



Kawasaki City Representative Assembly for Foreign Residents Newsletter

Issue No. 44

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Four Proposals for the Mayor - The Representatives Serving in the Eighth Term Leave Office



The last meeting of the eighth term of the Representative Assembly ended on Sunday 19th February, 2012. The representatives have decided to submit four proposals to the mayor as a result of the research and discussions they have carried out and held over the past two years. The representatives discussed many subjects during their term in both the Social Life Section and Education Sections. A range of different issues and ideas were put forward related and although not all of them have been included in the proposals, the process provided good opportunities for people to listen to the opinions of foreign residents. We hope that these opinions will be noted and adopted as appropriate in the future.

At the last meeting, every assembly member delivered a short speech reflecting on their activities as a representative over the past two years, and also gave a message to the next term's representatives. Reflecting on the two years, one representative said, "It was good to see my ideas incorporated into a proposal." Another representative said, "The assembly gave me many chances to interact with different types of people." "At first, I had difficulty expressing myself, but I tried to speak up as much as possible at meetings. That was a good experience for me," said another representative. Regarding the next term, it was suggested that more advance training be provided and more opinions from newly-arrived foreigners be sought. It was also pointed out that assembly members could cooperate more closely with each other in activities besides research and discussions.

Many representatives commented on their experience of the Tohoku earthquake last March. One representative stated, "Information coming from my mother country was quite different from what I received in Japan. I felt it was important to provide correct information in a timely manner." Another representative said, "I passed information to people in church, and they were grateful for that." Other remarks regarding measures to be taken in the case of an emergency included, "We had better study more about disaster prevention in our daily lives," and "Foreigners should also participate in emergency drills." One of the members commented "I was impressed that Japanese people behaved calmly and did not panic."

Having learned from a range of experiences while working as representatives over the last two years, the 24 representatives of the eighth term hope to participate in activities in their local area.

Lastly, we would like to thank all the people who have supported the Representative Assembly.

*** See page 2 for the four proposals submitted
by the eighth terms of the Representative Assembly**

Proposals by the Eighth Term of the Representative Assembly for Foreign Residents

1 Conducting a survey of foreign residents every five years.

- 1 We ask the city to conduct a survey every five years in order to gain an understanding of the current situation of foreign residents, learn about their needs, and to check whether they are able to get information useful for their daily lives.
- 2 We ask that the survey results be released to citizens and reported to the Representative Assembly for Foreign Residents, and that the results also be reflected in the city's measures and policies.



2 Urging the central government to set up a pension system that any resident can join.

- 1 We ask the the mayor to urge the Japanese government to negotiate with many countries regarding concluding social security agreements, and to urge Japan to sign these agreements as soon as possible.
- 2 We ask the mayor to urge the Japanese government to improve the pension withdrawal refund system.
(Resubmitting the proposal for FY 2003.)
- 3 We ask the mayor to also urge the Japanese government to create easy-to-understand documents explaining the pension system.



3 Increasing opportunities for multicultural education, and enriching the content of this education

(Opinion supporting the proposal for FY 2009.)

- 1 We ask that multicultural education be promoted and a class be held at least once a year for all elementary and junior high school students.
- 2 We ask that students learn about the cultures of a range of countries in the multicultural education class.



4 Promoting system to address bullying at school, and providing better support to parents

- 1 We ask that comprehensive guidelines be created to tackle bullying at school. Example cases of bullying should be included with suggested solutions. The guidelines should be distributed to educators and other people involved, so that bullying can be prevented or resolved in the early stages.
- 2 We ask the city to create an environment that enables students and their parents to consult on bullying issues at school in their mother tongue. Multilingual consultations should be advertised.



* For details and backgrounds of the proposals, see "The Annual Report of the Representative Assembly for Foreign Residents (FY 2011)." Copies of the annual report are available at the conference room of the Representative Assembly. They can also be obtained at ward offices, Civic Halls, and libraries throughout Kawasaki.

Looking Back On the Representative Assembly

Comments from representatives of the eighth term who ended their Representative Assembly term are presented below.

皆さんと一緒に元々な一年になりました。提言を出すために一生懸命にかかりました。
ウーシ

Sogori yakatta
desu 中村: ユーリス

メンバーになれてよかったです。やりがいがありました。
高橋 明

名国の代表者 大川合の
いづれ意見を議論に
及ぼすために川崎を努力
しています。玉平

IT WAS A PLEASURE
PARTICIPATING TO A
BETTER SOCIETY VISION
イベント。オリーブ

皆さんといろいろ話し合い、
提言を出すのはよい経験
だと思っています。許可 欣

第7期と第8期に参加させて
頂いて、とても良い
経験ができました。
鈴木新琴

Sendai toshite iairo
minna de dekitato onoi
mashita quevedo mo ata
rashi Tegeu de wa nai to
onnaji koto o natte shimasu
dewa mai ka?
Subete jibun no keiken
mo matte totemo yokatta
to omoimaseu. Arigatou
Ode Orietta.

