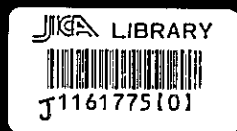


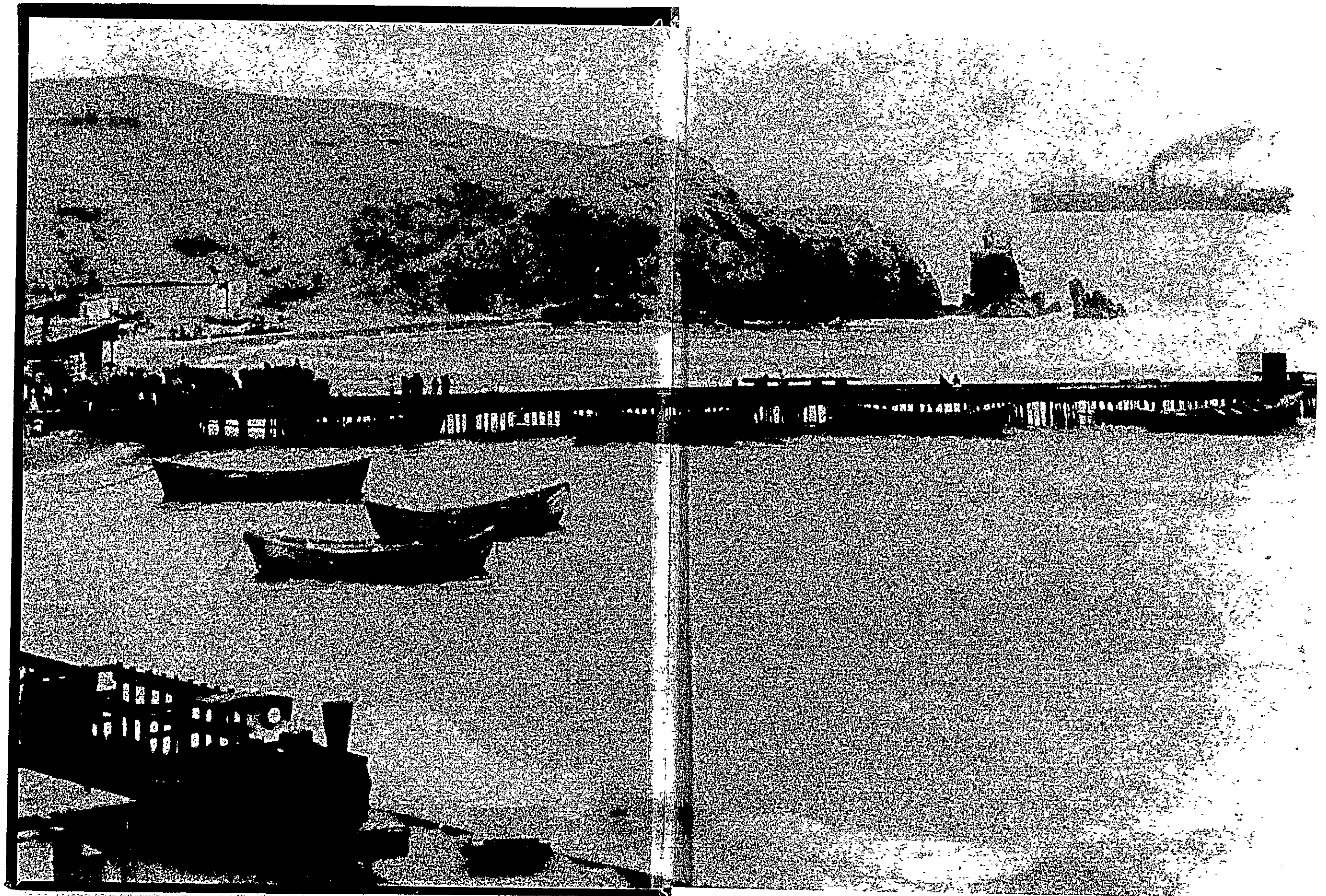


THE PERUVIAN JAPANESE ASSOCIATION

THE CENTENNIAL
OF THE JAPANESE
IMMIGRATION TO PERU
1899-1999



THE COMMEMORATIVE COMMISSION
OF THE CENTENNIAL





*The Centennial Anniversary
of the Japanese Immigration to Peru*

1899 - 1999

The Peruvian Japanese Association

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Commission of the 100th Anniversary
of the Japanese Immigration to Peru

The Centennial Anniversary Book Commission

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*The Centennial Anniversary
of the Japanese Immigration
to Peru*
(1899 – 1999)



The Japanese International Cooperation Agency



Preface

The "Centennial Anniversary of the Japanese Immigration to Peru" is an attempt to express our deep gratitude to the staunch pioneer Japanese men and women who sailed across the Pacific Ocean from their distant homeland until reaching the shores of Peru. After decades rolled by, this group of people wove together a thriving, generous and close-knit community.

The book not only deals with historical facts, it is the tale untold of how these first immigrants from Japan shared times of sorrow and joy which today are part of the Peruvian Japanese Community's cherished memories.

The second generation or Nisei kept intact the traditional values and principles inherited from their parents. These ideals helped the members of the Peruvian Japanese Community to endure much suffering unleashed by World War II. These qualities have been the foundations upon which many Japanese and their descendants have earnestly gained international fame.

This book contains a collection of photographs of the Institutions, Prefectures and entities such as Kenjinkai and of the provincial chapters of these institutions and associations. It also presents a list of historic international affairs, Japanese events and other highlights of the Peruvian Japanese Community.

It is intended as a safeguard for the future of the Nikkei Community, a tool by which they can trace their roots and remember the venerable lessons taught by the forefathers of the Sansei, or third generation Japanese immigrants, and Yonsei, fourth and fifth generation. It is important for all the Peruvian Japanese Community to keep the cinders of their cultural and social identity alive as they gradually blend into their new homeland, Peru.

Despite the rich historic facts described in the book, the true purpose of this publication is to pay tribute to the 100th Anniversary of the Japanese Immigration to Peru in a special way, sharing the events, tales and memories that have been carefully gathered with all the members of the Peruvian Japanese Community and friends.

The Book Commission



His Excellency, Alberto Fujimori President of the Republic of Peru

***Message from
Alberto Fujimori
President of the Republic of Peru***

As the son of Japanese immigrants who arrived to Peru, I am greatly pleased to know that the Centennial of the Japanese Immigration to Peru will be celebrated enthusiastically this year. The arrival of 790 courageous men on the Sakura Maru whose customs differed from those of Peruvians was also the encounter of two different worlds. Nevertheless, these Japanese immigrants succeeded in creating an honorable place for themselves within this society, gaining the respect of those who offered them their hospitality and above all, blending their traditions with those of their host country. Peru welcomed the newcomers kindly and learned many lessons from these brave Japanese.

Peruvians of Japanese ancestry have greatly contributed to draw both worlds together. On this day, we also express our satisfaction of striving side by side with all our fellow countrymen to build a better future for Peru. We are devoted to working hard for Peru from our different positions and professional fields.

Peru faced a hard test this past decade. We have succeeded with flying colors despite the huge obstacles we have had to endure. We have overcome a runaway inflation and rampant terrorism. We have been able to recover from the El Niño Phenomenon and have been victorious over the Cenepa border conflict. This manifests the true spirit of Peruvians. This strength, combined with the Government's responsible management, is helping us through the current international financial crisis.

Let us celebrate this Centennial Anniversary with joy. May the efforts of the immigrants, our own and those of all Peruvians lead towards one common goal to build a greater and stronger Peru, the generous homeland of a melting pot of races.

***Alberto Fujimori
President of the Republic of Peru***



*Message from
Keizo Obuchi
Prime Minister of Japan*

I wish to extend my best wishes on behalf of the Government and People of Japan on the occasion of the Centennial Anniversary of the Japanese Immigration to Peru

Peru was the first country in Latin America to establish diplomatic relations with Japan. Last year, Peru and Japan celebrated their 125th Anniversary of the Peace, Friendship, Trade and Navigation Treaty. During all these years, Peru and Japan have been able to strike true bonds of friendship and cooperation at different levels. One of the main reasons lies in the efforts of Japanese descendants in favor of the development of Peruvian society during one hundred years. I wish to express my deepest respect for the relentless and persevering courage of the immigrants that enabled them to cope with many hardships.

At present, the international society is engaged in the search of a new worldwide order. At the same time, the world is witness to the major trend towards globalization and the expansion of interdependency. In this context, relationships between Peru and Japan, two countries joined by the Pacific Ocean, envisage a significant development and growth during the 21st century. My hope is that Nikkei, heirs of the indomitable spirit of the first immigrants, will contribute to the enrichment of these bilateral relations. They are the links between Peru and Japan and above all, they are good Peruvian citizens.

My best wishes on the success of the celebration of the Centennial Anniversary of the Japanese Immigration to Peru and may Peru prosper.

*Keizo Obuchi
Prime Minister of Japan*

***Message from
Fernando de Trazegnies
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Peru***

The Commemorative Commission of the Centennial of the Japanese Immigration to Peru, "One Hundred Years of Effort A Reality Today". An Example for Tomorrow, has successfully organized a splendid homage in honor of the first massive workers' migration. President Nicolás de Piérola specially authorized this migration. The first group arrived at the port of Callao on April 3, 1899.

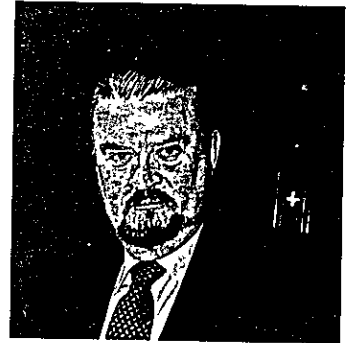
According to authentic documents, Japanese had been living in Peru since the end of the 16th Century. The Peace, Friendship, Trade and Navigation Treaty signed between the Governments of Peru and Japan on August 21, 1873, marked the beginning of diplomatic relations between both countries.

However, we wish to highlight that the arrival of 790 Japanese immigrants to a South American country for the first time, exactly one hundred years ago, was a major historic milestone. It constituted the beginning of a patient integration, steadfast progress and cooperation and, resolute tenacity, which, needless to say, was accompanied by all kinds of difficulties.

The history of humanity is also the history of migrations. For various centuries, these have constituted true cultural globalization processes and encounters between cultures. The result is a fascinating blend reflected in the development, diversity and spiritual enrichment of our people.

The valuable contribution of Peruvians of Japanese origin to the arts, politics, literature, anthropology, history, archaeology, sports, economy and science is, at the same time, a paradigm of cultural integration that honors our society.

***Fernando de Trazegnies
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Peru***





*Message from
Masahiko Komura
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan*

I would like to express my sincere acknowledgement for the celebration of the Commemorative Ceremony of the Japanese Immigration to Peru. One hundred years of history have rolled by since 1899 –Year 32 of the Meiji Era– when the first 790 Japanese immigrants arrived to Peru. The Japanese Community has experienced good and bad times – the odds and hardships of the immigrant pioneers, the founding and development of the Central Japanese Society, the misfortunes before and after World War II and later, the reconstruction period. In 1984, the Central Japanese Society was dissolved and gave way to the present Peruvian Japanese Association. It gives me great satisfaction as a fellow countryman to know that during these one hundred years the Nikkei Community of Peru has grown to approximately one hundred thousand members. Many of its distinguished representatives, for instance, President Alberto Fujimori, are prominent in Peruvian society.

The main Commemorative Ceremony of the Japanese Immigration to Peru will be held on May 30th. However, it is praiseworthy that such an important celebration has not limited itself to a mere ceremony. It has also involved the construction of a commemorative monument and the publication of the book on the Centennial to pay homage to the effort of immigrant forefathers. Hence, the history of the immigration will be handed down to future generations. The Commemorative Clinic is another accomplishment that will contribute to the well-being of the Peruvian-Japanese society.

Peru and Japan maintain the traditional bonds of friendship and cooperation since they first established diplomatic relationships in 1873, and one of the main reasons is the arduous and incessant labor of immigrant pioneers. They distinguished themselves for their persevering and hard-working spirit, which is a Japanese characteristic. Their descendants were the heirs of these customs. I hope the members of the Nikkei Community continue to foster mutual understanding to help strengthen the ties of friendship and cooperation between our two countries, which are joined by the Pacific Ocean. My best wishes for the future development of the Peruvian-Japanese Community.

*Masahiko Komura
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan*

Message from His Excellency Victor Aritomi Ambassador of Peru to Japan

One hundred years have elapsed since the first group of immigrants arrived at Callao on board the Sakura Maru. These Japanese immigrants were the founders and pioneers of a migratory wave that made Peru one of their most important destinations.

By the turn of the 19th century Japan was undergoing particularly difficult times while America appeared to be the Promised Land.

