

The Kawasaki City Representative Assembly for Foreign Residents Newsletter No. 58



Colors, Future!

いろいろって、未来。

川崎市

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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>

〈 International Festival in Kawasaki 〉

The Representative Assembly continued its participation in the “International Festival in Kawasaki”, taking place at the Kawasaki International Center on July 3rd this year. It was held for the 22nd time and more than 15,000 people attended. Children enjoyed playing a rock-scissors-paper tournament and drawing national flags with the representatives, while the booth also introduced the work of the Representative Assembly as a whole. This was the first large event for the new representatives who had started their term in April, and they were surprised by the large number of participating groups, and the crowds of attendees.



〈 Multicultural Festa Saiwai 〉

After the International Festival, we also participated in “Multicultural Festa Saiwai”, held in Saiwai Civic Center on September 24th. The afternoon was unfortunately rainy, but even so there were many participants.

While large scale events like the International Festival or Kawasaki Citizens’ Festival have their good points, there is a special quality to smaller events where we can spend time talking with local residents and getting to know them.



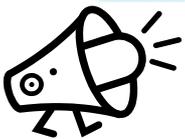
Progress of Discussions in the 11th Term

Six of the meetings of the eleventh term of the Representative Assembly have been held so far since it began in April. We started by studying the results of the “Survey of the Situation and Opinions of Foreign Residents of Kawasaki”, in order to understand the needs and issues of foreign residents other than the representatives of the assembly. This survey was carried out in order to realise the goal of a multicultural society by grasping the situation of foreign residents in Kawasaki and reflecting the results in various measures of the city. (A questionnaire survey was carried out in 2014, and an interview survey in 2015. It had been 20 years since the last survey of this kind.) By studying the results, we were able to understand the distinctive characteristics of and trends among the foreign residents of Kawasaki, and the concrete problems they are facing.

After studying the survey, we conducted group work. In order to efficiently investigate and discuss several issues, subcommittees are usually established in the Representative Assembly on particular themes, and discussions are pursued in those subcommittees. However, according to representatives with experience of the previous term they felt there were too many topics last term in each subcommittee, and therefore it was not possible to discuss all of them properly. In the light of that experience, we decided to conduct group work before establishing the subcommittees for this term, in order to share a common understanding of the issues and ideas, so that we will be able to focus the discussion in the subcommittees on the most important points, and deal with them in depth.

Furthermore, we were able to hear the opinions of many foreign and Japanese residents at the Open Meeting in November. At present, building also on the opinions offered at the Open Meeting, we are narrowing down the list of topics in preparation for establishing the subcommittees.

He Jia Hui, Chair



Why Not Observe A Meeting?

-- Meeting Schedule for the 11th Term --

Location: Kawasaki International Center (10 minutes' walk from Motosumiyoshi Station on the Tokyu Toyoko and Meguro Lines)

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

Time: From 2pm to 5pm

<Fiscal Year 2016>

[4th Meeting]

First Day: 15th January (Sun)

Second Day: 12th February (Sun)

<Fiscal Year 2017>

[1st Meeting]

First Day: 23rd April (Sun)

Second Day: 21st May (Sun)

[2nd Meeting]

First Day: 25th June (Sun)

Second Day: 3rd September (Sun)

[3rd Meeting]

First Day: 15th October (Sun)

Second Day: 10th December (Sun)

[4th Meeting]

First Day: 21st January (Sun)

Second Day: 18th February (Sun)

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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!

Introducing a New Representative

As representative Puskar Khatiwada (Nepal) has resigned from the Assembly for personal reasons, Abhishek Sali has been appointed as a representative in his place.



■ Name (Country/Territory)

Abhishek Sali (India)

■ Reaction to becoming a representative, and topics for discussion

I would like to discuss education, healthcare, child raising, international understanding, and consulting services/counters. People from many cultures live in Kawasaki, and together with the other representatives, I want to think about just how much easier we can make life in this city, and then put that into practice.

■ Favourite phrase or ideal

Meeting people from many countries and making friends.

Treat every meeting as a precious once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and treasure every connection.

Must-See Sites of the World: **The Thuringian Forest — Enjoying Winter in Germany**

Winter has come. Most years, it doesn't snow that often in Kawasaki, but when it gets cold I'm sure a lot of people want to snuggle under a warm kotatsu, eat mikan, and avoid going out. I can understand that feeling, but in Germany we have an even more enjoyable way of spending the winter.

Particularly in my home region of Thuringia, a snow-covered hiking trail comes to mind. Even with temperatures below freezing, if you walk briskly while enjoying the pure white scenery your body warms up, and you even sweat a little. And then, in the distance, you hear the barking of huskies. Huskies? That's right! Every year in February, a dog-sled race is held in the small village of Frauenwald in the Thuringian Forest. In the past, it has hosted the dog-sled European and World Cups. As you watch the vigorously running dogs, you are warmed body and soul. If you still feel cold, hot food is waiting in the tents set up for spectators.

After getting home from a day walking through nature, the best thing is to sit in front of the fire. You would certainly feel that even the cold winter was a fun season. There is a German saying: "There is no such thing as bad weather, only inappropriate clothing."

If you have a chance to go to Germany in winter, you should take the opportunity to try this out. Just don't forget your coat!



We plan to introduce another Must-See Site you can look forward to in the next newsletter.

Daniela Dittmar

The New School Year — Are You Ready to Start School?

As the middle of January passes, preparations for the new school year need to get started properly. In Japan, most children get a “Ranzel” as their school bag before they enter elementary school. Recently, people have started buying them earlier and earlier, and many shops take orders for custom-made Ranzels as early as the summer of the previous year. On the other hand, if you are not that particular about the colour or design, you can easily buy them in February or March as well. In addition, you need to prepare stationery, PE kit, and other school goods before the year starts. The school explains what you need to prepare at the orientation meetings, but if you do not understand, you can ask your school at any time.

Not only schools, also kindergartens and daycare facilities have their own rules on things you need to prepare, such as bags or “Uwabaki” (indoor shoes). Once you have settled on a kindergarten or daycare facility, you need to find out what to prepare before your child enters in April, whether at orientation meetings or by asking separately.



Sunok Kim



《Multilingual Information about Elementary Schools》

- ◎ “In Order For People From Different Backgrounds To Live In Harmony: A Handbook for Non-Japanese Who Want to Enrol Their Children In Japanese Public Schools” (Kawasaki City Board of Education)
【Japanese, English, Spanish, Portuguese, Tagalog, Korean, Chinese】
http://www.keins.city.kawasaki.jp/1/KE1026/kikoku_gaikoku/kikokugaikoku.html
- ◎ “Guidebook for Starting School: Procedures for Entering Japanese Schools” (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology)
【English, Korean, Vietnamese, Philippine, Chinese, Portuguese, Spanish】
http://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/shotou/clarinet/003/1320860.htm
- ◎ “Multilingual Living Information” (Council of Local Authorities for International Relations)
【Japanese, English, German, Chinese, Korean, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Indonesian, Thai, Russian, Myanmar, Easy Japanese】
<http://www.clair.or.jp/tagengo/>

■ Advice Center

Kawasaki City Comprehensive Education Center Foreign Pupils Advice Center (Japanese language only)

Tel: 044-844-3733

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<http://www.keins.city.kawasaki.jp/>

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