

# Kawasaki City Representative Assembly for Foreign Residents Newsletter



## Issue No. 41

Edited and published by: The Human Rights and Gender Equality Office, Citizens' and Children's Affairs Bureau, Kawasaki City Office Date of publication: March 31, 2011  
<http://www.city.kawasaki.jp/25/25zinken/home/gaikoku/index.htm>

## Open Forum Takes Place



On December 5, 2010, the Kawasaki City Representative Assembly for Foreign Residents held a meeting open to the public at the Kawasaki City Takatsu Civic Hall, with the aim of utilizing opinions from Japanese residents as well as foreign residents (other than representatives) in Assembly discussions. As part of the preparation for the meeting, the representatives promoted the Open Forum by visiting Literacy and Japanese Classes in Kawasaki City to encourage participation in the meeting. Various opportunities were taken to publicize the Open Forum, including events such as the Multicultural Festival in Mizonokuchi and Kawasaki Citizens'

Festival, publication of an event notice on the Assembly website and an announcement in the bulletin distributed by the city government. The weather on the day of the conference was fine and, happily, we were able to collect a range of valuable opinions from many of the participants. Regarding the agenda of the Open Forum, first we had a plenary session where each representative introduced themselves, and then we explained details of the previous discussions at the Assembly. After that, we had two sectional meetings: "Social Life Section Meeting" and "Education Section Meeting." Then, we had another plenary meeting to exchange opinions about issues expressed at the sectional meetings. Lastly, we had a casual party to mingle and get acquainted with participants of the Open Forum.

Throughout the Open Forum, we felt the enthusiasm of the participants for developing Kawasaki into a comfortable city to live in. We, the representatives, will utilize the opinions expressed at the Open Forum in our future discussions.

(Kittichai THAOWAN)



### Opinions from participants at the Open Forum

The Open Forum had two sectional meetings, Social Life Section and Education Section Meetings, encouraging participants to express their opinions. The following describes part of the Forum. For more information, see the 2010 FY report of the Kawasaki City Representative Assembly for Foreign Residents. The annual Assembly reports can be viewed at libraries and Civic Halls in Kawasaki.

#### Social Life Section Meeting

<To increase the number of foreign language books in public libraries> It would be a good idea to provide places where we can store books contributed by foreign residents so that more people can read books in foreign languages.

<Housing assistance> There is a concern that the information about housing assistance is not being adequately disseminated. We should examine what is causing this problem.

<Other issues> We need to promote our own cultures as much as we should strive to mingle with local residents.

#### Education Section Meeting

<Assistance for parents> It is important to consider how to make it easier for foreign parents to participate in PTA activities.

<Multicultural education> It may help if the Representative Assembly suggests study programs and so on to address such educational requests.

<Information> Regarding residents who do not understand Japanese, the need was recognized to make greater use of pictures and photos besides presentation of information in multiple languages.



## Participating in 33rd Kawasaki Citizens' Festival



On October 29, the 33rd Kawasaki Citizens' Festival was held in Fujimi Park in Kawasaki Ward.

We, the Kawasaki Representative Assembly for Foreign Residents, took part in the Kawasaki Citizens' Festival and participated in activities such as a quiz about countries around the world, setting up a corner where visitors could try on ethnic costumes, and distributing materials from the Representative Assembly. In particular, the quiz was the most popular and enjoyable event for visitors to the Representative Assembly tent. Although October 29, the second and third days of the Citizens' Festival were unfortunately cancelled due to a typhoon that was approaching the area. In our view, this was nevertheless a good opportunity to promote the Representative Assembly as well as interactions between foreign and Japanese residents of the city.

(Sojin JUNG)

Meeting reports(September 2010 - January 2011)

### Social Life Section

Discussions held by the Social Life Section have been proceeding according to schedule. We have finished discussions on most of the topics that should not take up a great deal of time, and within this fiscal year we expect to start preparation for discussions on topics that may take longer periods of time.

