

# The Kawasaki City Representative Assembly for Foreign Residents Newsletter No. 54



KAWASAKI CITY  
川崎市

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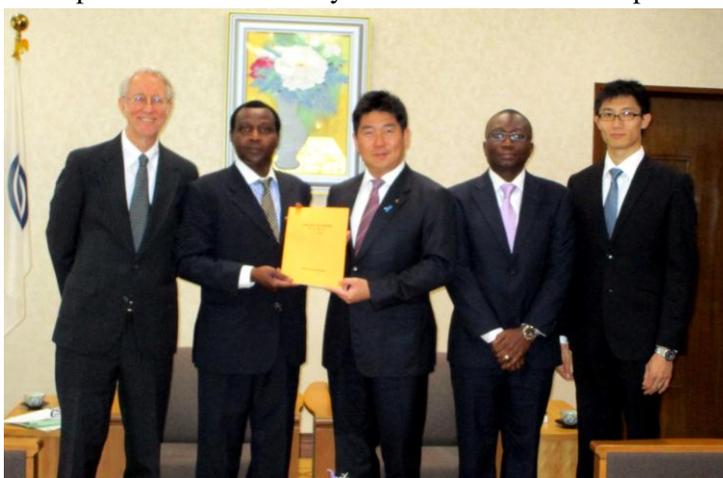
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(Japanese) <http://www.city.kawasaki.jp/shisei/category/60-7-2-0-0-0-0-0-0.html>

(Simple Japanese) <http://www.city.kawasaki.jp/250/page/0000042748.html>

## 2014 Report to the Mayor and City Council

On April 20th, four members of the tenth term of the Representative Assembly submitted the annual report for the 2014 fiscal year to the mayor of Kawasaki, Norihiko Fukuda. They were Joachim Senou, the chair, Charles Olson, the vice-chair, Jialin Ren, the chair of the Life and Society Subcommittee, and Edward Kezengwa, representing the chair of the Welfare and Education subcommittee.



At the meeting they explained, based on the annual report, topics discussed and opinions offered at the meetings as well as the Assembly's other activities, including the Open Meeting. The mayor responded by saying "I hope to continue

working towards a city where Japanese and foreign residents can live together easily. Acting on your opinions, I believe that Kawasaki will become an even better place to live. On behalf of the city, I want to properly consider the Representative Assembly's proposals. And not just the proposals: if there are things we can do among the opinions aired at the meetings, I hope to put them into practice." Further, on July 21st, Mr Senou and Mr Olson were invited to the Citizens Committee of the City Council, and reported on the Assembly's activities for 2014.



## Fiscal Year 2015 Meeting Schedule

Location: Kawasaki International Center (10 minutes' walk from Motosumiyoshi Station)

Time: From 2pm to 5pm

Map: <http://www.kian.or.jp/accessmap.shtml>

2nd Session, 2nd Day: September 13th (Sun)

4th Session, 1st Day: January 17th (Sun)

3rd Session, 1st Day: October 18th (Sun)

4th Session, 2nd Day: February 14th (Sun)

3rd Session, 2nd Day: December 6th (Sun)

☆☆☆☆☆

Anyone may come to listen to the discussions of the Assembly, which are held in Japanese. Why don't you come and see the Assembly at work!

# 〈Call for Applicants: 11th Term of the Assembly〉

The Representative Assembly for Foreign Residents was established in 1996 by an ordinance of Kawasaki City as a means for foreign residents to participate in city government. Foreign residents choose their own topics for investigation and discussion from among things they notice in their daily lives and problems they face, and make proposals to the mayor based on the results.

- Term of Office: April 1st 2016 to March 31st 2018 (2 years)
- Number of Representative: 26
- Activities: Meetings are held 8 to 9 times per year, on Sunday afternoons. In addition, representatives carry out fieldwork and attend events.
- People who meet all the following conditions may apply:
  - ① Do not hold Japanese citizenship
  - ② At least 18 years old as of April 1st 2016
  - ③ As of April 1st 2016 listed on the Kawasaki register of residents for at least one continuous year
- Application Method: Send the application form by post, postmarked by November 17th 2015

\* The application form will be available in ward offices, citizens' plazas, libraries, and the International Center from September.

\* It can also be downloaded from <<http://www.city.kawasaki.jp/250/page/0000069405.html>>

<Enquiries (Japanese)>

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**Let us hear your point of view!**

## Open Meeting Announcement

The Open Meeting is a chance for many people to get to know the Representative Assembly as well as an opportunity for us to hear the opinions and questions of a wide range of participants. Anyone may participate, and, if necessary, the representatives will provide interpretation.

Date and Time: November 15th 2015 (Sun), 2pm to 5pm

Location: Kawasaki International Center

☆ The program is still being finalized, but we plan to make it possible to hear many people's opinions.

☆ After the meeting, from 6pm, we plan to hold a reception.