Hence, these Japanese immigrants, pushed by their dreams and courage, sailed off towards the coasts of South America, to Peru. On this side of the ocean, far from the Empire of the Rising Sun, was a young South American Republic, the heir of the legendary Inca Empire.

Seven hundred and ninety Japanese immigrants set out on a strenuous 36-day voyage from Yokohama to Callao without any of the comforts that passengers enjoy today. Upon their arrival to their destination, they were immediately assigned to work on plantations along the Peruvian coast. Labor conditions were not very favorable for native people, much less for Japanese immigrants. Despite the odds, they gradually became adapted to their new surroundings and eventually earned the respect of their neighbors for their organized manner of living, hard-working spirit and sense of economy.

Little by little, these immigrants changed from being employees to independent businessmen as owners of small shops and later small industries. Since then many have prospered and become successful in larger businesses and industrial activities.

The children of the first Japanese immigrants to Peru quickly excelled in local professional and cultural activities. Thus, a new Peruvian element began to take shape.

Today, several Nikkei artists and writers have won a place of honor in contemporary Peruvian culture, sports, industry, trade and politics, amongst others.

It is equally significant that the citizens of Peru have elected a President whose last name is written in Kanji.

After all these years, we can now firmly declare that Peru has citizens of Japanese origin who wish to commemorate this 100th Anniversary which marks the fortunate encounter of two peoples and cultures, a story that began with the arrival of the Sakura Maru.

We wish to render our best homage to these brave Japanese immigrants to Peru whose resolution did not waver and who eventually built the foundations of their homes in this new land. May we all continue working as every Peruvian, towards the future of Peru, a country that is a melting pot of races, as Jose Maria Arguedas, the famous Peruvian author of 'Todas Las Sangres' wrote.



***Victor Aritomi
Ambassador of Peru to Japan***



Message from His Excellency Yoshizo Konishi Ambassador of Japan to Peru

Peru was the first destination of Japanese immigrants in South America. Many of these pioneers died soon after they arrived to Peru, either from sickness or harsh working conditions. Later, many others faced the difficulties and consequences of World War II. Despite these events, the Nikkei Community participated in a broad range of activities and introduced new values into the multi-cultural society of Peru. This has allowed the Japanese Community of Peru to successfully blend into the society of Peru. The 100th Anniversary of Japanese Immigrants to Peru embodies a particular meaning. The Centennial Anniversary marks a period which allows us to understand the efforts of the immigrant's long journey and the role that the Nikkei have played in the mainstream of Peru. This experience is shared with future generations as an inspiration to help them persistently develop and blossom.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all those that have made possible the celebration of this symbolic year. Through Geirardo Maruy, President of the Commission of the 100th Anniversary of the Japanese Immigration to Peru, I wish to thank each and every one of you. It has been a great pleasure to witness the main day of celebration held on May 30th that was extremely successful and splendid. We were honored to have welcomed Alberto Fujimori, President of Peru and, as the representatives of Japan, Her Royal Highness, Princess Sayako, Toshiki Kaifu, former Prime Minister (President of the Japanese-Peruvian Parliamentary League) Kazuo Haruna, President of the Commission of the 100th Anniversary of the Japanese Immigration to Peru, the Governors of each Prefecture mentioned in this book, as well as many other distinguished delegates. Special mention must be made of Kazuo Haruna who has been exceptionally helpful in the preparations for the 100th Anniversary.

A particular poignant moment was when Princess Sayako and members of the first generation of Japanese immigrants who endured the hardships of many years met.

The activities of this Anniversary were not circumscribed to the members of the Nikkei Community. The Congress of Peru sponsored many events on a diversity of Japanese subjects open to the public. Furthermore, a photo album was published and a documentary video was recorded. A friendly football match was played between the teams of both countries. Each of these activities pay homage to the first immigrants. Likewise, the Central Reserve Bank of Peru issued a special coin in commemoration of the 100th Anniversary and commemorative stamps were printed in Peru and Japan. Each activity in itself bears witness to the appreciation of the

people of Peru towards the Nikkei. The beautiful "Lima-Chan" statue was erected in Yokohama, from the place where the Sakura Maru set sail to Peru one hundred years ago

Peruvians in general are familiar with the Japanese way of life that is based on honesty and hard work. These are the fruits of the ceaseless efforts of each Japanese immigrant. With no distinction whatsoever, in times of trouble they would cling together. The motto "One hundred years of effort. A reality of today and example of tomorrow" expresses the essence of the Japanese immigrants' lifestyle in Peru. I wish to express my most sincere respect for such a steadfast dynamic and positive attitude. May this spirit always be present and continue to bloom in the future.

The bonds of friendship between Peru and Japan have grown stronger and deeper during these past hundred years. Peru is currently the prime beneficiary of Japanese financial cooperation among South American countries. Japan is one of Peru's most important collaborators. As part of the 100th Anniversary celebrations, the Japanese Government has launched two non-reimbursable cooperation projects: the construction of the Instituto Materno Perinatal, a Peruvian Japanese Friendship Hospital for Mother and Infant Health Care and the Peru-Japan Fellowship Bridge. The latter will ease the flow of traffic from the northern bank of the Rimac River to the Lima downtown area.

As concerns academic and cultural areas, exchanges between both countries have also grown. Andean archaeology is one example among many others.

Relations between Peru and Japan have become closer at various levels. The Nikkei Community has played a major role in striking friendly relations between Peru and Japan and increases our support through several other means of cooperation. We hope all the Nikkei, who have inherited the best of these two countries, will contribute towards the development of the people of Peru as well as its economy and its culture. We urge them to continue cooperating to increase friendly relations taking this year as a starting point for the next one hundred years. I bid my best wishes for the construction of the Commemorative Clinic of the Peruvian Japanese Association. I wish to extend my most sincere wishes for the well-being of all the Japanese Community of Peru throughout the 21st century.

Yoshizo Konishi
Ambassador of Japan to Peru



***Message from
Kazuo Haruna
President of the Commemorative
Commission of Japan***

I would like to express my sincere acknowledgement to the Centennial Anniversary of the Japanese Immigration to Peru. I welcome this opportunity to congratulate Japanese immigrants residing in Peru and Nikkei descendants.

Who would have believed one hundred years ago, when the first 790 pioneers braved the waves of the Pacific Ocean and immigrated to South America, that the Nikkei Community would have achieved such progress? Since then, more than 30,000 Japanese immigrants have travelled across the ocean to Peru. I am deeply moved when I think about all the hardship and sorrow they encountered and overcame. The life story of each of these pioneers is a moving drama, a unique saga. These men struggled, suffered and progressed in the rough coast or rugged mountains under rain or shine. Many perished and now rest under the starlit sky.

I would like to pay my respects to the Nikkei, heirs of the virtues of the immigrant pioneers, for having accomplished the acceptance of the Peruvian society and consolidated the now prestigious Nikkei Community.

It is a great honor to preside over the Commemorative Commission of the Centennial of the Japanese Immigration to Peru in Japan. On this occasion, the Nikkei Community is celebrating the Centennial Anniversary of their forefathers' steadfast endeavor. I can assure you that the arduous task of commemorating these major historical events has become one of my fondest and most treasured memories.

At present, Peru and Japan have established political and economic relationships despite geographic distances and the language barrier. These bonds grow stronger each day. May our two countries continue building the foundations of a solid friendship at the threshold of the new century.

I wish to thank the companies, institutions, associations and individuals who have made contributions despite the difficult economic situation. I wish to extend my acknowledgement to all the people who organized each celebration worthy of this Centennial.

In closing, I wish to thank Gerardo Marín, President of the Commemorative Commission of the Japanese Immigration to Peru, its members and each person who in one way or another have helped to make this important event such a success.

***Kazuo Haruna
President of the Commemorative Commission of Japan***

***Message from
Ryoichi Jinnai
President of the International Foundation of
the Ryoichi Jinnai Corporation of Japan***

On April 3, 1899, the ship Sakura Maru with 790 Japanese immigrants arrived to the Port of Callao. It was the first immigration to South America and marked the beginning of the Japanese immigration to Peru.

Ten years ago, I donated the funds to build the Jinnai Center of the Peruvian Japanese Cultural Center as a sign of respect to immigrants. The purpose of this acknowledgement was also to strengthen the bonds of friendship among Nikkei so they could enjoy wonderful moments in their old age.

Plans for building a clinic have been made on the Centennial Anniversary of the Japanese Immigration to Peru. Again, I express my wish to cooperate with the Nikkei Community. The clinic will not only be open to the Japanese Community but to all Peruvians as well.

During the first years, many immigrants experienced a series of difficulties and sorrows. They managed to forge ahead and become successful people. An example of this is Nikkei Alberto Fujimori, who was elected as President of Peru.

Finally, I wish to express my best wishes for the development of the Japanese Community and Peru.



***Ryoichi Jinnai
President of the International Foundation
of the Ryoichi Jinnai Corporation of Japan***



*Message from
Ayako Sono
President of the Nippon Foundation*

Our best wishes to the Nikkei Community on the Centennial Anniversary of the Japanese Immigration to Peru

I must admit that on visits I have made to Peru I was able to see for myself the role Nikkei have developed and their high prestige. We feel proud of the fact that you are Japanese descendants.

One hundred years ago, the first Japanese immigrants set foot on Peruvian soil. Full of hope, they never imagined the difficulties they were about to encounter. Nevertheless, thanks to their courage and self-sacrifice, they succeeded in their purpose to construe a better future for themselves. They were able to do so thanks to their perseverance, sacrifice, honest work and other virtues. Younger generations have a high respect for the achievements of their forefathers.

It gives us great pleasure that this Nikkei Community has become a true bridge between both nations. It helps us exchange cultural, scientific, sports, social and other activities. It also enables us to continue fostering mutual trust that grows stronger with each passing day.

Our Foundation has had the great satisfaction of supporting the Peruvian-Nikkei Community in the construction and implementation of the Japanese Immigration Museum and the Polyclinic, among other works executed. These works are presently delivering an efficient and praiseworthy service for the benefit of the Nikkei and Peruvian Communities. We reiterate once again our satisfaction for the successful use given to the Foundation's aid.

Finally, we congratulate the Nikkei Community and Peruvians in general for such an outstanding celebration of the Centennial Anniversary of the Japanese Immigration to Peru. We look forward to the best of successes.

*Ayako Sono
President of the Nippon Foundation*

***Message from
Gerardo Maruy
President of the Peruvian Japanese
Association and the Centennial Anniversary
Commemorative Commission***



An agreement was reached to publish the Centennial Book within the framework of the celebrations of the Centennial Anniversary of the Japanese Immigration to Peru. It has become a reality thanks to the financial support of the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Commemorative Book Commission presided by Cesar Tsuneshige. An efficient and hardworking team who worked continuously for almost four years assisted him. I wish to express my sincere gratitude to all.

The Centennial Book is the story of the personal experiences of the members of the Nikkei Community during these past one hundred years. The stories told bring back memories for those of us who had the opportunity of being part of its history. These sacred testimonies will always be cherished and will be an example for future generations.

Its pages are bound together with the celebrations of the Centennial Anniversary of the Japanese Immigration to Peru. The motto, 'ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF EFFORT A REALITY TODAY AN EXAMPLE FOR TOMORROW' was inspired in the values and virtues handed down to us by our beloved and respected ancestors. With their effort, they helped build the successful Nikkei Community it is today as an example for future generations.

Those of us who had the good fortune of participating in the activities of the Centennial Anniversary of the Japanese Immigration to Peru will always remember the most stirring moments. How can we forget the solemn Inauguration Ceremony of the Centennial Commemorative Monument in honor of the 790 Japanese pioneers that was held at the Campo de Marte Park in the District of Jesús María? We were honored with the presence of Her Royal Highness, Princess Sayako and Alberto Fujimori, President of the Republic of Peru accompanied by the highest authorities of Japan and Peru. A crowd of more than 18,000 Nikkei expressed their happiness and cheered Princess Sayako and President Alberto Fujimori during the memorable Olympic tour of the La Union Stadium during the Main Ceremony. Mention must also be made of the unforgettable homage paid to 900 ojichan and obaachan. Everybody stood up during the grand finale of the celebrations of the Centennial Anniversary of the Japanese Immigration to Peru.

