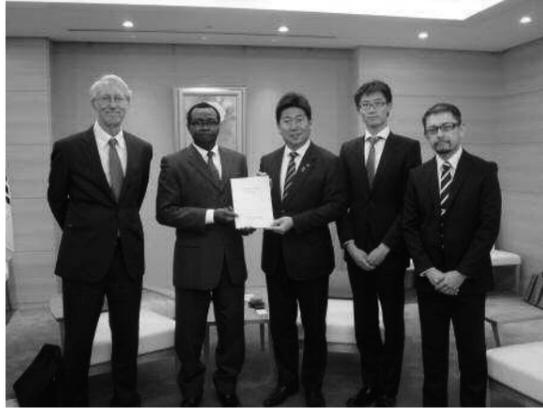


## 10th Term Proposals and 2015 Activities: Report to Mayor and Council



On Wednesday, April 20th, Joachim Senou, the chair of the 10th term of the Representative Assembly, together with Deputy Chair Charles Olson, the chair of the Life and Society Subcommittee, Jialin Ren, and the representative of the chair of the Welfare and Education Subcommittee, Fabio Yoshinori Kawamoto, presented the Assembly's report for 2015 to Mayor Norihiko Fukuda. They also presented the Assembly's five proposals: "Local Hubs", "Child Raising Support", "High School Entry", "Rental Discrimination", and "Easy Japanese". Mayor Fukuda responded by saying "Twenty years have passed since the Representative Assembly began. Over those 20 years, the situation of Kawasaki has changed

greatly. The nationalities and territories of foreign residents have become more diverse, and Kawasaki's culture has become richer. I want Kawasaki to be a city about which people think "I want to live here; I want to continue living here", no matter where they are from. ... There are both issues that have been raised in the past and new ones, and I would like to fully take them on board and, with the understanding of the council and the residents of the city, take serious measures to tackle them." Further, on Thursday May 19th, they were invited to speak to the council's Culture and Education Committee, and reported on the 10th term's proposals and their activities in 2015.

The details of the proposals can be found in the Annual Report for 2015 (in Japanese), and in Newsletter 56. The Annual Report also includes detailed explanations of the background and reasons for the proposals. The Newsletter is published in several languages, so it is possible to read the proposals in languages other than Japanese. The Annual Report and Newsletter are distributed in the resources corner of the Representative Assembly, and can also be read in civic centres and libraries in the city. The Newsletter can be downloaded from the city's official website.

### Must-See Sites of the World: Zhangjiajie National Forest Park

The Zhangjiajie National Forest Park in Hunan Province, China is part of the UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site Wulingyuan Scenic and Historic Interest Area. I think first time visitors will be overwhelmed by the sight of enormous thin pillars of stone lined up into the distance. This unique scenery, created through erosion by wind and rain over countless years, has no parallel anywhere in this wide world.

And you don't have to just look. You can go hiking between the marvellous slender columns of stone. The park has a total area of 264 square kilometres, so no matter how much you walk, you cannot exhaust it! It gives you a taste of adventure, and the novel scenery means that you never get bored as you walk. This scenery is said to have inspired the look of the hit film "Avatar", but it really is out of this world! If you have the opportunity, please do see it with your own eyes.

(Yuancong Ye)

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

## The Kawasaki City Representative Assembly for Foreign Residents Newsletter No. 57

Colors, Future!  
いろいろって、未来。  
川崎市

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### <11th Term of the Representative Assembly Begins>

On April 24th, the first day of the first session of the eleventh term of the Kawasaki City Representative Assembly for Foreign Residents was held at the Kawasaki International Center.

At this first meeting, Deputy Mayor Ito presented the new representatives with their certificates of appointment, and told them, "We believe that a city that is easy for foreign residents to live in is easy for everyone, including the Japanese. We look forward to receiving your proposals, based on your discussions of how we can make Kawasaki an even more pleasant and convenient place to live."



The 26 representatives, who come from 16 countries and territories, were chosen from over 200 applicants, and they next introduced themselves, speaking about what they hoped to discuss and achieve on the assembly. Jia Hui He (Malaysia) was elected as chair, and Edward Mwimbi Kezenga (Kenya) as deputy chair. The new representatives pledge to work to make Kawasaki an even better place to live than it is now.



### Why Not Attend A Meeting?

—Meeting Schedule for FY 2016—

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

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

Time: From 2pm to 5pm

3rd Session, 1st Day: October 16th (Sunday)

3rd Session, 2nd Day: December 11th (Sunday)

4th Session, 1st Day: January 15th (Sunday)

4th Session, 2nd Day: February 12th (Sunday)

\* \* \* \* \*

Anyone may come to listen to the discussions of the Assembly, which are held in Japanese. By all means come and see the Assembly at work!

#### <Open Forum>

- The Assembly will hold an Open Forum on November 20th (Sunday).
- Location: Takatsu Civic Center
- Time: 2pm to 5pm (planned)



# Introducing the Members of the 11th Assembly



Over the next two years, we will work together to investigate and discuss various problems on behalf of all the foreign residents of Kawasaki.

- ① Name
- ② Nationality/Region
- ③ Reaction to becoming a representative, and topics for discussion
- ④ Favourite phrase or ideal

<Chair>

<Deputy Chair>



- ① Jia Hui He
- ② Malaysia
- ③ I want to see that clear information about systems such as pensions and nursing care, which even Japanese people have difficulty understanding, reaches foreign residents, and that their understanding improves.
- ④ You can do it if you try.



