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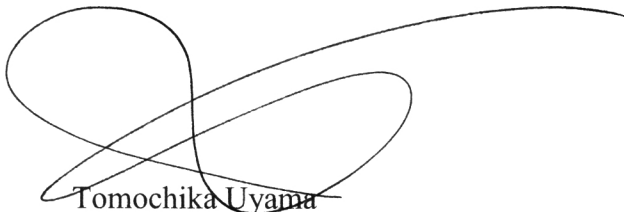
Dear COPANI San Francisco 2019 Delegates,

Welcome to the 20th Biennial Convention of Pan-American Nikkei! My name is Tomochika Uyama and I am the Consul General of Japan in San Francisco. The Japanese Government strongly supports efforts to help Nikkei all over the world maintain connections with the land of their ancestors, so it is a pleasure for our office to be included in your activities.

San Francisco is a fitting location for the first COPANI in the United States in 18 years. Silicon Valley has a long history with technology and innovation, but an even longer and more storied history with Japanese Americans. Japanese people began immigrating to this region in large numbers in the late 1800s and were quite successful in breaking into the agricultural industry. Japanese Americans in the San Francisco Bay Area are a very active community and take great pride in their culture and their accomplishments. As such, this setting provides the perfect backdrop for the 2019 Convention aimed at fostering a socially, technologically, and commercially well-connected Pan American Nikkei community moving toward the future.

We at the Consulate are proud to be involved in this mission and look forward to a very successful convention. Thank you for your participation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Tomochika Uyama
Consul General of Japan in San Francisco
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