

# The 65th Convention of Nikkei & Japanese Abroad

## International Symposium Profile of Speakers

### ◆Panel Discussion1

“The new generation of Nikkei in search of new connections”

#### <Moderator>

##### **Angelo Ishi**

Professor of the department of Sociology, Musashi University. Managing Director of the Association of Nikkei & Japanese Abroad. Born in 1967 in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Graduated from the Department of Journalism, University of Sao Paulo. Came to Japan in 1990 and after studied at Graduate Schools of Niigata University and Tokyo University, worked for three years as an editor of a newspaper in Portuguese. While studying Japanese and Brazilian immigrants, and media, also worked as a journalist. Served as a lecturer from 2004 and serving as a professor from 2010 at Musashi University.

#### <Panelists>

##### **Samy Kenji da Silva**

A 32-year-old fourth-generation Japanese Brazilian, born in São Paulo State, Brazil. Moved to Japan at the age of five with relatives and grew up in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture. Currently works as a reporter at the Tokyo bureau of Logistics Nippon News Network Co.,LTD. Also contributes articles to online media, mainly on issues such as foreign labor. In addition, runs the podcast program Living on the Borderline and a private study group called CIRC.

##### **Daniel Matsuda**

He is a fourth generation Japanese American, born and raised in Hawaii.

After graduating from Carleton College in 2019, Daniel lived in Yurihama, Tottori Prefecture for one year as a participant of the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program. There, he worked at the town office to support Yurihama's international exchange programs.

He returned to Japan in 2024 via the designated activities visa for fourth generation Japanese descendants.

He now works as a software engineer in Tokyo. In his free time, he enjoys volunteering for the Japanese American National Museum and doing hip-hop dance.

##### **Larissa Kaori Assahida**

She was born in Londrina, Paraná, Brazil, and moved to Japan at the age of three months. She was raised in Gifu Prefecture. After graduating from the School of Contemporary International Studies at Nagoya University of Foreign Studies, she enrolled in the Graduate School of Humanities at Musashi University. In her second year of high school, she spent one year studying abroad in New Zealand, and in her third year of university, she participated in an exchange program at the University of Turin in Italy. As a second-generation Brazilian living in Japan, she is conducting research on Brazilian children residing in Japan, drawing on her own experiences.

##### **Yusuke Chinen**

Born in Toyama Prefecture to Brazilian parents. After completing the Graduate School of Law (Juris Doctor Program) at Waseda University, passed the bar examination in September 2022. Currently affiliated with Tatsuya Otake Law Office, handling legal issues of foreign nationals and international transactions as a bilingual in Portuguese and Japanese. Also gives lectures at high schools, delivering messages to inspire students to have hope and confidence in their future paths.

## ◆Panel Discussion2

### “The Power of Women Influencing the Nikkei Community

#### <Moderator>

#### **Yoshinori Nakai**

Managing Director of the Association of Nikkei & Japanese Abroad. Foreign correspondent in London, Mexico City, New York and Washington DC, Foreign News Editor, Editorial Writer of the Mainichi Newspapers (1975-2009). Managing Director & Secretary General of Japan National Press Club (2009–2017).

#### <Panelists>

#### **Hitomi Sekiguchi**

Board of Directors of the Association of Nikkei and Japanese Abroad (Kaigai Nikkeijin Kyokai) and Executive Director of the Central Nipo-Brazilian Association.

She joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan in 1991, where she worked in various departments in Tokyo. Abroad, she served at the Embassy of Japan in Brasília and at several consular posts, including those in Belém, Recife, Rio de Janeiro, and São Paulo. In 2021, she concluded her diplomatic career as Consul General at the Consulate-General of Japan in Manaus.

#### **Márcia Kishi Guimarães**

A leading entrepreneur and social activist representing the Brazilian community in Japan. As CEO of Taiyo Corporation, which has supported foreign workers for nearly 30 years, she is committed to human resource development and promoting cultural diversity. Serving on the Citizens' Council of the Brazilian Consulate in Tokyo, she works to protect rights and advance social integration. Appearing on major platforms such as women entrepreneurs' forums and events related to Expo 2025 Osaka, she shares insights on identity, empowerment, and building cultural bridges, and is widely recognized for her leadership, social entrepreneurship, and community responsibility.

#### **Christine A. Kubota**

Born in Japan, she is the President of the law firm Damon Key Leong Kupchak Hastert, and practices in the firm's Corporate, Commercial, and Real Estate Law practice groups, primarily with Japanese-speaking clients.. To address the needs of her Japanese clients, her practice also encompasses Immigration Law, Estate Planning and Employment matters. She received the Foreign Minister's Commendation for Fiscal Year 2023. She has served as past board chair of the Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce, United Japanese Society of Hawaii, Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, and co-chair of the 150th Anniversary of the Gannenmono.

#### **Kiyo Fujiki**

From January 1976, based in Uithoorn, Netherlands. Established the Stichting Japanese Helpdesk (2003, 2009 registered), founder, representative. Established Japanese-Dutch women's club "Oranda-kai" Association (1983), founder, elected chairman, advisor. European Network of Japanese Association (ENJA) – formerly European Japanese Association (2006–Executive Committee Member), The Central European Noh & Kyogen Culture Association (2010), organizer. Nederlands-Japanse Vereniging – Member since 1976, Board Member since 2024.

#### <Video Appearance>

#### **Ines Yamanouchi P. Mallari**

A 3rd Generation Japanese descendant, born in 1971 in Davao City, Philippines. Completed her Intermediate Study in Japanese Language for one Year in Tama Educational Center (TEC), Tokyo, Japan in 1991. Completed the academic requirements for the doctorate degree in Educational Administration at Ateneo de Davao University in the Philippines. Currently serving as the President of Philippine Nikkei Jin Kai Rengokai, Inc., the Chairman of Philippine Nikkei Jin Kai in Davao City, the President & School Directress of Philippine Nikkei Jin Kai International School and the President & Administrator of Mindanao Kokusai Daigaku.