While discussing the request to make public services from service counters in public offices available on weekends, we found that Kawasaki City already provides services on the second and fourth Saturdays of every month for foreigner registration procedures at ward offices. Thus, it did not take very long to discuss this issue. Likewise, the discussion on the status of foreign language books in public libraries was completed quickly as we learned that the libraries had more books in different languages than representatives had thought, as well as procedures for requesting foreign books.

The other topics required somewhat more time to discuss. On the topic of Immigration Control, participants unanimously agreed that they would like to see the parents of foreign residents be permitted to stay in Japan for as long as required. The reasons given include that family bonds are important, that some foreigners residing in Japan also wish to practice the filial piety that is respected around the world as well as in Japan, and that it is helpful for people to have the emotional support of their parents at particular times, for example when giving birth.

Regarding assistance for students from overseas, some commented that support for finding housing and part-time jobs would be appreciated even more than being given a scholarship. Also, concerning a help desk for students from overseas, some mentioned that positive follow-up consultations for visitors may be effective at preventing the onset of mental problems. In the future, we will hold discussions on housing assistance, and then move on to labor and pension issues and surveys of foreign residents, all of which will take some time.

(David CHART, Social Life Section Leader)

- Third Meeting, Day 1 (September 26, 2010)
- Third Meeting, Day 2 (November 7, 2010)
- Fourth Meeting, Day 1 (January 23, 2011)



## Participating in Multicultural Festa Mizonokuchi!



On Saturday, October 23, 2010, Multicultural Festa Mizonokuchi was held on the rooftop of the Takatsu Civic Hall (Nocty 2). We, the Kawasaki City Representative Assembly for Foreign Residents, also took part in the Multicultural Festa to promote interactions with citizens and deepen mutual understanding as well as to publicize the activities of the Representative Assembly.

The weather on the day of the event was beautiful. Many people visited the event and appreciated Hawaiian dances and songs while enjoying ethnic cuisines from various countries. The Representative Assembly set up a food stall. We had Russian borscht soup, Chinese wonton, and shrimp crackers on the menu, all of which were appreciated by many visitors. These dishes helped us communicate with visitors and other groups hosting their stalls. We also printed the date of the Open Forum on packages of shrimp crackers and used them to promote the Representative Assembly. We hope that more people are now aware of the Representative Assembly as a result of these activities aimed at introducing the Assembly to the public.

(Ping WANG)



Meeting reports(September 2010 - January 2011)

### Education Section

The following reports some of the topics discussed and comments made at meetings of Education Section.

- (1) On recommendations made in the past
  - \* "A" and "B" achievement rankings represent self-evaluation on the part of the public administration.
  - \* Parties making the recommendations should participate in evaluation.
- (2) Some comments regarding assistance for parents
  - \* Some wish that PTA activities would include activities that will encourage foreign parents to join.
  - \* It is important for Japanese and foreign parents to deepen mutual understanding of each other.
  - \* Lack of language ability sometimes creates problems when newsletters are received from school or messages cannot be passed through phone networks.
  - \* In some cases, children are bullied due to lack of linguistic abilities or knowledge of Japanese customs.
  - \* Opportunities for foreign parents to get to know each other would be appreciated and helpful.

In addition to the topics already discussed (recommendations in the past and assistance for parents), the topics to be discussed by the Education Section include multicultural education, bullying, provision of information, nursery schools and children's rights to education. We welcome advice and input from the general public through questionnaires distributed to observers ("Observer's Voices")

(Duncan EDMOND, Education Section Leader)

- Third Meeting, Day 1 (September 26, 2010)
- Third Meeting, Day 2 (November 7, 2010)
- Fourth Meeting, Day 1 (January 23, 2011)

Kawasaki Ward	Saiwai Ward	Nakahara Ward	Takatsu Ward	Miyamae Ward	Tama Ward	Asao Ward	City Total
12,020	3,786	4,427	3,843	2,762	3,714	1,946	32,497

## Introduction of new representatives

Ms. Ruchika VEMURI and Mr. Asri MOCHAMAD have resigned and two new members have become representatives.

