

The Kawasaki City Representative Assembly for Foreign Residents Newsletter

Issue No. 46



KAWASAKI CITY
川崎市

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<http://www.city.kawasaki.jp/en/page/0000037241.html>

Please come visit!

Announcements: Events of the Representative Assembly

Many events will be hosted throughout the city during the fall season. The Representative Assembly will be participating in various events during this time of the year. Through food and exhibitions, why don't you use these wonderful opportunities to interact with the representatives? We are looking forward to seeing many of you at these events!

Open Forum

Sunday, **December 9**, 2012 14:00 – 17:00

Location: Institute of Industrial Promotion, Kawasaki
(5-minute walk from Kawasaki Station, West Exit.)

The deliberations conducted by the Representative Assembly thus far will be outlined, and a session will be held to listen to ideas and receive feedback from the participants along with an on-site lecture on disaster prevention. An exchange party will be held after the meeting. (Please see the website for details)

***Please note the change of venue from last year!**



Multicultural Festa Mizonokuchi

Saturday, **October 20** 11:00 - 15:00

Location: Takatsu Civic Hall, rooftop
(In case of rain, the event will be held inside Civic Hall)

A multicultural food stall will be set up representing countries of members of the Representative Assembly. Come visit to find out the food menu! The food stall event is very popular every year.

*In case of rain, the Representative Assembly will not set up a food stall.



Kawasaki Citizens' Festival

Friday, **November 2** – Sunday, **November 4**

Location: Fujimi Park in Kawasaki Ward

Along with an introduction of the Representative Assembly members, a variety of multicultural performances will be held on stage. The representative members will join the parade held on the 4th. The Representative Assembly will set up an area for exhibition and there will also be events for children!



◆◆◆◆◆ Meeting Schedule ◆◆◆◆◆

Location: Kawasaki City International Center

(Closest Station: Tokyu Toyoko Line Motosumiyoshi Station. 10-minute walk from the station.)

Time: 2:00 - 5:00pm

3rd Meeting: Day 1 - Sunday, October 14 Day 2 - Sunday, November 18

4th Meeting: Day 1 - Sunday, January 20 Day 2 - Sunday, February 17

Please feel free to
come observe our
meetings!





Visits to Municipal Facilities



On July 29, 2012, visits to municipal facilities were organized in order to help the representatives become more familiar with the city of Kawasaki, in the hope that they will be able to use this knowledge in future discussions in the Assembly. A total of fifteen representatives participated in this event, receiving explanations and exchanging opinions while visiting a total of five municipal facilities.

Fureai Hall The history of foreign residents in Kawasaki and their activities were discussed. A tour inside the building was also given. **City Museum** While showing architectural models and old maps, curators provided lectures on the history and progress of Kawasaki. **Nakahara Library** Along with a tour of the facility, the usage of foreign language books among the city libraries, the number of sources and books available, and ways to donate books were explained. **Nakahara Civic Hall** The representatives toured the facility, and learned details on services provided by the civic hall, particularly on the status of foreign nationals who are making use of the literacy/Japanese classes. **Shiminkatsudo Center** After explanations were provided on support for civic and volunteer activities, visits were made to conference rooms and other facilities.



Those representatives who participated in this visit shared their thoughts: “It was very educational because I could hear about specific details.”, “I have come to learn that Kawasaki offers services in a wide variety of fields.”, “I was pleased to visit these facilities, since I had only passed by them before.” “I would like to make use of these facilities from now on.” or “I would like to think about what can be done to make these facilities and services more accessible to foreign residents.”

Introduction of a new representative

Representative Christopher NTYANGIRI (Tanzania) has resigned and SENOU, Joachim (Benin) has become a new representative.



<Name> SENOU, Joachim

<Nationality/Region> Benin

<Thoughts on becoming a representative> I would like to think about the role and significance of foreign residents within the municipal government, in contributing to all citizens through community development toward the future with the lessons we can learn from the history of Kawasaki. I wish to work together through mutual understanding in order to further improve the administrative services provided.

<Favorite Quote> “Il y a des fleurs partout pour qui veut bien les voir.” / “There are flowers everywhere for one who really wants to see them.”

◇Deliberations carried out in two separate sections◇

In the 9th Representative Assembly, the 26 representatives will be divided into two groups (sections) to carry out the discussions. Chairperson WANG and Vice Chairperson SHARMA will alternate and swap sections after every two meetings to gain better understanding of both sections. We describe the details of each section below.

