

The Kawasaki City Representative Assembly for Foreign Residents Newsletter

Issue No. 45



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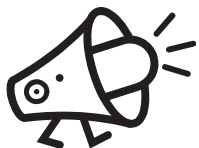
The Ninth Representative Assembly Convenes

From Diversity to Prosperity

Day one of the first meeting of the Ninth Kawasaki City Representative Assembly for Foreign Residents was held on Sunday, April 22, at the Kawasaki International Center. Deputy Mayor Shinji Sunada presented the new representatives with their commissioning letters, officially appointing them with the duties of representatives. "I would like all of you, as representatives, to present various proposals through active discussions," said Deputy Mayor Sunada. The new representatives,



who were chosen among over 280 applicants from 19 countries and regions, introduced themselves to the meeting and shared ranges of topics they would like to discuss in this Assembly. Opinions were shared in anticipation for the Assembly meetings to convene shortly, addressing on the importance of recognizing the problems of foreign residents with different backgrounds or on working in cooperation during the meetings. Some representatives also shared their reasons for applying: "I would like to serve the Kawasaki city residents as well as the foreign residents," or "I would like to share my experiences with many people." WANG, Ping (China) and SHARMA, Gajender (India) were elected to the Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson, respectively. We look forward to the activities of the Representative Assembly this term.



Would you like to observe an Assembly Meeting?

★Kawasaki City Representative Assembly for Foreign Residents – FY2012 Meeting Schedule★

Location: Kawasaki International Center (Nearest Station: Tokyu Toyoko Line, Motosumiyoshi Station)

Time: 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

1st Meeting: Day 1 – Sunday, April 22

Topics Discussed: Electing the Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson, determining the agenda for this year.

1st Meeting: Day 2 – Sunday, May 27

Topics Discussed: Executive committee, visit to municipal facilities, and various events.

2nd Meeting: Day 1 – Sunday, July 8

Day 2 – Sunday, September 9

3rd Meeting: Day 1 – Sunday, October 14

Day 2 – Sunday, November 18

4th Meeting: Day 1 – Sunday, January 20

Day 2 – Sunday, February 17

Anyone is welcome to come and observe the meetings!



Representatives of the Ninth Assembly



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For the next two years, we will work together as the representatives of foreign residents in Kawasaki in order to carry out studies and deliberation on a wide variety of issues. Your support will be greatly appreciated.  
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- | | |
|----|---|
| 1. | Name |
| 2. | Nationality/Region |
| 3. | Thoughts on becoming a representative and issues you would like the Assembly to address |
| 4. | Favorite quote |

<Chairperson>



- (1) **WANG, Ping**
- (2) China
- (3) Let us work together and initiate lively discussions in this Assembly. I would like to discuss issues such as language education of their cultural origin.
- (4) When we get to the mountain, there'll be a way through and when the boat gets to the pier-head, it will go straight with the current.

<Vice Chairperson>



- (1) **SHARMA, Gajender**
- (2) India
- (3) I would like to discuss community development from the business perspective, education, as well as social problems.
- (4) You have a choice to take leadership for change you want to see in this world.



- (1) **AN, Yeong II**
- (2) North Korea
- (3) I would like to help create a multicultural society free from discriminations for the future generation of Koreans in Japan.
- (4) Always keep in mind the following: Brightness, purity, and strength. Be bright, have a perfectly clear conscience, and live strong.



- (1) **NTYANGIRI, Christopher**
- (2) Tanzania
- (3) I am please to have become a representative. However, I do feel the responsibility of this role as well. I would like to listen to the problems of a wide range of people and hope to be able to offer effective suggestions.
- (4) Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. (Resigned June2012)



- (1) **WU, Qun**
- (2) China
- (3) I would like discuss promotion of knowledge of disaster prevention as well as in administering disaster prevention drills for the foreign residents.
- (4) A journey of a thousand miles starts beneath one's feet.



- (1) **EDMOND, Duncan**
- (2) Australia
- (3) It is necessary for the members of the community to do something for the good of the community, and to help others. I would like to discuss issues related to education.
- (4) Nothing is nothing! Don't do nothing!



- (1) **WONG, Hailey Jimmie**
- (2) China
- (3) I am honored to be chosen as a representative. In the Assembly, I would like to discuss community development as well as multicultural exchanges.
- (4) Challenge.



- (1) **OIDE, Orietta**
- (2) Chile
- (3) It has been two years since I have become a representative. I would like to do my best in order to deliver good proposals by making use of my experience and together by incorporating the ideas of the new members.
- (4) Where there is a will, there is a way.



