

The 54th Convention of Nikkei and Japanese Abroad Declaration

We, the representatives and interested members of Nikkei and Japanese descendants living abroad and in Japan, held the following sessions to discuss the three issues under the overall theme “The Nikkei community and Japan: Collaboration for Continual Development” in the 54th Convention of Nikkei and Japanese Abroad which took place in Tokyo for three days from October 29 to 31, 2013.

Agenda

1. Nikkei Communities Abroad and Japanese Society
2. Nikkei Living in Japan
3. Nikkei Youths

As a result of discussions in the sessions and the general assembly of the Convention, the following 8 statements were established as declared in the name of the Convention:

Resolution

1. We, the Nikkei communities, endeavor to develop further collaboration with Japanese society for continual development of the both parties

Given the multi-polarization of the world economy and politics associated with the progress of the globalization, further reinforcement of collaboration and reciprocal relationships between Japan and the Nikkei communities is essential to develop our societies together. We consider that promoting the succession and diffusion of Japanese culture would contribute to the continual development of both parties. Today, while Japanese society is taking a new dynamic step toward the global world, it is important to reconstruct a network of Nikkei communities, taking into account the richness of human resources fostered for a long period of time there. To this end, we would like to request Japanese private companies particularly for their proactive measures.

2. We expect further effort of the Japanese government to promote Japanese culture

Living abroad, we endeavor to present and promote Japanese culture in countries of our residence. Handing over the Japanese culture and language to the next generation is an important issue for the Nikkei communities. The Japanese government’s policy “Cool Japan” – which aims to create aggregated values and expand markets by means of promoting Japanese culture as indicated in its development strategy coincides with the interest of Nikkei communities which have been working on the same task. In view of that we expect that the Japanese government should further promote such policies.

3. We expect more proactive overseas publicity of the local governments from Japan

Over long years of our residence abroad, we have organized many events related to Japan in different places. They provide an excellent opportunity for the publicity of the Japanese national and local governments including prefectures. For example, the event of “Nisei Week” in Los Angeles has been held for 73 times to date and the “Festival Do Japão” in San Paulo attracts 200 thousand visitors every year. There are many other events developed in other countries, involving their local societies. The Japanese local governments’ active participation and support in those events will promote international exchanges and friendship to increase the number of tourists to Japan. We therefore expect more proactive publicity work of the Japanese national and local governments using opportunities created by the Nikkei communities.

4. We expect the transition from the phase of labor immigration to that of social integration and advancement in social participation of our second generation

Today, the phase of Nikkeis’ “labor immigration” to Japan has already passed and we are in the new phase of “integration” to Japanese society and active participation of the young people who were born in Japan or arrived there in their childhood. Those youths of the second generation are uncommon human resources for their advantage to acquire bilingual and bicultural capacity as potential to work to connect different countries and Japan as well as Japanese companies with business abroad when they grow up. We strongly believe that receiving Nikkeis with their cultural background from countries of their residence would enrich Japanese culture and contribute to the internationalization of Japanese society. We therefore expect Japanese government’s policy measures to support the growth of young-second generation of Nikkeis in Japan so that they can access sound opportunities for social participation. On the other hand, we positively acknowledge the government’s decision to authorize reentry permission from October 15 of the present year, though under certain conditions, for those who had visited Japan via their participation in the government’s program to support Nikkeis’ return to Japan.

5. The Nikkei youths will become pioneers in the network of human resources for the global society

We, the Nikkei youths, wish to have solid and profound exposure to Japanese culture and become a part of frontier of exchanges with Japanese society as members of global human resources network in the future. The topics discussed during the Convention on the “Potential as Global Human Resources” and the “Challenge for the Second Generation of Nikkeis in Japan” were very useful for us. Many of the members participated in the session on Nikkei Youths are foreign students and trainees. From now on we will make our efforts to grow to be bilingual and bicultural

workers who can serve efficiently in different sectors of the global society. We expect to have spaces and opportunities to apply our new ideas in the countries of our origin and Japan.

6. We request the Japanese government to abolish the legal stipulation of the loss of nationality and for approval of the double nationality among Nikkeis

For persons of the first generation of Nikkeis who obtained the nationality of other country, the legal stipulation on the loss of Japanese nationality that “a Japanese citizen shall lose the Japanese nationality at the moment of any voluntary acquisition of any foreign nationality” is a critical rejection of their desire to remain as a part of Japanese community based on their national identity. Even after their naturalization to the country of their residence, these first-generation Nikkeis will never lose their identity as Japanese. We therefore seek the Japanese government understanding of our situation and abolishment of this stipulation on the loss of nationality to approve the double nationality for those Nikkeis.

7. We request for considerations to continue the “project for the Nikkei issei to visit Japan” as a government program

In April of this year, the “Delegation of Immigrants to Brasil to Visit the Homeland Japan” visited Japan for the first time in 8 years. This project, in which the Association of Nikkei and Japanese Abroad invited 20 persons of the first generation of Nikkeis who had never visited Japan since their emigration, had very successful results. This time the project was implemented thanks to the thoughtful favor and offer of funding on behalf of a Japanese individual. We request the Japanese government for the continuation of this project as a governmental program.

8. We support Japan’s hosting of the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo 2020

In our 53rd Convention Statement of last year, we supported the bid to hold the Olympic and Paralympic Games of 2020 in Tokyo. We, together with the Japanese nation, are pleased with the successful result of the bid from Tokyo and will support the hosting of these events in Tokyo by promoting its publicity in the countries of our residence so that many people will visit Japan for this opportunity.