我々の任期中に起きた「東日本
大震災」について色々と考えさ
せられました。やり残した事と
して「震災における外国人市民
への情報提供と対応」を是非次
の代表者に引き継いでもらいた
い。オパング デケ

行政側の人間として
勉強させていただき
ありがとうございました。
朴昌浩

第8期月外国人市民代表者
としての活躍が川崎市民
に役に立つことを期待
しています。オア: 罫 アンナ

かめさしはこくさつさ
いかりのせんとくにたち
つづきできるよ、みんな
さうりやくしなすましょ!
コロンツ、カウル

2年間ありがとうございました。
とても良い勉強に
なりました。川崎市がもっと
グローバル化になりまわ
り願っています。
MUITO OBRIGADA!
中森 シュリウマドリ

I FEEL WE SHOULD ALL
TRY TO VOLUNTEER
SOME OF OUR TIME
AND SKILLS FOR THE
BENEFIT OF OUR LOCAL
COMMUNITY. ダンカ!

天生我才必有用(天意で生
まれた我が権二の世に
必ず使われる)。子規の今
唐・李白の詩を詠んだら、
自信満々になる。
歌 輝(カキ)

おかげさまで、お金の
かえりない、いいお金の
で、か、たくさんで、き
ました。それが屋ジヤキー

外国人代表者会議は
とてもいい意見交換の
場所です。もっと多くの川崎
市民に知ってほしい。
オカン木入 エルナン

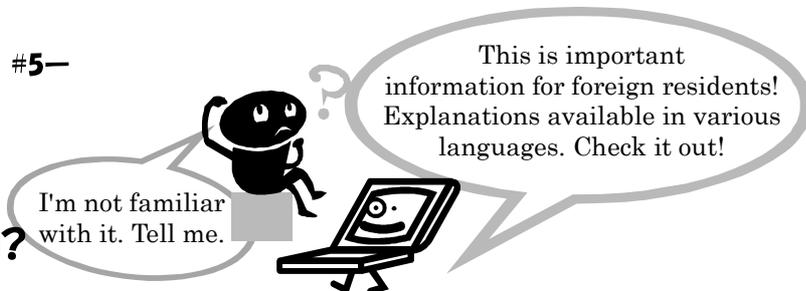
価値ある選択は、未来進行
形で考え、大勢の未来、先を
見続けることです。子菜

川崎市の川崎市の
立場から見て貴重
な経験でした。
貢献したように
チャート デビト

おばら仲間たちに感謝!
子どもたちの未来、幸あれ!!
金 祥和



Do you know about the new residency management system?



A new residency management system starts on July 9, 2012, and various procedures important to foreign residents have been changed. You can download further explanations in various languages from the Internet.

Point 1 A "resident card" will be issued.

A resident card will be issued to foreign nationals residing in Japan with long-term resident status.

Point 2 The period of stay will be extended to a maximum of five years.

If a foreign resident currently has a residency period of three years, the period may be extended to five years. For example, for a foreign national with resident status who is married to a Japanese and classified as a "Spouse or Child of Japanese National," the period of stay is currently one year or three years. Under the new system, it will be changed to one year, three years, or five years.

Point 3 A "special re-entry permit system" will be introduced.

When foreign nationals who have a valid passport and resident status want to re-enter Japan, they are required to apply for a re-entry permit under the current system. However, re-entry permission will no longer be required under the new "resident card" system if they re-enter within a year of departure. (Note that there may be certain cases where a re-entry permit is required.) This is called the "special re-entry permit system." **If you leave Japan using the special re-entry permit system, you must re-enter Japan within one year so as not to lose your resident status. If your period of residency expires less than one year after your departure, please be sure to re-enter Japan before the period expires.** The maximum validity period of a re-entry permit will be extended from the current three years to five years under the new re-entry permit system.

Point 4 The alien registration system will be abolished.

When the new system goes into effect, the existing alien registration system will be abolished. This will change various notification procedures.

- When you have moved to a new place => Report it to relevant municipal offices or ward offices. Under the current system, you are only required to report your move to the alien registration counter at the municipal or ward office in the new location. Under the new system, you must first submit a **moving-out** notification to the municipal office or ward office in the old location, and then submit a **moving-in** notification to the municipal office or ward office in the new location. Please ensure that your registration is up to date before the new system is introduced.
- If you have changed your name, birth date, gender, or nationality/region => Report it to the Regional Immigration Bureau.
- What will happen to alien registration certificates? => The alien registration certificate for foreign nationals residing long term in Japan will continue to serve as a resident card for the time being. Please ensure that you keep your alien registration certificate until you receive your resident card.



You can also download explanations in various languages from the Kawasaki City website. Languages available: Japanese, Chinese, English, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish, and Tagalog

- <http://www.city.kawasaki.jp/25/25zinken/home/gaikoku/info.htm>
(You can find the explanations in the other multilingual information categories.)
- http://www.city.kawasaki.jp/index_e.htm

★Contact Immigration Bureau Information Center (8:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m., Monday to Friday)
(Languages available: Japanese, Chinese, Korean, English, Portuguese, and Spanish)
Phone: 0570-013904 (or (03) 5796-7112 when using IP phone, PHS, or calling from overseas)
Immigration Bureau of Japan: http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/newimmiact_1/

<Inquiries> Human Rights and Gender Equality Office, Citizens' and Children's Affairs Bureau,
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We welcome your ideas and input regarding the newsletter and Assembly.