I also wish to express my sincere gratitude for the support and cooperation of the Governments of Peru and Japan. My special thanks to the Embassy of Japan in

Peru represented by His Excellency, Ambassador Yoshizo Konishi and accompanying diplomats for their significant and invaluable contribution to the success of these celebrations. Likewise, I wish to thank the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) represented by Tomochika Uchida, Resident Representative in Peru. Nineteen ninety-nine, a memorable and historic year, began with the Civic Parade and the Flag Raising Ceremony of Peru. Our sincere gratitude and acknowledgement to the following people and institutions of Peru and Japan who contributed to the success of our celebrations with their good will and effort: His Excellency, Victor Aritomi, Ambassador of Peru to Japan, Monsignor Juan Luis Cipriani, Archbishop of Lima and Primate of Peru, Martha Hildebrandt, Chairman of the Congress of the Republic of Peru, representatives of PROMPERU, the Central Reserve Bank of Peru, SERPOST, the Municipalities of Jesús María, Puente Piedra, San Borja, Surco, Callao, Ate Vitarte, Lince and Cerro Azul (Cañete), the Peruvian Japanese Business Council (CEPEJA), the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Sansukai, the Urasenke Association of Peru, the Soka Gakkai International Peruvian Association, the Peruvian Japanese Women's Association (Fujinkai), the Association of Prefectures, the Institutions of the Peruvian Japanese Community, the Nikkei Schools, Peru Shumpo, the Nikkei, and the Peruvian and foreign press.

I also wish to mention deepfelt gratitude to Kaigai Nikkeijin Kyokai, the Japan Foundation, the Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR), the Japanese External Trade Organization (JETRO), the Japanese World Exhibition Commemorative Fund (BANPAKU), the Kyoto Otokuni Lions Club, the NHK International, Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-Ha, the Asociación Nippo Peruano, the Pan American MOA Foundation Inc., the Osaka in the World Committee, Dr. Shozo Masuda, Dr. Yoshio Onuki, Dr. Toshio Yanaguida, Yukari Tokumitsu and Yashiro Aki.

We feel very fortunate because many of the projects in benefit of the Peruvian Japanese Community have become a reality. The construction of the Centennial Clinic, a project of the Peruvian Japanese Association will symbolize the historic event of our community. Its culmination will be a challenge for all of us.

A significant sum of money was collected thanks to the effort and support of the Commemorative Commission of the Centennial of the Japanese Immigration to Peru in Japan. Kazuo Haruna chaired this commission with efficiency, dedication and care, with the aid of its Honorary President Toshiaki Kaifu. This contribution has enabled us to break the ground for the Construction of the Clinic. I wish to express our everlasting gratitude to each and every one.

We also wish to mention a posthumous acknowledgement to Ryoichi Sasagawa for his constant support in various projects of the Peruvian Japanese Association.

We are deeply grateful to Ryoichi Jinnai for his valuable support and cooperation to our institution, particularly as concerns the ojuchan and obaachan.

Once again, I reiterate my sincere acknowledgement to all the members of the Commemorative Commission with whom I have shared four years of effort, work, sacrifice and understanding to make possible the success of the celebrations of the Centennial Anniversary. The communities of Peru and Japan gave their invaluable acknowledgement to this celebration

*The best homage to **ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF HISTORY OF THE JAPANESE IMMIGRATION TO PERU** will be for **OUR FOREFATHERS** who from above will be able to see that their sacrifice, work and hopes were not in vain. They can see that there is a generation that has maintained the ideals of mutual understanding and gratitude to **PERU**, the Promised Land that sheltered them and helped their dreams and hopes come true. This will remain as an example for future generations.*

I entreat you to continue working with the same efficiency and enthusiasm for the well-being of the Nikkei Community and the Peruvian society. May you tighten the bonds of friendship between Peru and Japan. I have the satisfaction of having fulfilled the task we were entrusted. Unity and solidarity have been reaffirmed. Once again our community has confirmed that it can accept challenges and reach the highest objectives.

*Today, more than ever, I feel immensely proud of being a **PERUVIAN NIKKEI***

Gerardo Maruy
*President of the Peruvian Japanese Association and
the Commemorative Commission of the Centennial
Anniversary of the Japanese Immigration to Peru*



*Message from
César Tsuneshige
President of the Centennial Anniversary
Book Commission*

I am deeply moved as I open the pages of "The Centennial Anniversary of the Japanese Immigration to Peru" and realize that I have had the honor of presiding over the zealous group of collaborators that have made it possible, for practically four years. This was a great challenge for me, but thanks to the quality and generosity of the members of the Book Commission, we are proud to present it to you and this deeply moves me.

I am particularly grateful to the Centennial Commission of the Japanese Immigration to Peru, and its President, Gerardo Mariy, for having entrusted us with this task.

During four years, we held regular meetings to draft the guidelines, format and work schedule for this important book. This involved endless quests for books, research and trips to different places to gather information about each event mentioned herein.

Certain changes to the book have been made as a result of information contained in previous books published on this same subject. We have no intention of being redundant, and have accepted the suggestions made by several people in Japan, particularly Professor Shozo Masuda and former Ambassador of Japan to Peru His Excellency Hiroshi Nagasaki. They asked for more post war information to be included in this book, that is, events that have taken place more recently. This involved underscoring the second generation, or Nisei. Members of our commission also contributed ideas on the subject.

The following is a summary of the work undertaken that covers the period from April 3, 1899, the date on which the first seven hundred and ninety Japanese immigrants arrived to Peru on board the Sakai Maru, up to the term of President of the Republic of Peru, Alberto Fujimori.

The tale of the Japanese immigrants to Peru involves 82 sea voyages, the names of each ship, the number of immigrants and their places of origin.

The book contains a list of chronological events listed as Chronological International Events, of Japanese and of the Peruvian Japanese Community.

Information and experiences of each Prefecture, several institutions and Kenjinkai have been included together with a collection of photographs published for memory's sake.

The beginnings of the first Pre and Post World War II institutions, provincial and department associations and schools of the community have also been recorded

Meetings were held with Issei and a Nisei work group to allow them to express themselves and explain their endeavours. Surveys were carried out with the Sansei, the young people of the 3rd generation. Simple questionnaires were distributed amongst the students of the schools of the Japanese Community to gather the opinion of the 4th generation of Japanese immigrants

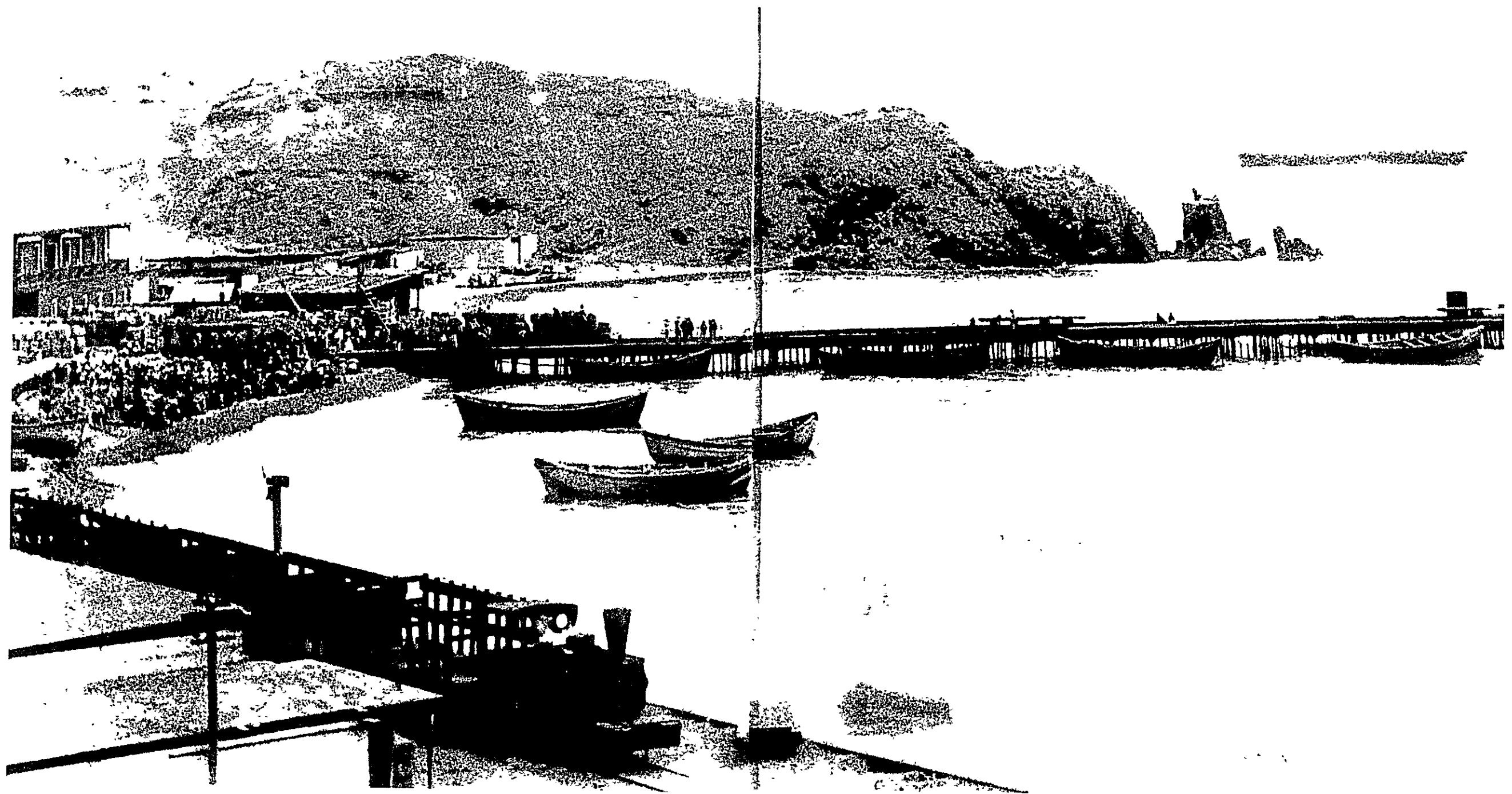
The book also unveils several important events of the 100th Anniversary celebrations, as has been suggested by the Central Commission

We wish to mention that the preparations for this book have been an extremely rewarding experience, involving many hours of hard work collecting information from books, magazines, newspapers, identifying people in old photo albums and sharing personal experiences through interviews

It is a commemorative book that portrays the path of immigrant pioneers, our forefathers and their descendants

We wish to thank the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for its valuable contribution in making this book possible

César Tsuneshige
President of the Centennial Anniversary Book Commission



The Sakura Maru that docked at the Port of Cerro Azul, Cañete, in April 1899, leaving the last group of Japanese immigrants of its 1st historic voyage to Peru

This old photograph shows the pier that received the sugar cane cargo from the nearby plantations for its export. In the background stands the cliff called El Fraile that was witness to the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants to Cañete

Summary of the Japanese Immigration to Peru

On January 27, 1614, by order of Viceroy Juan Mendoza y Luna, Count of Montescalaro, a census was carried out in the city of Lima. According to the records of those days, 20 Japanese men and women were living in Lima at that time. The original records are kept at the State Library of the Paseo de Recoletos in Madrid, Spain.

As concerns the Peruvian Japanese Community, April 3, 1899, is considered as the official date of the arrival of Japanese immigrants to Peru aboard the *Sakura Maru*.

On August 21, 1873, the First Peace, Friendship, Trade and Navigation Treaty was signed in Japan between the Republic of Peru and the Empire of Japan. This treaty specified that Japanese citizens were allowed to travel to Peru. Formerly, Japanese authorities had forbidden Japanese citizens to

migrate under the penalty of death. Japanese immigration had been allowed to Canada, Mexico, Hawaii and the United States a few years before permission was extended to Peru.

One paragraph of the Treaty reads as follows: "Let there be peace and everlasting friendship between the Republic of Peru and the Empire of Japan, their heirs and successors and between their respective citizens and subjects. The people and their properties shall enjoy full protection in the territories of the countries party to this Treaty." However, under President Manuel Prado, at the beginning of World War II, this clause was not respected.

At the turn of the 19th century, the sugar cane and cotton haciendas or plantations on the coast of Peru did not have enough field hands. Since the Republic of Peru had been declared in 1821, the situation of labor shortage gradually became worse. Between 1849 and 1874, workers were hired from the highlands of Peru, China and Polynesia. There were 90,000 Chinese and Polynesian workers who labored under terrible conditions.

Japan was undergoing severe political and social changes in those days due to the Meiji Era and the fall of the Shogun, or government by the military.

By the end of the 19th century, cities such as Tokyo, Osaka, Nagoya and Hakata had more than 100,000 inhabitants. They developed flourishing industries: textiles, iron, steel.

Japanese Peasants in 1895



The Modernization of Japan during the Meiji Era



and machinery. These Japanese cities were quite modern and were rapidly equipped with public utilities, telephone and radio. Streetcars were the most popular means of massive transportation. Most of the main streets were paved. These cities had large warehouses, restaurants and an array of foreign and local shows. Film theaters viewed silent motion pictures and baseball was becoming a popular sport.

The Japanese Navy and Army were reorganized according to western models and public administration followed suit. Education was also changed considerably. An estimated 30,000 schools were built and Japanese teachers were sent abroad to specialize in western countries.