- (1) **GAN, Leong Yeun**
- (2) Malaysia
- (3) Through good communication, I would like to work together with all of the representatives to help contribute to the City of Kawasaki.
- (4) Seize the day.



- (1) **HSU, Ke Hsin**
- (2) Taiwan
- (3) I would like to help create a community where Japanese and foreign residents are able to mutually accept one another even further. I would also like to discuss child care support for infants.
- (4) Many a little makes a mickle.



- (1) **NGUYEN, Ngoc Bao Linh**
- (2) Vietnam
- (3) I would like to discuss community development to make living easier for both the Japanese and foreign residents. Live a happy life through the opportunities to come in touch with a wide variety of cultures.
- (4) A life full of smiles.



- (1) **KEOPASEUTH, Latsamychanh**
- (2) Laos
- (3) I would like to fulfill my responsibilities by actively working on challenging tasks for the next two years.
- (4) Do one's best.



- (1) **KORONCZI, Karol**
- (2) Slovakia
- (3) I would like to follow-up on the proposals submitted during the previous year, particularly on the problems of pension and on the problems for obtaining visas for the parents of foreign residents. I wish to bring together the strengths and experiences of the other representatives, to create better environment and systems in order to make living easier.
- (4) Never put off until tomorrow what you can do today.



- (1) **GONG, Minsuk**
- (2) Korea
- (3) I would like to work on various activities together with the other representatives. I would like to extend our areas of exchanges with the representative assembly formed by foreign residents from other areas.
- (4) Home is where you make it. (I went through a lot of difficulties at first, but now Kawasaki is my second hometown.)



- (1) **SALVIO, Rosemarie**
- (2) Philippines
- (3) I am grateful to be given this opportunity to become a representative of Kawasaki. I would like to do my best to serve the foreign residents of Kawasaki. I would like to discuss correct information given by Kawasaki City about the foreign residents and their rights.
- (4) KAPIT KAWAI / Let's hold hands.



- (1) **SIEFKEN, Brandon**
- (2) United States of America
- (3) I am delighted to be able to contribute to the society through this Assembly.
- (4) Bond. (A word connecting not just those within this country, but the whole world.)



- (1) **SONODA, Izumi Beatriz**
- (2) Brazil
- (3) I am pleased to have become a representative. By making the most of my cultural background as a Japanese Brazilian, I would like to meet as many people as possible and help in offering various information, so that the Japanese and foreign residents can live better lives.
- (4) Let's hold hands, you are not alone.



- (1) **CHOI, Sang**
- (2) Korea
- (3) I would like to consider environmental development to make living easier, from the perspective of the foreigners. In particular, I would like to discuss topics related to disaster preventions as well as child care.



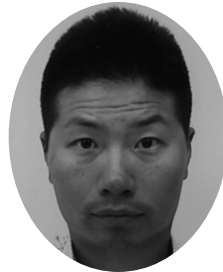
- (1) **CHART, David**
- (2) United Kingdom
- (3) I would like to discuss on methods for delivery of information to where it is needed and on involvement of foreign residents in the local community. I look forward to working together with everyone for the next two years.
- (4) Nothing is obvious.



- (1) **NAKADA, Siriwan**
- (2) Thailand
- (3) I would like to discuss community development to make living easier for homemakers and children of the foreign residents.
- (4) To have something is better than nothing.

(4) No matter how much you regret the past, you can't change it, and no amount of worrying can affect the future. You just have to do your best right now.

(Konosuke Matsushita)



- (1) **PARK, Chango Ho**
- (2) Korea
- (3) As a part of a learning experience in social welfare, I would like put my efforts into areas of child care and social welfare, working together with the administration to serve the interest of Kawasaki residents. Your support is greatly appreciated.
- (4) Cultivate one's character by studying hard. One family, one heart



- (1) **HOHMURA, Caren Wilfridah**
- (2) Kenya
- (3) I would like to teach about the world to Japanese children. I believe that this would benefit both the future of Japan as well as in creating a community that is free from discrimination.
- (4) A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.



- (1) **Nakamura, Judith**
- (2) Philippines
- (3) One and a half years have passed since I have become a representative. I am delighted to have become a representative once again. I would like to discuss issues on bullying problems, as well as on education at school and at home.
- (4) No man is an island.