Life and Society Section

Members

David CHART (Section Leader), Yeong Il AN, Qun WU, Leong Yeun GAN, Ke Hsin HSU, Karol KORONCZI, Minsuk GONG, Rosemarie SALVIO, Serkan SAHIN, Anna YANAGISAWA



Discussion Topics

Non-time-consuming topics: bringing over parents, promoting participation of foreign nationals in local community activities, consultation/public services, pensions, and housing.

Time-consuming topics: community development, support for employment, assessment of and follow-up on proposals, and transmission of information (Representative Assembly's homepage, hearing opinions of foreign nationals using the website, disaster information, new immigration procedures, and other topics.)

A wide variety of topics are being discussed this time, including new topics such as community development. The representatives actively participated in the discussions, bringing their opinions, based on unique and rich experiences, to bear on these issues. We hope to continue further discussions while respecting each others' opinions.

(David CHART, Section Leader)

Welfare and Education Section

Members

Izumi Beatriz SONODA (Section Leader), Duncan EDMOND, Hailey Jimmie WONG, Orietta OIDE, Ngoc Bao Linh NGUYEN, Latsamychanh KEOPASEUTH, Brandon SIEFKEN, Sang CHOI, Siriwan NAKADA, Judith NAKAMURA, Chango Ho PARK, Caren Wilfridah HOHMURA, Yi YANG.



Discussion Topics

Support for guardians (such as providing information for guardians), bullying problems, welfare services for the elderly, education at home, multicultural exchange, support services for raising infants (such as nursery schools and facilities for children), medical care, and native language education.

We chose these topics based upon discussion of the representatives' actual experiences, knowledge, and the living environment that surrounds them. We hope to hold thorough discussions for each topic, and gradually reach a common opinion.

(Izumi Beatriz SONODA, Section Leader)

The Representative Assembly introduced in a French Book

The Representative Assembly's photo appeared on the cover of a book entitled 'Highly skilled Chinese migrants in Japan', published by the French company Les Indes savants in February of 2012. The book introduced the Kawasaki City Representative Assembly for Foreign Residents as the most active and successful organization in gathering the opinions of foreign nationals residing in Japan. In June of 2012, Chairperson WANG held a discussion with the author, Dr. Hélène LE BAIL. Dr. LE BAIL pointed out that the Chinese residents are more socially active and that better multilingual services are offered in Japan in comparison to France. She also commented that civic activities and schools may be utilized in order to further our understanding of the needs of the local foreign residents. Chairperson WANG, after learning that several foreign languages can be studied in public elementary schools in France, mentioned that he would like more opportunities offered at public schools in Japan as well for studying foreign languages (native languages.)



(Dr. LE BAIL and Chairperson WANG)



Useful Information for Foreign Residents #6

Pamphlets on the new system in various languages are available here: http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/newimmiact_1/index.html



Introduction of a new residency management system - FAQ

A new residency management system has been introduced, effective July 9, 2012. Important points about the new system selected by the Editorial Committee are explained below.

Q. Is it necessary to exchange the current alien registration certificate for the new resident card immediately?

A. It is not necessary to obtain the new resident card immediately. As of July 9, 2012, alien registration certificates will be deemed equivalent to the resident card for a period of time, for those eligible under the new residency system. For those with a status other than permanent resident, a resident card will be issued when certain application processes, such as renewal of the validity of the period of stay, are undertaken after July 9. Permanent residents will be required to file an application to receive a resident card within three years from July 9, 2012 (those under the age of 16 must file an application within 3 years or prior to their 16th birthday, whichever comes earlier.)

Q. Will I receive a renewal notification before the expiration date of my period of stay and/or my resident card?

A. You will not receive a notification. As long as the status of residence is renewed before the final date of the period of stay, the validity date of the resident card will not expire for those with mid-term or long-term resident status (excluding permanent residents and foreign nationals under the age of 16.) Please do not forget the final date of your period of stay.

Q. Is it necessary to submit the photo that will be shown on the resident card?

A. You do not need to submit a photo for a resident card issued at the airport. When filing an application for a resident card or the renewal of your status of residence, you will need to submit a photo taken within three months prior to submission of your application. Photographs will not be shown on resident cards with the period of stay expiring before the foreign national's 16th birthday.

[Attention!] New grounds have been established for the revocation of residency status, deportation, and penalties under the new residency management system. For more information, please contact the nearest regional immigration bureau.

*Information on this page is based on the contents of the website of Immigration Bureau of Japan, as of August 9, 2012. (http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/newimmiact_1/q-and-a.html)

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