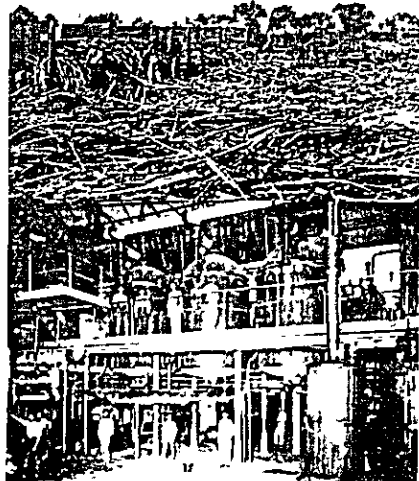
There was a striking difference of urban and rural lifestyles in Japan. Most Japanese immigrants to Peru were from peasant stock, or the least privileged class, which accounted for one third of the population of Japan. They were practically stuck to the land because they were forbidden to move elsewhere. This system obliged them to pay high taxes to support those in power.

The industries of Japan increasingly demanded more workers and by that time the peasants were allowed the ownership of their plots of land, but the population continued to grow very quickly. The population density of Japan in those days was 140,000 people per square kilometer.

This was one of the major reasons why the Government of Japan allowed its citizens to migrate. Migration eased economic and social problems and also helped Japan to expand its trade towards Western countries and discover new sources of raw material to meet the demand of Japan's growing industrial sector.

The First Immigration to Peru

The Japanese immigration to Peru mainly happened because of two reasons: on the one hand, hacienda owners on the coast of Peru needed cheap labor for their sugar cane and cotton plantations. On the other hand, the cheap labor provided by the Chinese was no longer allowed because of an international conflict that led the Port of Macao to be closed in 1874. Many Japanese people dreamed about traveling to Peru to find a job, save money and go back home. These people chose Peru as their destination because the United States Government had issued a quota restriction on Japanese immigrants.



The sugar cane and sugar mill at Hacienda Casa Grande



Cotton bales at Hacienda Ylahuaura



*Young Japanese immigrants and their families
before their sea voyage to Peru*

In those days, immigration companies duly authorized by the Government of Japan brought Japanese workers to the United States, Canada and Mexico. These companies published attractive advertisements on the salaries and living conditions of Peru. This information caught the attention of several Japanese who were unaware of the fact that these companies only publicized the sunny side of the story, as publicity agents usually do.

Those interested in traveling to Peru knocked on the doors of these companies with two witnesses, as required by law, to sign the work contract. Each person signed his contract free of

will and under no obligation whatsoever. This was unlike the Chinese "coolies" or the Polynesian "canacas" who were recruited by force, tricked, kidnapped and sometimes even sold into slavery.

The work contracts required candidates to be between 20 and 45 years old and in good physical and mental health. The term of each contract was four years, but the amount agreed as payment for a day's wage was not respected. Many Japanese laborers went on strike and made claims. These Japanese had no intention of staying in Peru.

The Morioka Company managed to recruit 798 Japanese of which 790 made the first trip to Peru. On February 28, 1899, the first group of Japanese immigrants set sail from the Port of Yokohama aboard the Sakura Maru. Families and friends stood on the wharfs waving goodbye to their loved ones while music played and ticker tape floated in the air. These immigrants arrived at the Port of Callao on April 3, 1899. None of the passengers came on shore. The next day, after the official customs formalities were cleared, the ship sailed towards the haciendas on the northern coast of Peru and dropped off each worker at the place specified in their respective contracts. The journey ended in the haciendas of the southern coast of Peru close to Lima.

This first experience in Japanese immigration through work contracts was not very encouraging for the worker or the Morioka Company. Nevertheless, the Morioka Company prospered and brought 67 additional groups of Japanese immigrants to Peru out of the 102 groups that came by boat from Japan between 1899 and 1923. The hacienda owners greatly benefited from the arrival of these workers, despite the initial disagreements. This became clear as more laborers were asked to come and work in Peru.

The Japanese had put all their hopes of success in Peru based on the information they had received. The bare facts told a different story and eventually problems arose. On April 25, 1899, the first strike broke out

at the Hacienda San Nicolás. The immigrants demanded advance payment to pay cash at the stores owned by the Chinese Hacienda owners had *tumbos* or stores owned by them, and wanted to oblige the Japanese laborers to buy their goods at higher prices by means of coupons

Some Japanese had gained experience in resisting the abuses of hacienda owners. The Japanese workers who organized the San Nicolás Strike had previously migrated to Hawaii where they had met other ethnic groups who suffered the same plight and in this way they gained more political awareness

Trouble broke out between the mass of workers and the power groups as a result of the impositions of the owners on the workers and the intrigues of native Peruvians who spread rumors saying that the Japanese were really soldiers in disguise who wanted to take over Peru. In addition to these unfounded suspicions, Japanese was a new race for Peruvians and they mistrusted them out of fear of the unknown and also because both sides had great difficulty in speaking to each other because of the language barrier. These difficulties were surmounted once Peruvians saw how hard working the Japanese were

The Japanese immigrants started to regret their decision to come to Peru when they began to fall ill from endemic diseases, mainly malaria, yellow fever and dysentery. In most cases, these workers had no means of medical assistance or treatment. The workers continued to protest because of bad food and poor living conditions in houses that had no toilets or running water

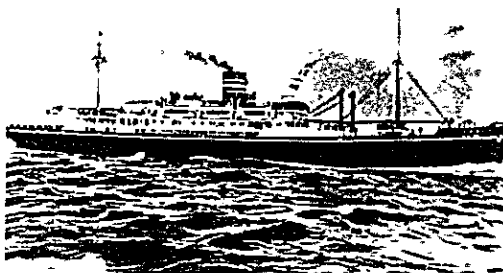
Those who did not want to continue working in these haciendas were sent to Callao to be re-assigned to a different job. Some of the former hacienda workers decided to try their luck in coffee and rubber plantations in the jungle of Bolivia. The younger Japanese were given jobs as house helpers, maids and gardeners. The Japanese never allowed anyone to exploit them unjustly. If an employer tried to impose upon them a colonial system of treatment, they immediately complained, organized strikes, ran away and broke their contracts

Very few were able to save money in due time to return to Japan or travel to another country, and so most stayed in Peru.

The next migrations up to 1923

On the second journey to Peru in 1903, the group of Japanese immigrants included women. Contracts specified married men for obvious

The Anzu Maru in 1914





*A typical corner store called a *bodega**

reasons Japanese immigrants had no intention of marrying women from Peru, because they insisted that they wanted to return to Japan someday

In 1907, the Meiji Company transported 250 people, 150 for haciendas and 100 for the Tambopata rubber area in the Department of Madre de Dios, which occupies part of the Amazon Basin. Between 1899 and 1923, 18,258 Japanese immigrants arrived of which 15,887 were men, 2,145 were women and 226 were children

The members of the Japanese Community share a classic story about how many workers fled from these haciendas. These immigrants survived many difficulties to reach Lima and other cities

They deserted their jobs on the haciendas because they were not willing to be humiliated and abused but rather wanted to look for a more promising job with a higher salary. Often, they met relatives or friends who lived in other places. At the beginning of World War I, Peruvian cotton was in great demand in the international market and had practically substituted sugar cane as far as the prime export crop and so more field hands were needed

It is worth pointing out that Japanese immigrants supported and participated in the legal battle for an eight-hour work day. They fought against the constant abuse of the employers and the unjust salaries they were paid to do their jobs

From 1923, Japanese immigrants arrived as independent workers with no work contract. Young Japanese arrived in search of adventure or had been summoned by their relatives and friends

The Government of Peru emitted restrictions on Japanese Immigration in 1930. One of the reasons why this happened was because the government declared that there were not enough hotels to lodge the Japanese immigrants, which was just an excuse. Later, a 2,000 soles customs tax was exacted. Other requirements were demanded that each immigrant have a legalized contract or a relative in Peru who could guarantee their support

Location in the cities

Immigrants were free as soon as their contracts expired. Most renewed their original contracts or looked for jobs on other haciendas. Some preferred changing jobs altogether. Those who remained at the haciendas usually worked as administrative



An old fashioned coffee shop

employees after a while. They leased plots and grew cotton. Others set up small businesses like small stores, barber shops, coffee shops and budget restaurants.

Immigrants' jobs in the cities

The Japanese headed for the cities because of breach of contract or because they had run away and decided to enter the field of trade. In the urban areas, they started as street peddlers and small businesses. Later, they opened restaurants, stores, barber shops, coffee shops, tailor's shops, watchmaker's shops or similar businesses that required small amounts of capital.

When the efficiently run small businesses of the Japanese immigrants started to prosper in Lima the local inhabitants reacted negatively because they felt jealous when they saw foreigners make a better living than they did. The barber shops in Lima and Callao owned by Japanese were preferred by most customers. Authorities decided to close 22 of these barber shops, in most cases with the help of the police.

The Barbers Association was split into two, and the leader of one of the groups was ordered to close his shop. He resisted the order and was expelled from the Barbers Association and the Central Japanese Society of Lima. The Embassy and Consulate of Japan ordered his deportation. During his arrest, he and one of his employees who was a Peruvian woman were badly treated. In view of the political influence that this person had acquired because he had already become a Peruvian citizen, both he and his employee were rescued from the ship that was taking them to Japan. His employee died two months later and as a result the anti-Japanese campaign became more intense than before.

From 1934 and thereafter, local newspapers launched an anti-Japanese campaign based upon the fact that the presence of the Japanese in Peru was harmful to the country, and this idea persisted for many years.

Aggression against the Japanese Community in Peru was open and discrete at the same time, but a rumor was spread stating that the Japanese were planning to take over the country with weapons they had smuggled and hidden. In addition to this, people became more aware of the fact that the members of the Axis were spreading war in many countries of the world. Some local inhabitants of Lima gathered at the state school called Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe at a meeting summoned by the students themselves who stirred the spirits of the masses to plunder

A gift shop locally known as a bazar



Japanese businesses and homes. The Government of Peru called out the army as a means of protection against these acts of violence. It is important to mention that most Peruvians appreciated the Japanese immigrants and, in some cases, even protected them from the mob.

Over the years, Peruvians began to appreciate these Japanese immigrants even more. They learned to understand and appreciate the Japanese way of thinking and working. At the beginning of World War II, the prestige of the Japanese Community was in high regard thanks to the excellent and courteous service they delivered to Peruvians. The latter had already noticed how resourceful, honest, punctual and hard working Japanese immigrants were and particularly their high moral standards. People often commented that the Japanese were better workers than the local inhabitants, because they were punctual as concerns the dates of delivery of goods purchased and sold, were trustworthy and reliable workers. This is why many customers preferred dealing with Japanese workers.

To this regard, Alberto Ulloa, a Peruvian diplomat and one of the main promoters of the measures taken against the Japanese in 1936, changed his mind in 1941 and stated "As concerns business competition, the Peruvian artisan or worker cannot deny that a Japanese worker fares well, is often cheaper and much more punctual and conscientious in his work than his Peruvian counterpart. It is only natural that customers prefer a Japanese worker instead of a local Peruvian. The customer feels that the job will be finished sooner if a Japanese person is in charge, be this running a household errand, a delivery service, or a job at a workshop. Customers feel that they pay a Japanese worker less and that they are more willing to do the job".

The economic prosperity of the Japanese Community was mainly due to the "tanomoshi", a savings and loan system that was used sidestepping the banks. The honor of a Japanese is at stake as concerns the timely payment of a tanomoshi quota.

The media

When scores of Japanese immigrants migrated to Lima, the capital, the need for appropriate communications amongst all the community became evident. In 1909, one of the immigrants began publishing a handwritten newspaper in Japanese. It was written on wrapping paper and featured the most important events. At the beginning it was distributed among all the barber

One of the first Japanese newspapers



shops and later in the homes of the Japanese Community. Twelve issues were published in a year and a half. This handwritten newspaper was called *Nipponjin* (Japanese) similar to the *Kairan ban* (a type of newsletter) that was published in Japan by the *Tonari gumi* or group of neighbors. It mentioned births, deaths and affairs of interest to the community. One sole handwritten copy was passed from one family to another. Each had to stamp a seal, as proof that they had received and read it. *Iritsu* (Autonomy) appeared in 1910. It was a mimeographed manuscript edited by employees of the Japanese Consulate. The first Japanese newspaper, the *Andes Jiho* (Andean Chronicle), printed in Japanese characters was published in November 1913. The *Nippi Shimpo* (Peru - Japan Newspaper) was published in June 1921. In 1926, the magazine *Dai Nambei* (Great South America) was published followed by *Hambei* (Panamerican) in 1928. Then in 1929, the *Perú Nichi Nichi Shimpo* (Daily News from Peru with witty comments) was published. By mid 1929, these three publications formed the *Lima Nippo* (News from Lima). In August 1929, another group formed the *Perú Jiho*. The newspaper, *Perú Hochi*, was published in 1941.