- ① Edward Mwimbi Kezengwa
- ② Kenya
- ③ I want to discuss with the other representatives the problems that foreign residents face every day, and find a way to a solution.
- ④ It always seems impossible until it's done. Equality, Friendship



- ① Viet Gia Khanh Le
- ② Vietnam
- ③ I want to contribute to activities that deepen relations between Japanese and foreign residents, and make Kawasaki into an international city.
- ④ The opposite of "impossible" is not "possible". It is "try".



- ① Fongchu Mo
- ② Taiwan
- ③ I would like to discuss international understanding and cross-cultural interaction. I would also like to discuss the dual citizenship of the children of international marriages.
- ④ Meeting varied people, experiencing varied things.



- ① Casey Jay Kuester
- ② USA
- ③ As the father of a small child, I want to contribute to the creation of an environment in which foreign mothers and fathers can easily raise their children.
- ④ Communication transcends language.



- ① Yuancong Ye
- ② China
- ③ Building on my experience in the tenth term, I want to make the discussions even more effective.
- ④ God helps those who help themselves.



- ① Elena Suzuki
- ② Russia
- ③ I want everyone to know what we did in the 10th term. In the 11th term, I look forward to friendly and fun discussions with everyone, and to learning from them.
- ④ Silence is golden.



- ① Sangwoo Ha
- ② South Korea
- ③ I will work to present proposals that lead to a better environment for foreign and Japanese residents alike.
- ④ Live your one life so you regret nothing.



- ① Xiangmei Jiang
- ② China
- ③ I am delighted to have been chosen as a representative. I hope to work with everyone to support children's education and create a liveable city.
- ④ Life is a single volume.



- ① Fatima Kamata
- ② Brazil
- ③ I look forward to working with all the representatives to put diversity to work for the future of the region. In particular, I want to discuss the structures for the education and employment of old and young.
- ④ Make the impossible, possible.



- ① Jerry Villamar
- ② Philippines
- ③ I want foreigners in particular to have the impression of "Kawasaki nice city", so as a representative I want to emphasise the possible ways to tackle worries and problems, and move them at least some way towards a solution.
- ④ It's now or never.



- ① Karyna Zasukha
- ② Ukraine
- ③ Although I'm the youngest, as a university student, I want to think about things from many perspectives and share my opinions. I would like to discuss employment problems and job search support for foreigners, focused on the process of looking for work. In addition, I want to help with international interaction in all respects.
- ④ If you can dream it, you can do it.



- ① Sho Kan
- ② China
- ③ I hope to uncover the problems facing foreign residents, discuss child rearing, and make Kawasaki into an even better place to live.
- ④ Where there's a will, there's a way



- ① Riezel Ramos Takahashi
- ② Philippines
- ③ I am delighted to have this opportunity to influence the lives of foreign residents for the better. I will do all I can.
- ④ Be humbler about what we know, more confident about what's possible, and less afraid of things that don't matter.



- ① Sunok Kim
- ② Korea
- ③ I want to concentrate particularly on social services for the elderly and children, so that Kawasaki will become a better place to live for people in a relatively weak situation, or people facing problems.
- ④ It's OK, things will work out.



- ① Irwan Sutanto
- ② Indonesia
- ③ I want to tackle the issues with all my strength, learning as I go.
- ④ Measure twice, cut once.



- ① Fabio Yoshinori Kawamoto
- ② Brazil
- ③ Building on my experience in the 10th term, I want to discuss ways to improve the lives of foreign residents of Kawasaki with the other representatives.
- ④ A união faz a força (United we stand, divided we fall)



- ① Jiyeon Suh
- ② South Korea
- ③ With responsibility and passion, I will do my best to make life better for foreign residents of Kawasaki.
- ④ Make a better day than yesterday.



- ① Arunanshu Chakravarty
- ② India
- ③ I am happy to be a representative, but it is also a heavy responsibility. I hope to contribute to nurturing friendship between the citizens of Kawasaki, and to building a good city by strengthening everyone's mutual bonds.
- ④ If you respect others, you will be respected. "It's OK, if you keep trying and don't give up, you will succeed."



- ① Cari Peterson
- ② USA
- ③ I will be satisfied if I can contribute to increasing the places where foreign and Japanese residents can meet one another, and to building a liveable city. I also hope to be able to do at least something towards solving the problems faced by many foreign residents.
- ④ You don't have to be great to start, but you have to start to be great.



- ① Oksana Bartkova
- ② Ukraine
- ③ I want to learn about many issues, and find good solutions with everyone else. I most want to discuss the language barrier, the biggest problem for foreign residents.
- ④ Years of rain will wear away stones.



- ① Asuka Hirachan
- ② Nepal
- ③ I want to understand the problems of all kinds of foreign residents, from those who have just arrived to those who have been here for years, and do what I can to make Kawasaki at least a bit easier to live in.
- ④ Every encounter is once in a lifetime.



- ① Ahmad Yousof Hosany
- ② Mauritius
- ③ As someone who has lived in Kawasaki for over 15 years, I would like to give back to the city.
- ④ Never give up, try your best till the end.



- ① Kabun Makuuchi
- ② China
- ③ As this is my first time, I am a bit nervous, but I will do my best. I want to discuss ways to make life in Kawasaki better for foreign housewives and children.
- ④ Today rather than yesterday, tomorrow rather than today.



- ① Daniela Dittmar
- ② Germany
- ③ I'm looking forward to active discussions with everyone. I hope that we will be able to talk about issues and solutions that will remove major uncertainties from the lives of both Japanese and foreign residents.
- ④ Zu Hause ist, wo das Herz sich wohlfühlt. (Home is where the heart is.)