1. Name, 2. Nationality, 3. Feelings as a representative and topics for discussion, 4. Favorite phrases



1. NAKAMURA, Judith
2. The Philippines
3. Mixed feelings, feeling very happy and at the same time, feeling very anxious about my own ability to communicate my thoughts and feelings as I am not so good at Japanese. I would like to discuss bullying at school and issues of children with mixed ethnicity.
4. Cherish even trivial feelings of others!



1. LELANN, Olivier
2. France
3. I would like to take part in creating the future of Kawasaki. I wish to develop Kawasaki into a cleaner, warmer and great city.
4. Tomorrow is a new day.

## ★ 2011 FY schedule established for Kawasaki City Representative Assembly for Foreign Residents ★

Location: Kawasaki International Center (Closest station: Tokyu Toyoko Line Motsumiyoshi Station)

Time: 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM

First Meeting, Day 1: Sunday, April 17; Day 2: Sunday, May 15

Second Meeting, Day 1: Sunday, June 12; Day 2: Sunday, July 10

Third Meeting, Day 1: Sunday, September 11; Day 2: Sunday, December 11

Fourth Meeting, Day 1: Sunday, January 22; Day 2: Sunday, February 19

Everyone is welcome to come to observe the meetings. Feel free to attend!



A section of service counters at ward offices are open on the second and fourth Saturdays of every month.

- Useful Information for Foreign Residents #2 -

Kawasaki City provides public services on weekends by opening some counters at ward offices in the morning on the second and fourth Saturdays of every month, handling foreigner registration applications, and other business. This service is available for those who cannot visit the local ward office on weekdays due to work or other reasons. (Note that no branch or liaison offices are open).

For more information, visit the City website. <http://www.city.kawasaki.jp/event/info1217/index.html>

**Dates and hours** : 1. Second and fourth Saturdays of each month, 8:30 - 12:30.  
2. First Saturday of April, 8:30 - 12:30.

**Open counters** : Ward Resident Section and Pension and Insurance Section at each ward office

**Major procedures handled** : 1. Foreigner registration, issuance of certificates of particulars of the original foreigner register 2. Seal registration, issuance of certificates of seal registration 3. Creation of residents' cards 4. Application for child allowances 5. Issuance of copies of resident cards and certificates related to family registration 6. Filing of family registrations 7. Filing of moving-in and moving-out notifications 8. Filing of notifications of admission to elementary/junior high schools or school transfers 9. Issuance of national health insurance certificates 10. Acceptance of national health insurance fee payments 11. Issuance of health care certificates for children (infants)

\* Note that no services are available regarding procedures or certificate issuance related to the pension system or tax payments.

\* Public services corners are available on Saturdays and Sundays for issuance of various certificates. Feel free to use them.

Service hours: Week days (7:30 - 19:00), Saturdays and Sundays (9:00 - 17:00)

Certificates that can be issued: Certificates of particulars of the original foreigner register, certificates of latest prefectural and municipal residential tax (or certificates of non-taxable or tax-exempted status), copies of resident cards, certificates of particulars on resident cards and certificates of seal registration.

**<Inquiries>** Human Rights and Gender Equality Office, Citizens' and Children's Affairs Bureau,  
Kawasaki City (川崎市市民・子ども局人権・男女共同参画室) 1 Miyamoto-cho, Kawasaki-ku, Kawasaki  
City 210-8577 (〒210-8577 川崎市川崎区宮本町1)  
Tel : 044-200-2359 Fax : 044-200-3914 E-mail : 25gaikok@city.kawasaki.jp  
We welcome your ideas and input regarding the newsletter and Assembly.