A barber's shop

Associations

The Barbers Association of Lima was established in 1907 as a means of contacting and helping each other. The Barbers Association of Callao was founded in 1909. At first, it only represented the interests of the Japanese Community. The first association was made up of 50 establishments, strictly in Lima. In 1910, the Okinawa Youth Association was formed. Clubs were organized by the *kenjinkai* of the different prefectures. Associations in each neighborhood were also organized. The *Nihonjin Kyokai* (Japanese Association) was created in 1911. That same year, the Okinawa Association became the Okinawa Fraternal Association. At present, it is called the Okinawa Association of Peru. In October 1917, *Chuo Nihonjinkai* (Central Japanese Society) was founded. Societies were also formed in the provinces, mainly in La Libertad, Huacho and Callao.

Education

The members of the Japanese Community were concerned about their children's education and the fact that they wanted to instill upon the younger generations



A school at Santa Barbara in 1908



*Japanese soldiers during
World War II*

the principles, customs and language of their country of origin. The first Japanese school was opened at the Hacienda Santa Bárbara in Cañete. Estimates reveal that at a given time there were as many as 50 Japanese schools operating in Peru. The largest, Lima Nikko was founded in 1920 with a staff of five teachers and 1,800 students. It was an overseas Japanese school duly recognized by the Ministry of Education of Japan. It provided Japanese education to the members of the Japanese Community in Peru. The José Gálvez School of Callao was founded in May 1926.

World War II

In 1941, when Japan entered World War II, the Government of Peru issued a declaration and froze the funds of the Japanese Associations and Corporations in Peru.

Despite the fact that Peru was not involved in the war, the government seized the property of the Japanese Community in May 1942. Only small businesses were permitted to continue operating under state control. Despite the fact that the Friendship Treaty between Peru and Japan was still in force, in June 1941, 343 immigrants decided to return to Japan. The Government of Peru arrested 1,771 prominent Japanese and Nikkei and sent them to concentration camps in the United States. When Peru declared war on Japan on February 12, 1945, the social situation of the members of the Peruvian Japanese Community became more evident in the eyes of Peruvians and many expressed their appreciation and support to the Japanese immigrants because of their outstanding qualities.

Post World War II

After the war, the idea of returning to Japan became less and less feasible. Nobody wanted to go back to a country in ruins. Besides, most Japanese had started a family and a business in Peru. Moreover, they had Peruvian friends who had accepted them as part of society.

Restrictions were abolished and the Japanese Community was able to resume its activities once again but this time, with a new outlook for the future. Japanese tradition and customs were still respected and the well-known stamina of the Japanese led to the establishment of many cultural, social and sports institutions.

Peru prospered economically as a result of the huge demand for its raw materials such as minerals, sugar and cotton, among others, by the United States, the American Giant. Suddenly the tide turned and the

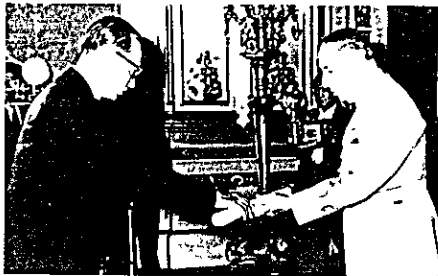
The Cristal City concentration camp



economic boom became a severe recession characterized by food shortage and price increases. President Jose Luis Bustamante y Rivero, the successor of President Manuel Prado, faced this crisis that lasted from 1945 to 1948. Many people still remember the long queues to buy food and other basic goods.

The members of the Japanese Community gained more emotional stability since the attitude towards them had improved and resentfulness gave way to understanding. Certain restrictions still prevailed, such as the use of the Japanese language, but this was mere red tape.

The La Victoria School was founded and assembled countless Japanese families and their descendants who had difficulty enrolling their children at Peruvian state schools.



*General Manuel A. Odría
President of Peru
receiving the credentials
of a Japanese Diplomat*

The decade of the 50s

General Manuel A. Odría governed Peru from October 1948 to July 1956. He came to power after a Coup d'Etat that dislodged Constitutional President José Luis Bustamante y Rivero.

Under the dictatorship of Odría several political parties were outlawed, such as the APRA and the Communist Party of Peru. Their members were persecuted, imprisoned or exiled.

When the government finally approved the inflow of foreign capital, Peru's trade balance improved through agricultural and mineral exports that had an international demand.

Education experienced a rapid growth. Schools were renovated, old ones were demolished and the large state schools called *Grandes Unidades Escolares* were built.

The Nisei or 2nd generation, former students of the schools that had been seized, now went to the *Grandes Unidades Escolares* to graduate. These students often excelled and became members of the honor roll of their school. These schools were highly respected because of the excellent quality of education delivered by their well trained faculty members.

Each male student wore a special uniform (shirt and pants), a cap, a tie and epaulets with decorations indicating the grade. The school badge was used on the left arm, the shoes or boots had to be black and some students wore spats, specially for the national holidays.

*Students in uniform at a large state school
called Gran Unidad Escolar in 1954*



Girls also had to wear uniforms and the only mark of distinction was the badge each wore

The motto was to serve Peru and respect the national flag. The National Anthem was sung each day as decreed by the Ministry of Education. The boys had to take a pre-military training course that underscored the national values of Peru. Sports were encouraged and inter-school championships gave rise to famous athletes and sportsmen. Many outstanding Nisei have studied at these large schools.

In those days special radio shows with questions and answers from the public were very popular. One program that everyone still remembers was called *Quen estudia triunfa* (He who studies succeeds) conducted by Cesar Chávarri Neyra.

With his motto "Health, Education and Work", President Odría launched a series of social changes and workers' and employees' wages and salaries were increased.

A Peace Treaty was signed in San Francisco on September 8, 1951, and diplomatic relations between the Governments of Peru and Japan were resumed. The Embassy and Consulate of Japan were reopened.

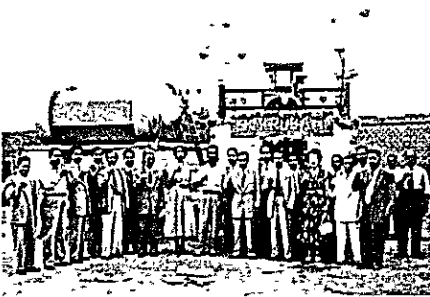
In 1954, the Government of Peru issued a law decreeing that all funds frozen during World War II and property seized from the Japanese Community should be returned.

Odría did not show any appreciation towards the Japanese immigrants or their descendants. He refused to allow Nisei athletes represent Peru at sports competitions. Fortunately, when the press protested, he revoked this decision. Thus, football player, Luis Okada, participated in the South American Junior Football Championship in Caracas, Venezuela. Teófilo Toda, a cyclist of Club Cachorros, participated in the Tokyo Olympic Games.

Odría maintained the restriction on Japanese immigration to Peru. This affected many Nisei who had traveled to Japan to study and wanted to return to Peru. He was against Japanese immigration and denied them the Peruvian citizenship because he considered that they did not blend well into the culture of Peru.

During the second term of President Manuel Prado, Peru was full of partisan and labor union fervor that caused many problems.

Floats at the Carnival Queen Parade



The Carnival Queens and Princesses of the Peruvian Japanese Community



On July 28, 1956, the National Internal Security Law was repealed. A long era of discrimination ended for the APRA political party. The new government had declared freedom of speech, gathering and political parties.

The price of Peru's export products fell in 1956 and generated a drop in the influx of dollars. When the *Sol* fell on the exchange market in 1957, the government adopted a more nationalistic stance.

Minister Pedro Beltrán decreed an increase of the price of gasoline, and in this way balanced the budget, strengthened the *Sol* and increased the foreign currency reserves of the Central Reserve Bank of Peru. However, he still had to resolve problems caused by fiscal expenses and the greater tax burdens.

As concerns education, elementary schools were built in remote places. The government also constructed high schools in all the provinces and districts of Peru.

During this period, many peasants from the highlands migrated to Lima and other parts of Peru, and as a result urban areas started to expand rapidly. As new trends took root, more political parties appeared on the scene.

Our community was not indifferent to these manifestations, clubs like the Cherry, Capital, Jesús María, Hinode, among others, organized carnival dances and helped people meet friends. In some cases, romance was born between Nikkei.

Fashionable places such as Au Rendez-Vous and Taiyo presented large national and international orchestras during important receptions and parties and other popular places were Lima Kasei Shogakko, Jardín Perú, Majestic and José Gálvez. The young people from different clubs of Lima and the provinces mingled there. Many parties were also organized in Trujillo or at the Huacho Nisei Club just to mention a few for memory's sake.

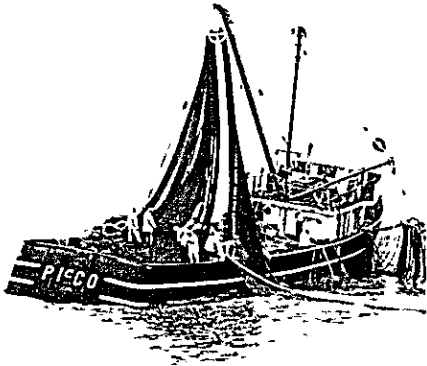
Nisei beauty queens embellished carnival parties that each year grew in pomposity and splendor. During those years, the Peruvian Japanese Community slowly began to recover.

The sponsor club, Club Pacífico Taiheiyō Kurabu, founded La Unión Stadium in 1953. The Okinawan Fraternal Association resumed its activities. The Peruvian Japanese Women's Association (Fujinkai) was created and the Peruvian Japanese Association resumed its activities.

Cultural magazines, such as *Sakura* and *Nikko*, among others, made their appearance, as well as the newspapers.

The placing of cornerstone of Estadio La Unión S.A. in 1953





A typical botichera used to fish anchovy

Perù Shumpo and *Perù Asahi Shumbun* Radio programs featuring Japanese music and news about the Japanese Community were broadcasted on *Hora Radial Japonesa* (The Japanese Hour) and on Inka Radio by Augusto Shozen Irey, a pioneer in the radio broadcasting media

The decade of the 60s

During this decade there was a huge increase in anchovy fishing that nourished the Peruvian fishmeal industry. More fishmeal factories opened as exports started to grow rapidly. Mining also developed considerably.

On July 18, 1962, President Prado was overthrown by a military coup. A Military Board or *Junta* was established headed by General Ricardo Pérez Godoy. Since the beginning of 1963, the *Junta* was presided by General Nicolás Lindley López.

The following were the candidates for the 1963 Presidential Elections: Victor Raúl Haya de la Torre, Fernando Belaúnde Terry and former President Odría. Belaúnde Terry, the candidate for *Acción Popular* was elected President for the 1963-1968 term backed by strong popular support. His Administration was eminently democratic, respectful of the Constitution and political parties.

During his government, he improved tax laws, separated private banking from the Central Mortgage Bank and turned it into a powerful instrument of loans. He boosted the construction industry and built houses with modern infrastructures. Roads were built, specially the Jungle Highway called *La*



The first phase of construction of the Peruvian Japanese Cultural Center

Marginal de la Selva He also supported education considerably Oil prospects and exploration in the jungle had not yet yielded positive results Belaúnde successfully encouraged a higher oil production The La Pampilla Refinery was built, which put an end to the refining monopoly of the International Petroleum Company

During his Administration, the Nikkei Community was granted 10,000 m² of land as compensation for the schools expropriated during World War II. In 1967, the Peruvian Japanese Cultural Center was built on the above mentioned plot of land President Belaúnde was host of the heirs to the throne of Japan, Prince Akihito and Princess Michiko, who inaugurated the Cultural Center during a special ceremony

Business with Japan developed, especially in mining and fishing products Investments were also made in automobile assembly plants and JETRO assisted several delegations to attend international trade shows

During this decade, Nikkei social, sports and cultural institutions were also established Clubs such as the Fraternal Okinawense in Barrios Altos and Lima Kasei Jyogakko were opened

The Nisei Association of Callao was created in March 1961 That same year the Nisei Association of University Graduates was established, as well as *Generación 64*, and *Movimiento de Acción Social* Their activities helped to strengthen and unify the Peruvian Japanese Community and extend their ties with local inhabitants

Various cultural magazines made their debut People also read the daily papers *Perú Shūmpo* and *Perú Asahi Shūmbun* (1955-1964) Radio programs played Japanese music and broadcast news about the Japanese Community

General Juan Velasco Alvarado

The oil crisis triggered a military coup that ended the first term of President Fernando Belaunde Terry on October 3, 1968 This was the beginning of the Peruvian Revolution led by General Juan Velasco Alvarado that lasted until 1975.