**\* People considering applying to be representatives are especially welcome!**

**We look forward to seeing you!!**

## ◇ Subcommittee Reports ◇

### ■ Welfare and Education Subcommittee

On March 21st, we went on a field trip to the Tsuzuki Multicultural & Youth Plaza (Tsuzuki MY Plaza) in Yokohama. Tsuzuki MY Plaza has two functions: one as an international exchange lounge, and one as a center for the regional activities of young people. It is a 3 minutes' walk from the Center Kita station on the Yokohama Municipal Subway. The Plaza provides information to foreign residents, and is a place that young people can easily use, and where people from the area can meet. The head of the Plaza told us a lot about its role as an “intermediary support organization”.

In the Welfare and Education Subcommittee we discussed the issue of high school entrance as an additional topic, which was raised at the Open Meeting, and completed all of our initial deliberations in April. We will now proceed with preparing our proposals based on those deliberations.

(Welfare and Education Subcommittee Chair, Izumi Beatriz Sonoda)

### ■ Life and Society Subcommittee

The Life and Society Subcommittee has discussed three topics.

① Information Delivery: Based on our field trip to the Tsuzuki MY Plaza in Yokohama, we discussed the issues that might arise if we apply that know-how in Kawasaki.

② Creating an Environment for Communication Between City and Residents: Based on the results of the Survey of Foreign Residents and our experiences, we felt that it would be helpful if there were something like a Community Site.

③ Support for Short-Term Residents: It was pointed out that for short-term residents the need to acquire a full set of household electrics and furniture can be a major burden. The secretariat informed us of city facilities that take in unused furniture and offer it to residents by lottery, such as Kawasaki Tachibana Recycle Community Center and Recycle Village Tsutsumine.

The Life and Society Subcommittee finished its consideration of all topics at the May meeting. We will now turn to deeper discussions in preparing our proposals.

(Life and Society Subcommittee Chair, Jialin Ren)



< Information Corner >

### **Do you know about the *Disaster Preparedness Booklet*?**

The *Disaster Preparedness Booklet* is a compact booklet containing the information you need in order to know what to do in the event of a disaster, published by the Kanagawa International Foundation. It is made in a size easy to be carried in your wallet or diary. If you use this booklet to record important contact information, your local evacuation center, and details about yourself in advance, it could be a great help.

Available Languages: Chinese, Korean, Tagalog, Portuguese, Spanish, Vietnamese, English, Thai, Cambodian, Lao, Nepali (all also include Japanese).

Distribution center: KANAFAN STATION (<http://www.kanafan.jp/station>)

Download: Kanagawa International Foundation ([http://www.kifjp.org/news\\_tabunka/1897](http://www.kifjp.org/news_tabunka/1897))

In addition, if you send an email to the multilingual email information service <[infokanagawa@kifjp.org](mailto:infokanagawa@kifjp.org)> stating your preferred language, useful information will be sent direct to your email free of charge (cell phone or computer).

(Minsuk Gong)

## Festivals of the World — Do you know “Oktoberfest”?



First association when hearing Germany? “Beer!” Well then, how about autumn in Germany? Right. A lot of people would most probably think of the Oktoberfest.

This festival, which has been held since 1810 in the southern German city of Munich from late September, is one of the largest festivals in the world, and is now known internationally as the “Beer Festival”, a symbol of Germany. Oktoberfest sees around 6 million visitors every year, and around 20% of them are from other countries, both neighboring and distant. There are also said to be many Japanese visitors. The amount of beer consumed goes up every year, and sources state it already exceeds as much as 6 million liters.

Oktoberfest is the largest festival in Germany, but if you look at other places, it is not necessarily the oldest. The example I would like to introduce is one that has been held every May since 1755 in the town of Erlangen: the Bergkirchweih. The origin of the name “Bergkirchweih” can be translated with “parish fair of the hill church”. However, these days it has a strong image as a beer festival. It certainly isn’t a small festival; around a million people attend, so on holidays the site is so crowded that you can hardly move forward. I have fond memories from my time at university, when our Japanese teacher would often take the class to the festival.

These days, in Japan German-style beer festivals held in places like the Red Brick Warehouses in Yokohama, Hibiya Park and Odaiba, seem to have become quite popular. If you enjoy festivals, are interested in Germany, or just like beer, why not go along and wash away the last heat of summer? But be careful not to drink too much!☺

(Daniela Dittmar)



### The National Census —Please Complete Your Response—

From September to October, the national census will be held, investigating everyone living in Japan as of October 1st 2015, including foreigners: their numbers, ages, employment, and so on. From around 10th September, the census takers will visit your homes to ask for your assistance. You can respond online until 20th September (English and Japanese only). The census takers will deliver paper response forms to people who did not respond online, so please return them by post by October 7th (no stamp necessary), or give them directly to the census taker.

\* \* \* \* \*

The information gathered in the census will be used for statistical purposes only.  
Your cooperation will be appreciated.

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こくせいちょうさ

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Your opinions regarding this newsletter and/or the Assembly are always welcome.

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