

**=The 58th Convention of Nikkei and Japanese Abroad=
Declaration**

**The Nikkei Community Proposes New Collaboration with Japan
toward TOKYO 2020**

October 25, 2017, Tokyo

We, Japanese descendants, or Nikkei people who participated in the 58th Convention of Nikkei and Japanese Abroad (October 23-25, 2017) from all over the world, discussed the comprehensive theme of “Working together for TOKYO 2020!” for three days, and, as the results thereof, declare the resolution consisting of the following 7 resolutions:

1. We hope that further efforts will be made by the Japanese government regarding the collaboration with the Nikkei community

“The Panel of Experts on Collaborating with Communities of Japanese Immigrants and Descendants (“Nikkei”) in Central and South America” was established under the auspices of Minister for Foreign Affairs in March 2017, and a report was submitted in May. It was the first time in 17 years that proposals were made concerning the Nikkei community since December 2000 when the Overseas Emigration Council submitted its final recommendations. We appreciate that the Japanese government acknowledged the changes of the Nikkei community and reviewed the relationship between Japan and the Nikkei communities abroad. While the report was written in mind the nikkei community in Central and South America, we totally agree with the idea of reconfirming the importance of Nikkei and their communities which have been interpreted only in relation with emigration, and with the concept of shifting the focus from “cooperation” to “collaboration” . The following three basic ideas form a common foundation for closer relationship between Japan and the Nikkei communities not only in Central and South America but also in North America, Asia and Europe: 1. Succeed and develop the trust built locally by the Nikkei community, 2. Enhance the bonds with young Nikkei leaders, and 3. Enhance the bonds through measures to create Japan that Nikkei can be proud of. It is also imperative to make efforts in education for Nikkei children living in Japan. We expect broad measures with the key word of “collaboration” to be taken in the relationship between Japan and Nikkei and their communities in the entire world at this very moment.

2. We will be proposing new collaboration initiatives in sport Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games

The Olympic and Paralympic Games were held last year in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, which has the largest Nikkei community, and the hand over of the flags of Olympic and Paralympic from Rio de Janeiro to Tokyo drew worldwide attention. TOKYO 2020 is a good opportunity to enhance the collaboration between Japan and the Nikkei community in various sectors.

The Nikkei communities in Central and South America have traditionally promoted transmission of the Japanese culture to the next generation through sports to enhance the

bonds, and the 23rd “International Nikkei Goodwill Sports Meet” , in which Nikkei in North and South America actively cultivate cross-sectional friendship, will be held in Chile in 2018. In the sports sector, Japanese instructors were dispatched to Latin American countries from early times and had many achievements and success in training Nikkei athletes and in drastically improving the competition level of the countries concerned. Taking such history and achievements into consideration, we propose establishing a new system which enables Nikkei athletes abroad to participate in major athletic games in Japan such as “National Athletic Meet” and “Inter-High School Competitions” . Secondary effects can also be expected to promote exchanges between Japanese municipalities and Nikkei groups in foreign countries such as prefectural associations. The Nikkei community will also make other new proposals on collaboration toward TOKYO 2020 such as globalization of agriculture and the promotion of inbound tourism to Japan.

3. The overseas Nikkei community will continue disseminating Japanese culture

“Japan House” from where the Japanese government disseminates information to overseas was opened in Sao Paulo in May 2017. According to the “report” of the forementioned Panel of Experts, there are annually more than 200 major events organized by the Nikkei community just in Central and South America, attracting more than 2 million participants in total. Many of the visitors to Japan Festival and other Nikkei events are now non-Nikkei persons, and many of them are playing active roles in the organizing side as well. It is possible for the Nikkei community to play a role both in Japanese culture transmitted and developed from the first generation immigrants and in the latest Japanese culture disseminated from the current Japan. The Nikkei communities abroad will also continue disseminating the attractiveness of “Cool Japan” to the world.

4. We hope that full use of Nikkei talent be made in Japanese business strategies and in international cooperation

Having lived in a multicultural society and acquired the local language and culture, Nikkei are taking part in all areas including politics, economy, education and so forth in their respective country of residence, building a wide range of nikkei network in each area. Comings and goings of people, newly brought about by the *dekasegi* phenomenon which emerged in the 1990's, made people in those countries more knowledgeable of and interested in Japan. There are also many cases of Nikkei who started a new business based on Japanese culture and successful taking advantage of their rich experiences not only in Japan or the country of residence but all over the world. We hope that the comprehensive capacity of excellent human resources of Nikkei will be positively evaluated and incorporated in international business development by Japanese companies as well as international cooperation by the Japanese government. It is expected that the win-win collaboration between Japan and the Nikkei society will be further promoted by Japanese companies' contribution to the society of the countries concerned including local Nikkei groups as well.

5. Nikkei Youth will build a new network and act as a bridge with Japan toward TOKYO 2020

We, the Nikkei youth, regard “TOKYO 2020” as a good opportunity to draw attention to Japan in our countries and to disseminate our identity to the world taking advantage of our nature as Nikkei. Born as Nikkei, we know what are different and what are common between the cultures of our country and Japan, and this enables us to function as

a bridge featuring the characteristics of both countries. We believe that what the young generation should do first of all is to build our own network. Our seniors made efforts in sports such as *Sumo*, *Undokai* and baseball, which were meant to transmit the Japanese culture to the next generation. Such efforts were proved successful in the International Nikkei Goodwill Sports Meet and the Pan American Nikkei Convention among others.

“TOKYO 2020” to be developed in the Internet society makes it possible to trigger consciousness as Nikkei and interest in Japan among the young generation who are not aware of being Nikkei, and to involve non-Nikkei as well in the network. The Nikkei youth will try to build a Nikkei youth network in the world and disseminate our own “TOKYO 2020” as part of Japan-Nikkei collaboration toward 2020.

6. We request that full consideration be given by the Japanese government to granting new residence status to the fourth generation of Nikkei. We also request consideration be given to allowing multiple nationality

We welcome the fact that the Japanese government is considering giving the status of residence to the fourth generation Nikkei with “working holidays” in mind. It is significant for the young generation to experience the Japanese society directly and for the Japanese society to know more about the existence of Nikkei abroad. At the same time, we understand why the Japanese government set the condition of Japanese language ability for acceptance. It must be avoided to use the labor in simple work just to make up the shortage of labor force in Japan caused by the low birthrate and aging population. The period of three years is apparently being considered, but we hope to have a system that contributes to develop human resources who can bridge Japan with the country of residence. There is a report that the multiple nationality system adopted by migrant sending countries such as Germany, Italy and Spain is contributing to the young generation’s moving to and from the new country of residence and to promote their sense of roots. In order to have a healthy sense of identity, we request the government of Japan to approve multiple nationality so that we can be officially Japanese while keeping our nationality of the country of birth or residence.

7. Next year (2018), as we commemorate the 150th anniversary of Japanese emigration to Hawaii, we will reaffirm the legacy of Nikkei communities and transmit it to future generations.

Next year 2018, we commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Meiji Restoration, and also of the Japanese first emigration to overseas, in which Hawaii was the destination of the first collective emigration. In order to commemorate this anniversary, the 59th Convention of Nikkei and Japanese Abroad will be held in Hawaii. We hope that this convention in Hawaii, which has an abundant legacy (historic heritage) of Nikkei, will offer a good opportunity for Nikkei community of each country to recognize their own legacy and transmit it to the future generation, and to deepen the collaboration between Japan and the Nikkei community as well as among Nikkei communities abroad. For that purpose, we hope to have as many as possible participants, especially of young generation, from Nikkei communities in the world.