During this period there was much nationalist fervor and ideology, and exalted spirits and psychological power took hold and this led to the confiscation of the independent written media Private TV companies were forced to sell their shares to the State, as vindication of the popular classes

Thus, the *Sistema Nacional de Apoyo a la Movilización Social (SINAMOS)* was born A drastic agrarian reform was imposed in favor of peasants who seized the property of land owners



Her Royal Highness Princess Michiko planting a pine tree at the Peruvian Japanese Cultural Center in 1967

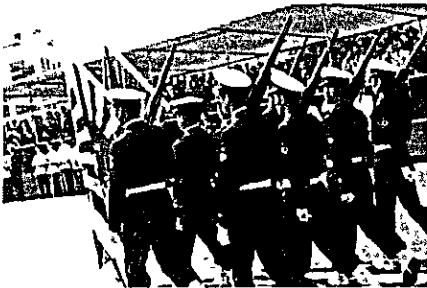
The *Cooperativas Agrarias de Producción (CAP)* and *Sociedades Agrícolas de Interés Social (SAIS)* were created as collective properties

The *Comunidad Industrial* was created allowing a representative of the workers to be a member of the Board of Director of Corporations, and private banks and companies were taken over by the state The International Petroleum Company and Cerro de Pasco Mining Corporation were also put under state control The media was also under government supervision During this period, third world countries became stronger

As concerns education, a curricular reform was carried out that aimed at restructuring society The native languages of *Quechua* and *Aymara* were officially recognized and taught

Since more ministries and public enterprises were created, and subsidies were given, this eventually led to a deficit in the budget The matter was made worse by the foreign debt. In 1970, the *Cooperativa de Ahorro y Crédito Pacífico Ltda* was created at the Peruvian Japanese Cultural Center

Officers of the Japanese Navy Self Defense Training Ship during a parade



The graduates of the former Lima Nikko School, sponsored the trip of their first director, Professor Goro Yokose, as a token of their gratitude for his efforts to educate them

Nisei Julio Sato became the first non-Japanese President of the Central Japanese Society and under his term many cultural activities were carried out In 1971, the *Colegio Cooperativo La Unión* was founded at the facilities of the La Unión Stadium

The Governments of Japan and Peru still maintained their diplomatic and political relations. Between the years 1969 and 1973, the "Sakura Maru", that was now part of the Floating Exhibition and the Japanese Exhibition of Plastic Industry, were placed on exhibit for the public to enjoy In 1972, the Merchant Marine Training Ship "Seiun Maru" arrived in Callao. A year later, ships "Katori" and "Kikuzuki", part of Japan's Naval Self-Defense Training Fleet, also arrived Japanese officers and cadets participated in the parade for Peru's National Holiday

The fleet of the Navy Self Defense Training Squad



Japanese archaeologist, Kazuo Terada, continued the scientific studies started by Seichi Izumi, the discoverer of the archaeological remains called *Las Manos Cruzadas* or the Crossed Hands, in Kotosh, the Department of Huánuco

In 1975, General Juan Velasco Alvarado was overthrown due to the severe political and economic crisis. The coup appointed General Francisco Morales Bermúdez as the new President of Peru.

General Francisco Morales Bermúdez

The "Inca Plan" replaced the "Tupac Amaru Plan" that took into account transferring power back to the hands of civilians.

This second phase literally buried SINAMOS. The *Confederación Nacional Agraria* was closed and the radical reforms imposed by General Velasco were eased. Despite the effort of General Morales Bermúdez to balance public finance, Peru's economy continued to deteriorate and weaken. The industries of Peru were in ruins, citizens were unhappy and uncontrolled strikes broke out. The Armed Forces felt that their stay in power had weakened their image.

In 1977, General Morales Bermúdez made two important public announcements. First, a Constituent Assembly would be summoned to approve a new Constitution and, second, the Armed Forces would call for free elections.

General Juan Velasco Alvarado died in Lima on December 24, 1977.

In March 1978, the *Jurado Nacional de Elecciones* or National Board of Elections announced the registration of 12 candidates. The political party *Acción Popular* decided not to participate.

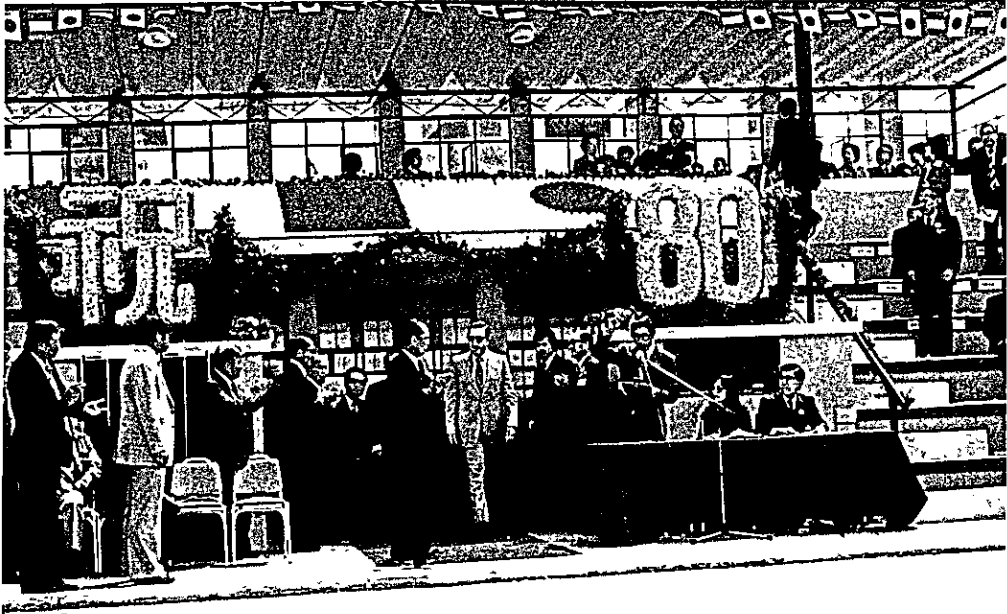
The APRA political party won the elections -the *Partido Popular Cristiano* (PPC) ranking as the second political force of Peru- and Haya de la Torre was elected as President of the Constituent Assembly. In 1979, the new Peruvian Constitution was adopted. Nisei Manuel Kawashita, participated in the Assembly as member of the *Partido Popular Cristiano* - PPC political party.

In 1979, the Peruvian Japanese Community celebrated the 80th Anniversary of the Japanese Immigration to Peru. Chiyoteru Hiraoka presided the Celebration Commission. Numerous activities were programmed.

During the celebrations several works were inaugurated: the Jesús María Peruvian Japanese Medical Center, the Immigration Museum and the Japanese Garden.



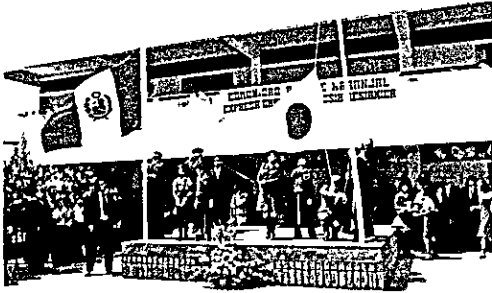
*The inauguration of
CFGC OOP La Unión in 1971*



*Celebrations of the 80th Anniversary of
the Japanese Immigration to Peru at
Estadio La Union in 1979*



*Chivoteru Hiraoka
President of the Commission for
the 80th Anniversary of the Immigration
to Peru delivering a speech at Estadio
La Union in 1979*



The inauguration of the El Naranjal School donated by the Iglesia Mexicana during the 80th Anniversary Celebrations



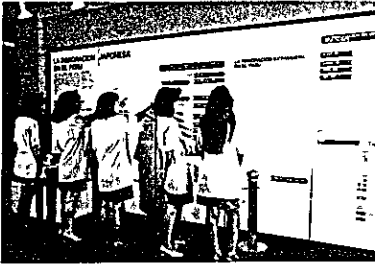
Women dressed in Kimonos parade in downtown Lima



A reception for the pioneer immigrant at the Peruvian Japanese Cultural Center



The Japanese Garden donated to the Municipality of Lima by the 80th Anniversary Commission



The Commemorative Museum inaugurated during the 80th Anniversary of the Japanese Immigration to Peru

Two schools were donated: *Fundo Pando* for primary education and *El Naranjal* for secondary education, thanks to contributions from the Mokichi Okada Association (MOA) and Matusita

During the celebrations, the Technological Institute of Fisheries and a pilot plant were inaugurated through funds provided by the Government of Japan

President Fernando Belaúnde Terry

Fernando Belaúnde Terry reaped an overwhelming victory in the 1980 Presidential Elections. During his second term (1980-1985) he sought the support of several political parties to establish a national coalition government. The first decision he took was to return the ownership of the newspapers to their legitimate owners. He also promoted investments, and encouraged oil companies to prospect and exploit new oil fields by issuing a decree that exempted them from taxes on profit.

He fostered the export of non-traditional products and supported small and medium agricultural property. This policy generated a recession and inflation in addition to the foreign debt, since public expenditure was based on foreign loans.

In 1981, Peru and Ecuador had a border clash, when Ecuadorian soldiers were discovered to have encroached upon Peruvian territory and moved border landmarks along the span of the *Cordillera del Cóndor*. This border clash ended with the expulsion of the Ecuadorian troops from Paqitsha. The Government of Peru made an unfortunate mistake at that time by underestimating the growing threat of terrorist groups *Sendero Luminoso*.



Fernando Belaúnde Terry, President of Peru during a visit to the Commemorative Museum

(Shining Path) and *Movimiento Revolucionario Túpac Amaru* (MRTA) took control of extensive areas killing peasants throughout the small villages, towns and hamlets of the highlands. Later, these terrorist attacks focused on urban areas and all Peru became involved in the social strife and unrest that had been threatening the countryside.

Meanwhile, Japan had developed a thriving economy with a solid industrial foundation. It ranked as one of the world's foremost economies. The automobile industry was at its peak moment as well as electronic and electrical appliance industries that manufactured state-of-the-art technological products.

Bilateral relations between Japan and Peru were excellent. The governments of both nations had signed cooperation agreements involving programs and projects that favored each. Thus, Peru became the major fishmeal and fish oil exporter country of the world. It also became a leader in mineral exports such as, silver, copper, lead and zinc. Iron and steel manufactured products, machinery and equipment, to mention a few items, were imported from Japan.

The Jesús María Medical Center was officially inaugurated in 1981 as part of the celebrations for the 80th Anniversary of the Japanese Immigration to Peru.

Akira Kato, coach of national volleyball team of Peru, died in 1982. Peruvians and Japanese deeply mourned his death. During his funeral, the public showed their deep respect and gratitude for him.

The Inka Gakuen School was opened on the premises of the Peruvian Japanese Association of Huaral.

Genki Suzuki, Prime Minister of Japan, visited Lima in June 1982, and jointly with President Belaúnde inaugurated the Honorio Delgado-Hideyo Noguchi State Institute of Mental Health, one of the main activities of his agenda in Peru.

The Training Squadron Fleet of the Japanese Self-Defense Maritime Force commanded by Vice-Admiral Genki Tanabe aboard the ship "Katori" and destroyer "Asagumo" arrived at Callao. Members of the Peruvian Japanese Community welcomed them.

The Central Japanese Society amended its bylaws and changed its name to the Peruvian Japanese Association of Peru.

Alberto Fujimori was elected Dean of the Agrarian University, in keeping with Law of Universities No. 23733.

Painter Tilsa Tsuchiya died in 1984, a great loss for the world of artists.

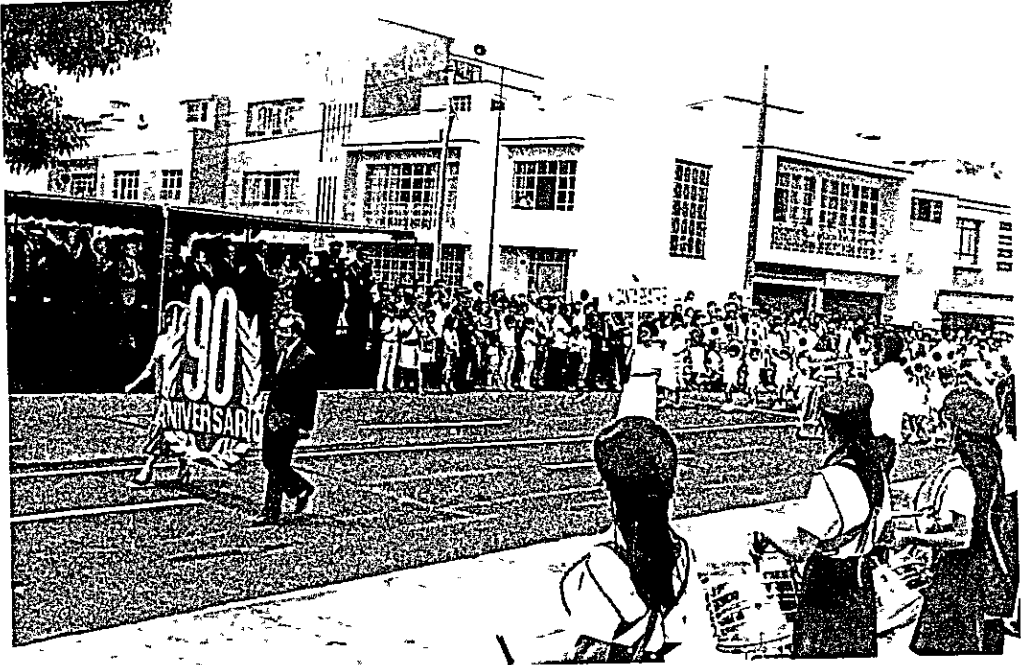
The news daily *Prensa Nikkei* was founded in October 1984.

