other countries under emigration policies and who laid the foundation of today's Nikkei communities. In addition to supporting the early generation of emigrants, The Nippon Foundation today also provides support for the education and development of the networks for the next generation of the Nikkei communities.

2 Support for War-displaced Japanese

The Nippon Foundation has provided support for the restoration of Japanese nationality to displaced Japanese and their families who were left behind in China, Sakhalin and the Philippines after the World War II. They were treated as “stateless persons” and were left in search of information on their relatives and their identities. For example, from 2006 to 2019, The Nippon Foundation provided support for second-generation displaced Japanese left behind in the Philippines, by collecting evidence documents, filling procedures for registration, and arranging face-to-face meetings with relatives. As a result, a total of 249 affected persons recovered their Japanese nationality.



▲Representative of the Philippine Nikkei Jin Kai presents to then Prime Minister Abe a petition with a list of signatures, requesting an early solution (2015)

3 Support for the Next Generation

The Nippon Foundation funds a scholarship program to support young Nikkei leaders to study in Japan with the aim of enabling them to deepen their understanding of Japan and act as bridges between their home countries and Japan. Through the Nippon Foundation Nikkei Scholarship run by the Association of Nikkei & Japanese Abroad, The Nippon Foundation Nikkei Scholarship run by the Association of Nikkei & Japanese Abroad, has been awarded to 139 young Nikkei from 11 countries in Latin America and Asia (as of March 2022). Today, graduates are actively engaged in wide range of fields such as medicine, education, Japanese art and culture. They are contributing to the development of Nikkei communities in their local regions and beyond.

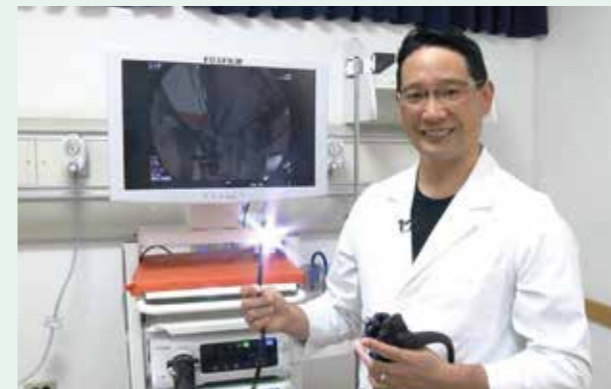


▲Nikkei scholars learn about contemporary Japanese society and leadership through seminars held four times a year.

Interview with a Nikkei Scholarship Graduate

Mr. Gustavo Kishimoto (3rd batch student)

Gastroenterologist, Japanese Peruvian Centennial Clinic (Clinica Centenario Peruano Japonesa)



▲Mr. Gustavo Kishimoto holding an endoscope

Q. | Please tell us about yourself.

I am Gustavo Kishimoto, a third generation Nikkei born in Lima-Peru. At the age 47, my father was diagnosed with stage IV advanced colon cancer, and he passed away with many uncertainties and fears when he was 49. Following the death of my father, I began dreaming of a world free from gastrointestinal cancer suffering, through early detection

and timely treatment. Thanks to The Nippon Foundation Nikkei Scholarship, I was able to learn about advanced endoscopic procedures to remove early gastrointestinal cancer at National Cancer Center Hospital in Tokyo, from 2006 to 2012.

Q. | When do you feel that you are applying your experience of studying in Japan?

Currently, I am working in the Department of Gastroenterology at the Japanese Peruvian Centennial Clinic, where I am treating patients using endoscopic submucosal dissection (ESD), which was developed in Japan. In every moment of my current life, I am reminded of great guidance given by my Japanese mentors and precious experiences I had while I was in Japan.

Q. | Did your sense of Nikkei identity change through the program?

Studying in Japan certainly strengthened my respect for my grandparents' culture. I had the opportunity to see the sea of Okinawa from where they sailed, and I could not imagine how much hardship they must have suffered to decide to leave such a beautiful paradise before World War II. My father worked as a dekasegi in the 90s in Kanagawa Prefecture. Then, I got to meet 21st century Japan. I am sure that my two sons will grow up very curious about Japan.