- (1) **YANG, Yi**
- (2) China
- (3) I feel the responsibility of this role as a representative. I would like to discuss with everyone what we have noticed in our daily life as well as on employment, welfare, and medical services – on what we



- (1) **YANAGISAWA, Anna**
- (2) Russia
- (3) By making use of my experience as a representative in the Eighth Assembly, I would like to continue to do my best in the Ninth Assembly as well. I would like to bring attention to the issues which could not be discussed in the previous year.
- (4) Ask, and it shall be given to you.

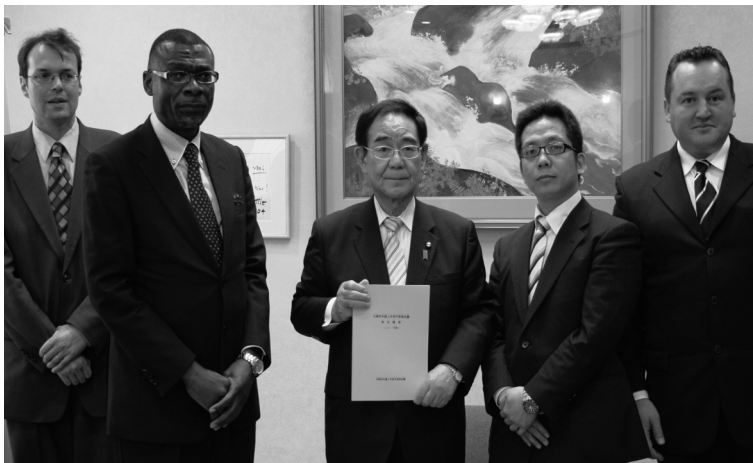


- (1) **SAHIN, Serkan**
- (2) Turkey
- (3) I would like to discuss child education, employment for foreign residents, the problem of double pension enrollment, and what can be done for the community through the exchanges with the Japanese residents.
- (4) Everything is all right.

recognize as convenient in its current state and what we would like to see improved.

(4) Treasure every meeting, for it will never recur

FY2011 Activity Report and Proposals Presented to the Mayor and City Assembly



On Friday, April 20, Chairperson Deke Opango and Vice Chairperson WANG, Ping of the Eighth Representative Assembly, Director David Chart of the Social Welfare Division, and Director Duncan Edmond of the Education and Culture Division submitted the FY2011 Annual Report to Mayor Takao Abe and made proposals in the following four policy areas: surveys on foreign residents, the pension scheme, education on international understanding, and the bullying problem. In response, Mayor Abe said, "I would like to apply these proposals which I received today, with the help and understanding of the City Assembly

as well as the citizens. I hope that you will be able to play active roles within the community through the experiences acquired in this Assembly." The Chairperson and Vice Chairperson were also invited as witnesses to the Citizens' Affairs Standing Committee of the City Assembly on Wednesday, May 30, where they also presented the FY2011 activity report. For details about the proposals, refer to the FY2011 Annual Report and Issue No. 44 of this newsletter. The Annual Report will be distributed at the Representative Assembly Resource Corner and will also be available for viewing at civic halls and libraries.

Introducing the Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson



Greetings from the Chairperson

WANG, Ping

Greetings. I am originally from China, and this is my 19th year living in Japan, and I have been living in Kawasaki for about 15 years. This will be my second term of service as a representative since the Eighth Representative Assembly. I believe that this Assembly is particularly important to the foreign residents. As we continuously reflect on the origin of the Representative Assembly, I would like to propose community development to Kawasaki city in order to make living easier for the foreign residents as well as the Japanese residents, based on the following three key words of the Representative Assembly: "From Demand to Participation", "Individuality and Universality", and "Mutual Understanding and Cooperation." I would also like to discuss topics such as on methods for providing information for foreign residents during natural disasters as well as on providing support to the foreign residents, particularly after the experience of the Great East Japan Earthquake Disaster. Let us work together with the 26 representatives in initiating lively discussions in the Foreign Residents Assembly Meetings.



Greetings from the Vice Chairperson

SHARMA, Gajender

Greetings. I am SHARMA, Gajender from India, and will be serving as the Vice Chairperson this term. As a member of the representatives, and as the Vice Chairperson, I hope to contribute to the discussions in a variety of fields such as community development, education, and multicultural understanding, for the Japanese residents as well as for the foreign residents. I also hope to be able to provide support to the Chairperson, and would like to ask for your continued support this term.

◆ Access the Representative Meeting Homepage!

<http://www.city.kawasaki.jp/25/25zinken/home/gaikoku/kaigi/index.htm>

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