In 1985, Gerardo Maruy was named Executive Director of the Peruvian Sports Institute managed by Rudy Cremer.

The Hideyo Noguchi School was founded in 1987.



*A painting by renowned artist
Tilsa Tsuchiya*



Julio Katsuta and Mantle Ampuero, Director of CEI Santa Beatriz, carrying a banner during the parade of the 90th Anniversary at the Plaza de la Bandera



Manuel Kawashita, Jorge del Castillo, His Excellency Ambassador Masaki Seo and Gerardo Marin during a reception held by Jorge del Castillo, Mayor of the Municipality of Metropolitan Lima



*A parade bearing the flag of Peru
at the Plaza de la Bandera
in 1989*



*Placing the cornerstone at the
Peruvian Japanese Theater
on April 3
1989*



A copy of the 90th Anniversary Commemorative Magazine



A report published on the celebrations of the 90th Anniversary

President Alan García Pérez

Alan García, leader of the APRA party, was elected in 1985 and became the youngest President of the Republic.

During his Administration he applied unorthodox measures that reached their climax between 1986 and 1987 and apparently inflation was under control. He changed the Peruvian currency of *Soles* into *Intis* and subsidized commodities. Public expenditure in social items increased and foreign debt payments were suspended.

Apparent prosperity continued during those years. Then, between 1988 and 1990 a surge in hyperinflation dwindled savings, stock exchange shares, wages and salaries, as well as old age pensions. This resulted in a considerable increase of people who lived in poverty.

The popularity of his government fell when he tried to nationalize the banking system and insurance companies. Aside from this, the international financial community was displeased about the unilateral payment policy.

Peru seemed to be doomed, plagued by insecurity and poverty was rampant. Everyone was discontent while terrorist acts became more frequent. Pylons were blown up causing blackouts that also affected the water supply. Several prominent citizens were kidnapped and murdered.

The Peruvian Japanese Community organized the celebrations for the 90th Anniversary of the Japanese Immigration to Peru. President García issued Supreme Decree dated April 3rd establishing the Peruvian Japanese Day of Friendship. Orestes Rodríguez, a good friend of the Nikkei Community helped make this become a reality.

Other important issues during this period were. Gerardo Maruy was elected President of the Peruvian Sports Institute - IPD and also as President of the National Sports Council (1988).

Alejandro Miyasaki, succeeded Edmundo Aoki as President of the Peruvian Baseball Federation. Other prominent Nisei who held important posts were Francisco Arakaki, in Karate, Miguel Toyofuku, in Softball and Augusto Iwamoto as President of the Baseball Patronage.

Elena Kohatsu was named regular member of the 80th Anniversary Foundation.

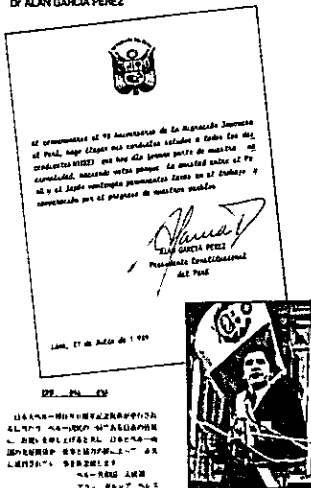
Carlos Hiraoka was appointed Director of CONACO, the National Merchants' Confederation.

Elena Nozawa de Iwasaki, was appointed as Deputy Director of the State School of Music.

Olga Shimazaki became Director of the State Ballet.

President Alan García issued a Supreme Decree mandating the Peruvian Japanese Friendship Day.

Saludo del Presidente Constitucional de la República del Perú
Dr. ALAN GARCÍA PÉREZ



Luis Maezono and Juan Hori Asano were elected as Deans of the School of Agricultural Engineering at the La Molina Agrarian State University and the School of Mechanical Engineering of the State University of Engineering respectively

As concerns politics, Joaquín Maruy became Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Alberto Kitasono, Organization Secretary of the APRA party

Fujimori, a Milestone in our History ***President Fujimori expanded the political outlook of the Nikkei***

In 1989, ninety years after the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants to Peru, an unusual event shook our community. Alberto Fujimori, an engineer, Dean of the La Molina Agrarian State University, ran for the presidential elections of 1990

This circumstance shocked the Japanese Community because ever since the unfortunate events of World War II, when its members were the victims of much misfortune, the Nikkei had adopted a low profile as their best defense weapon. They did not participate in politics and preferred to go unnoticed

Until then, the Nikkei Community of Peru practically had no political experience, with the exception of Manuel Kawashita who was a candidate for *Partido Popular Cristiano* and was elected as member of the Constituent Assembly in 1979. Eduardo Yashimura Montenegro from *Accion Popular* was elected to Congress but had no connections with the Nikkei. Joaquín Maruy, an engineer, was appointed Vice-Minister of Agriculture during Alan García's Administration and Gerardo Maruy Takayama was Head of the Peruvian Sports Institute during that same period. In a nutshell, this was all the political background of the Nikkei of Peru. It was not at all like the Nikkei Communities of the United States and Brazil. They had been participating in politics for many years as congressmen, governors and judges

The unexpected candidacy of Alberto Fujimori raised differences of opinion among the members of the community. Most members disagreed with his candidacy, particularly because Peru was suffering from the worst economic and political crisis of its history. Terrorism raged the country and there was overall fear. The economy was a disaster. Runaway inflation had reached an accumulation of 2,600,000%. Besides, the international financial community had excluded Peru from loans, and left the country to fend for itself deprived of any financial support

In view of this dismal outlook, the future of the country seemed to sink in the most obscure hopelessness. Pessimism loomed over all Peruvians. The general belief was that no matter who was elected, there was no way out of the gutter. The Japanese Community of Peru feared if Fujimori was elected and the economic situation grew worse everybody would blame him and, as a result, the members of the Japanese Community of Peru might become the victims of riots and plundering such as had occurred in 1940. This hidden fear kept Nikkei from supporting Fujimori's candidacy. But then the unexpected happened. Fujimori defeated his opponent world famous novelist Mario Vargas Llosa by a landslide in the second round of votes.

Once Alberto Fujimori was elected as President of the Republic of Peru, the Nikkei Community of Peru became famous. This was the first time in history that a Japanese descendant was elected as the highest leader of a nation outside of Japan. This event filled all Nikkei communities around the world with pride. This fact somehow made the migratory currents of the Japanese and their descendants be respected even more. It was also a tacit acknowledgement of the values they inherited from their ancestors: work, honesty, perseverance, solidarity and identification with their new homeland.

For the Peruvian Nikkei, who did not even represent 1% of the voters, it was a clear message from the Peruvian people that the election of Fujimori meant "You are as Peruvian as we are. You have the same rights and the same duties as any Peruvian".

From the moment Nikkei Alberto Fujimori was elected President of the Republic, Peruvian Nikkei fully asserted their identity as Peruvians. The Peruvian people themselves in an act of democracy had held general elections and took a decision concerning the destiny of Peru.

We should be aware that Nikkei have always considered themselves Peruvian citizens, however they were not able to perceive this because in the past they had been neglected and left aside. Nikkei owe President Fujimori the victory of their identity as Peruvians.

Once Fujimori was elected President of Peru, in spite of its initial fears and doubts, the members of the Nikkei Community gave him their full backing. They were willing to cooperate with him and assume the challenge of this new responsibility with the Peru.

During the 1990 elections, Ana Kanashiro de Escalante and Lucila Shinzato de Shimabukuro were elected to congress for the political party *Cambio 90*.

With firmness Fujimori became the driving force that involved a large number of Nikkei to work for Peru. And thus, a broad horizon had ushered them into politics.



The most striking Japanese trait inherited by President Alberto Fujimori from his ancestors is a respect for education and the urgent need to make it accessible to all children in Peru. Education is the only key by which men and women can truly be independent and useful to society. Through his unwavering sense of duty, Fujimori has built over 3 000 modern schools throughout Peru. This task is his best contribution to the future of Peru.



*Alberto Fujimori - President of Peru and
Jamil Mahuad - President of Ecuador
placing the boundary marker between
both countries*



Jaime Yoshiyama Tanaka former Minister of Transport and Communications Minister of Energy and Mines President of Congress and Temporary President of Peru for a period of 112 days while President Fujimori was officially abroad

In the 1995 Presidential Elections, Alberto Fujimori ran against Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, twice elected Secretary General of the United Nations. Fujimori's votes doubled those of his opponent.

On January 8, 1991, Fujimori appointed Nikkei Jaime Yoshiyama Tanaka as Minister of Transport and Communications. In November of that same year, Yoshiyama was appointed Minister of Energy and Mines and Dr Victor Yamamoto Miyazawa became the Minister of Health

In 1992, Fujimori audaciously closed Congress. The reasons for doing so, were that Congress impeded the President of the Republic to govern and restricted his actions as President. Congress was hesitant to allow him to take firm action against terrorism and drug trafficking. Ninety percent of the population approved Fujimori's idea of closing down Congress.

In November 1992, President Fujimori called for a plebiscite to vote for the Democratic Constituent Congress

that would modify and update the Constitution. Jaime Yoshiyama Tanaka, Samuel Matsuda Nishimura and Jorge Nakamura Hinojosa were elected Congressmen. Congressman Yoshiyama was elected President of Congress twice. Jaime Yoshiyama also acted as President for 112 days while President Fujimori was on official trips abroad. Therefore, it can be said that two members of the Nikkei Community in Peru have been Presidents of the Republic.

From 1992 until the next presidential elections of 1995, President Fujimori appointed Jaime Sobero Taira as Minister of Fisheries, from June 22, 1991, to September 19, 1996, and Daniel Hokama Tokashiki as Minister of Energy and Mines from September 12, 1992, to June 7, 1995.

In the 1995 elections, Samuel Matsuda Nishimura and Alberto Sato Abe were elected as congressmen. The latter took the place of Congressman Luis Umezawa Yokohama who had died. Congressman Matsuda worked very hard as head of several committees.

Jaime Yoshiyama was once again called upon to be a member of the Cabinet of Ministers. This time he was appointed as Minister of the Presidency. On his own free will, he resigned on September 23, 1996, and left politics.

Daniel Hokama succeeded him on September 13, 1996. He remained in the post until December 31 when he was re-appointed as Minister of Energy and Mines.

In addition to these four well-known Nikkei ministers we must also highlight the discrete and important work of Vice-Ministers Rodolfo Matsuda Matsuura who has been with President Fujimori in the Ministry of Agriculture since the first cabinet was formed, Carlos Tsuboyama Matsuda in the Ministry of the Presidency and Susana Seto de Yamamoto who works at the Ministry of Education

Other Nikkei are presently in office or have held high executive posts in the most important state entities during the Fujimori Administration. Such is the case of Carmen Higaonna, who has been the Head of the General Superintendency of Customs. She successfully eradicated corruption and collected funds that have helped increase the Public Treasury. Doctor Carlos Saito Saito became President of the Board of Directors of Banco de la Nación. This position was later occupied by Margarita Imano. Luis Baba Nakao became President of the Board of COFIDE - the Financial Development Corporation. Alejandro Afuso worked in FONCODES - the Social Development Compensation Fund. Luis Kishimoto Higa became President of the *Banco de Materiales*. Jorge Kunigami Kunigami became President of the Supervising Entity for Telephony known as OSIPTEL, Augusto Miyagusuku became President of the Board of the *Popular y Porvenir* Insurance Company.

Other appointments were: Victor Nishio Nishio as Director of the Technological Institute of Fisheries, Doctor Alejandro Kanashiro Kanashiro as Director of the Santa Rosa Hospital, Doctor Carmen Miyasato as Director of the Guillermo Almenara Hospital, Alberto Yamamoto Miyakawa as Director of the National Development Institute (INADE), former congressman Ana Kanashiro de Escalante as Director of the National Institute of Family Well-Being - INABIF.

Susana Higuchi and later her daughter Keiko Sofia Fujimori Higuchi, have been First Ladies of the Nation and former congressmen Lucila Shinzato de Shimabukuro were appointed as President of the Andrés Avelino Cáceres Region, Noé Inafuku Higa as President of the La Libertad Region, and José Kamiya as President Fujimori's personal secretary.

Luis Watanabe Matsukura as Director of the Museo de la Nación (the National Museum), and Olga Shimazaki as Director of the State Ballet.

The following members of the Peruvian Japanese Community became well known diplomats: Luzmila Zanabria Ishikawa, current Ambassador



Daniel Hokama former Minister of Energy and Mines and Minister of the Presidency and Senior Minister of Fujimori's Administration



*Susana Higuchi Miyagawa
the First Lady of Peru
1990 - 1993*

*Keiko Sofia Fujimori Higuchi the First Lady of
Peru 1993 to date*



of Peru to China and former Ambassador to Paraguay, Victor Arntoni Shinto, Ambassador to Japan since the beginning of Fujimori's Administration. He is also Roving Ambassador before the Government of Mongolia Jaime Sobero Taira was Ambassador to Cuba for three years and Victor Yamamoto was Ambassador to Honduras

Against all odds, President Fujimori has done an excellent job as head of the government During the first stage, he dealt with the most difficult and urgent problems faced by the country, which were to curb hyperinflation, to reinstate Peru in the international financial system from where it had been excluded and declared ineligible, to defeat terrorism, which practically had Peru under control and, to fight against the drug trafficking scourge of Peru Even though they seemed like difficult goals to achieve, with determination, perseverance and courage, President Fujimori managed to accomplish them in a short period of time

Fujimori's goal as President is to transform Peru by providing education for all school age children This is the first step on the long road towards development and a better future That is why he set about building schools all over the countryside and in urban areas as well He has built around three thousand modern schools for Peru's students This figure represents more than one school built per day If we multiply 365 days times seven years, the total is 2,555 schools Fujimori's government has exceeded that number, an amazing feat indeed The obsession for education is the Japanese trait that has most influenced Fujimori

One of President Fujimori's main concerns is the health of Peruvians, particularly children and adolescents As a result, free school insurance and university insurance for students has been established, a very wise decision It is no wonder that the Japanese's first greeting is "guenki deska?" (How is your health?)

For many analysts, Fujimori is considered to be one of the best Presidents Peru has ever had throughout its history Nikkei have a right to feel really proud of him President Fujimori has definitely become a historic figure in Peru He has been able to settle all border disputes with the neighboring countries, Ecuador and Chile Since the Republic of Peru was declared over 150 years ago, there had been trouble with Ecuador that no previous president had dared to face. On October 28, 1998, The Peace and Friendship Agreement with Ecuador was signed in Brasilia, Brazil On November 13, 1999, the 1929 Execution Treaty between Peru and Chile was fully enforced

There is no doubt that President Fujimori represents the most important milestone in the history of Japanese immigration in the world as well as the history of the first 100 years of the Japanese immigration to Peru.

This marks the highest summit, a new and promising horizon of great achievements for all Peruvian Nikkei.

The Dekasegi Phenomenon

Due to the economic crisis triggered by the Alan Garcia Administration, many young people, particularly the Nikkei, considered that Peru had nothing to offer them. Around this time, Japan was faring very well and this was very attractive to many Nikkei. Young people whose parents had registered them as Japanese before the Japanese Consulate at birth were the first to take advantage of the opportunity to work in Japan. Their "koseki" (parents or grandparents' birth certificate) was the admission document. When these Peruvian Japanese immigrants (dekasegi) managed to establish themselves in Japan, they summoned their relatives and friends just like their ancestors had done in the past. Japan was the perfect place to reap a small fortune. People who were not Nikkei managed to buy "koseki" from non-scrupulous Japanese. The situation obliged the Government of Japan to be more strict with those who applied for visas.

This migration took place almost 90 years after the arrival of the first Japanese pioneers to Peru. Some have settled in Japan. There is no census of how many Peruvian Nikkei have traveled to Japan. According to official data, the estimate is 40,000.

The Nikkei Identity

There are already six generations of Peruvian Japanese in our community. They try to maintain customs, food, songs, dances and religious rites. Tradition is gradually fading, perhaps because of the Nikkei integration to Peruvian society. Japanese cuisine is still very popular and enjoyed by many Peruvians. Japanese songs are sung in schools and men and women participate in Japanese dances. Religious ceremonies are still practiced by Issei and some families who inherited this tradition. But in the Sansei generation it has been lost completely because most are Catholic.

The Nikkei identity has not been defined. Members of the Peruvian Japanese Community are concerned about the fact that the values brought by the immigrants and handed down to their descendants are being lost at the Sansei level.

*Peruvian Nikkei Workers in Japan
(Dekasegi)*



Something must be done to instill Japanese traditions in younger generations, otherwise these will become distant memories.

The Present up to 1999

April 1999 marks the 100th Anniversary of the Japanese Immigration to Peru. Descendants of these immigrants are now engaged in important celebrations to honor the memory of their ancestors. This historic lesson reveals how these brave Japanese founded a new homeland in a faraway place and tried to make of their children good Peruvians and strengthen their own self identity. In this manner they guided the new generations towards the future, prompting them to value and surpass the efforts made by the Isei and Nisei.

Chronological International Events, of Japan and of the Peruvian Japanese Community

The Peruvian Japanese Community began to flourish when the first immigrants who disembarked on the shores of Peru started to raise their families in this their new homeland

Over the past 100 years since the first Japanese immigrants arrived, despite the fact that the community was very small, the outstanding moral standards and hard working spirit of its members made it particularly well known

As was usually the case of the plight of any immigrant, the first Japanese who came to Peru had to endure the odds of hardship and mistreatment while they gradually became accustomed to their new surroundings and mingled with the local inhabitants. Unfortunately, several members of the Japanese Community were suspected and accused of being unloyal to Peru, the country that had sheltered them and their families and enabled them to tighten bonds of friendship with local Peruvians. But, in a short period of time, those who accused the members of the Japanese Community were proved wrong and all accusations were dropped.

The Japanese in Peru instilled in their children a deep sense of respect and love for their native roots and also for Peru, their new homeland. These solid moral values, handed down from generation to generation, eventually enabled the members of the Japanese Community to hold prominent posts in a broad range of fields.

During the 100 years since the first Japanese immigrated to Peru, the world and Japan have witnessed a succession of major events. Following is a list of these major events for the benefit of the future historians of the Nikkei Community of Peru.

World Events

- 1899 The Boer War (Africa) between the Republic of Orange and Transvaal and Great Britain
Review of the Dreyfus Case advocated by author Emile Zola
Jorge Luis Borges, the Argentine author, was born
- 1900 The World Fair opened in Paris The Eiffel Tower was inaugurated
The Nationalist Boxer Rebellion broke out in China
Count Zeppelin invented the Zeppelin
- 1901 Victoria Queen of Great Britain, died
Cartoon genius, Walt Disney, was born
The first wireless telegraph was sent from England to Newfoundland
- 1902 The Anglo-Japanese Alliance was signed
The United States of America retreated from Cuba and the Republic of Cuba was established
- 1903 The Wright Brothers made their first successful flight on the Kitty Hawk.
Panama became an independent republic and signed the Panama Canal Construction Treaty
- 1904 Chilean poet, Ricardo Neftali Reyes, under the pen name of Pablo Neruda, was born
- 1905 Einstein published his Theory of Relativity
Jules Verne died



Albert Einstein with Japanese scientists at the University of Tokyo

Japanese Events

- 1899 The Constitution was enacted
The first group of Japanese immigrants from Yokohama set sail to Peru on February 27
- 1900 Prince Yoshihito's marriage engagement was officially announced
- 1901 Emperor Hirohito was born
Yukichi Fukuzawa, founder of Keio University, died.
- 1902 A Union Treaty was signed between Japan and Great Britain
- 1903 The Plague spread throughout Tokyo.
- 1904 Japan declared war on the Russian Empire
Teikichi Tanaka, promoter of immigration to Peru, died
- 1905 The Russians were defeated at the Battle of Tsushima.
Japan captured Port Arthur End of the Russian-Japanese War.
- 1907 The Plague spread through Japan again
- 1908 The first group of Japanese immigrants arrived at Brazil.
Japanese citizens were denied passports to travel to the United States
- 1909 Former Premier Hirogumi Ito was assassinated.
- 1910 The Toyo Company opened route to South America.
Akira Kurosawa, the most famous Japanese movie director, was born



Japan in 1900



Akira Kurosawa

World Events

- 1906 Santos Dumont performed the first airplane flight in public.
- 1907 New Zealand was annexed to the British Empire.
Louis and Auguste Lumière invented color photography.
- 1908 Henry Ford introduced his model T automobile
- 1909 American explorer, Robert E Peary reached the North Pole
- 1910 Peruvian aviator, Jorge Chávez, died after crossing the Alps.
The Republic of Portugal was established
The Mexican Revolution broke out
Georges Claude invented the neon lamp.
- 1911 Italy won the war against Turkey.
German scientist, Nornartz patented his invention of stainless steel.
Curtis invented the hydroplane
Amundsen conquered the South Pole.
- 1912 The Nationalist Revolution in China The last Manchu Emperor of China abdicated his throne
The Republic of China was declared
The Titanic sank after it hit an iceberg in open sea, near Newfoundland.



Sinking of the Titanic published in The New York Times

Japanese Events

- 1911 The Empire Theater was opened in Tokyo
- 1912 Emperor Meiji died The Tawasho Era began.
Marshall Nogui, famous hero of the Russian Japanese War, died
- 1913 Tokugawa, the last Shogun, died
- 1914 The Emigrants' Association was founded in Japan
World War I broke out, Japan declared war on Germany and captured Chuntao Island
- 1915 Emperor Tawasho was crowned.
- 1916 The Plague spread in Yokohama
- 1917 The Kaigai Kogyo immigration company was founded and it acquired the Morioka Company
- 1918 The Government of Japan sent its army to Siberia
The Spanish Flu Epidemic spread causing the death of 150,000 people
- 1919 His Excellency Manuel Freire y Santander, Ambassador of Peru to Japan arrived at Tokio
- 1920 Marriageable women seeking foreign husbands by sending their photographs through the mail were denied passports
The first census was carried out
- 1921 Peasant riots started as a sign of a movement for social reform
- 1922 Japan's first airplane carrier was built
- 1923 An earthquake killing 100,000 people hit Tokyo and Yokohama



Emperor Meiji
Gashō Shimōzu



Earthquake in Kanto, magnitude of 7.9 degrees
September 1, 1923

World Events

- 1913 The Balkan War broke out.
- 1914 World War I was declared
 Pope Pius X died and was succeeded by Benedict XV.
 The Panama Canal was opened.
- 1915 Italy entered World War I on the side of the Allies
 The British Ship Lusitania was torpedoed by a German submarine.
- 1916 The German Army invaded France and the Battle of Verdun began
- 1917 The United States entered World War I
 The Bolcheviks took control of Russia and the Czar of Russia and his family became the hostages of the revolutionaries
 The United States bought the Virgin Islands from Denmark.
- 1918 World War I ended
 Czar Nicholas II of Russia and his family were executed.
 The Kaiser of Germany abdicated.
 A cease fire was declared ending World War I
- 1919 The League of Nations was created.
 The Treaty of Versailles was signed.
- 1920 The Society of Nations was established
- 1921 The British Empire retreated from the Protectorate of Egypt.
 Mussolini gained power in Italy.



Discovers of Tutankhamon's museum

1922 Albert Einstein won the Nobel Prize in Physics.

Howard Carter discovered the tomb of Pharaoh Tutankhamon

1923 The U S achieved the longest flight record by refueling in mid air

Japanese Events

1924 Prince Hirohito married

The Manufacturers' Association of Japan awarded a medal to one of the most outstanding leaders of the Peruvian Japanese Association, Ichitaro Morimoto



Death of Emperor Taisho
 Tokyo Nichi Nichi Shimbun
 12/28/1926

Japan adopted the metric system.

1925 The National Security Law was decreed.

The Law on Elections was enacted

1926 The Nippon Hoso Kyokai (NHK) was founded

Emperor Tawasho died. Emperor Hirohito introduced the Showa Era.

1927 Economic crisis and bankruptcies spread
 An earthquake hit Kyoto.

Ryonosuke Akutagawa died, author of the famous novel entitled Rashomon that was later made into a film by Akira Kurosawa.

1928 The first elections in Japan were held.
 Japan sent its troops to China.

1929 The New York Stock Exchange crashed generating a 70% rate of unemployment

1930 An agreement was signed in London concerning the number of warships each country was allowed to have



Birth of the Manchukuo Empire
 March 1, 1934