

# The Kawasaki City Representative Assembly for Foreign Residents Newsletter No. 60



Colors, Future!

いろいろって、未来。

川崎市

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(Japanese) <http://www.city.kawasaki.jp/shisei/category/60-7-2-0-0-0-0-0-0.html>

(Simple Japanese) <http://www.city.kawasaki.jp/250/page/0000042748.html>

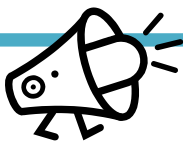
## Report to Mayor and Council for FY 2016



On the 12th of April, Jia Hui He, the chair of the 11th term of the Representative Assembly, and Edward Mwimbi Kezengwa, the vice-chair, submitted the annual report for fiscal year 2016 to Mayor Norihiko Fukuda.

They explained about the topics discussed by the Assembly and opinions expressed at the meetings, as well as other activities during the fiscal year 2016, like the open forum.. Mayor Fukuda said “The city of Kawasaki is becoming richer culturally as the number of

foreign residents increases and their countries and regions of origin are becoming ever more diverse. I want to build a local society together to make Kawasaki a second, or even first, hometown for these people. If we rely entirely on information from the city administration, some things are just difficult to get across, and this creates a challenge. If the foreign residents can help us by spreading useful information in their own languages, then we will be able to reach even more people. I hope that we can work together on this”. Furthermore, Chair He and Vice-chair Kezengwa were also invited to the Culture and Education Committee of the City Council on May 25th to report on the activities of the Assembly.



## Meeting Schedule for FY 2017

Location: Kawasaki International Center

(10 minutes' walk from Motosumiyoshi Station on the Tokyu Toyoko and Meguro Lines)

Time: From 2pm to 5pm

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

2nd Meeting

Second Day: 3rd September 2017 (Sun)

3rd Meeting

First Day: 15th October 2017 (Sun)

Second Day: 10th December 2017 (Sun)

4th Meeting

First Day: 21st January 2018 (Sun)

Second Day: 18th February 2018 (Sun)

☆☆☆

Anyone may come to listen to the discussions of the Assembly, which are held in Japanese. Why don't you come and see the Assembly at work!

# Call for Representatives: 12th Term

The city of Kawasaki established the Representative Assembly for Foreign Residents by city ordinance in 1996 as a way for foreign residents to participate in the government of the city. In the Assembly the foreign residents of the city choose their own topics concerning things that come up in their daily lives or problems that they face, then investigate and discuss them together before presenting the results as proposals to the mayor.

- Term of Office: 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2020 (2 years)
- Number of Representatives: 26
- Activities: Meetings are held 8 or 9 times per year, on Sunday afternoons. In addition, representatives carry out fieldwork and attend events.
- People who meet all the following conditions may apply:
  1. Do not hold Japanese citizenship.
  2. At least 18 years old as of 1st April 2018.
  3. Listed on the Kawasaki register of residents for at least one continuous year as of 1st April 2018.
- Application Method: Send the application form by post, postmarked by 21st November 2017

✂ Application forms will be available in all ward offices, citizens' plazas, libraries as well as the International Center from September 2017.

✂ It can also be downloaded from  
<http://www.city.kawasaki.jp/250/page/0000069405.html>

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## Open Forum

The Open Forum is not just an opportunity for many people to learn about the Representative Assembly. It is also a chance for the representatives to hear opinions and questions from a wide range of people. Anyone may participate, and representatives will provide interpretation services for participants who are not confident speaking Japanese.

Date: 19th November 2017 (Sunday), 2 pm to 5 pm (planned)

Venue: Kawasaki International Center

The details of the program are still being planned, but the aim is to enable as many people as possible to share their opinions.

We plan to hold a short reception after the meeting.



If you are considering applying to be a representative, please do attend! We look forward to seeing you.

## Discussion Progress Reports

### <Information and Social Education Subcommittee>

So far, this subcommittee has discussed the topics of Information, Japanese Education for Adults, and Orientation Courses for Foreigners. On the first topic - information - we discussed how the city's information could be delivered to foreign residents more efficiently, and it has been suggested that it might be helpful to create guidelines on ways to develop information content. Concerning Japanese education, after having a look at the courses already provided by the city and inviting representatives of the International Association to directly ask questions and learn about their work, our discussion centered on ways to promote activities and draw more attention to the city's existing Japanese courses. For the third topic, we discussed the idea that orientation courses aimed at people who have newly moved to Kawasaki could be held several times a year, to explain about the city of Kawasaki and everyday life in Japan.

Going forward, we will work on organising everyone's opinions and ideas to make proposals that will be even better for as many people who live in Kawasaki as possible.

Cari Peterson, Subcommittee Chair

### <Local Community Life Subcommittee>

In this subcommittee, of the three selected themes for discussion, we had discussed and investigated the current situation of the topics of Child Raising (Pregnancy, Childbirth, and Preschool Period) and Medical Treatment and Hospitals until the April meeting. First, about child raising, we talked about preparing multilingual versions of the application forms for day care facilities and of the notifications about the periodic health checks for preschool children. Further, the desire was expressed for something like the Kanagawa International Foundation's "Parenting Chart for Foreign Residents" in Kawasaki, which would set out all the various procedures from pregnancy to entry to elementary school. On the topic of medical care and hospitals, we talked about the system of hospital visit interpreters, and the multilingual medical questionnaire. Various opinions were offered, but we hope to advance the discussions further, including the third topic of Disaster Preparedness, and move towards our proposals.

Sunok Kim, Subcommittee Chair



## Anti-Rubella Measures

If a pregnant woman is infected with rubella (german measles), the baby may be born with damage to the eyes, ears, and heart ("congenital rubella syndrome"). The city of Kawasaki is taking anti-rubella measures to prevent such congenital illness.

### (1) Rubella Antibody Test (Free)

**Eligibility:** Residents of Kawasaki who have not previously used the city's anti-rubella program, and fall into any of the following categories:

1. Women who want to become pregnant.
2. The partners of women who want to become pregnant.
3. The partners of pregnant women.

### (2) Rubella Vaccine (¥3,200)

**Eligibility:** People who have taken the test above, and need vaccination.

**Period:** Until 31st of March 2018. Please have the test timely, to ensure that any necessary vaccination can be completed by March 31st.

**Application Method:** Apply directly at any clinic that can carry out the test. When applying, please take an insurance certificate that proves you are a resident of Kawasaki.



Details of the clinics that can carry out the test are available, in Japanese, from the link below, with further information about the program.

<http://www.city.kawasaki.jp/350/page/0000064983.html>

Yuancong Ye

## Must-See Sites of the World: Ukraine's "Tunnel of Love"

When I first came to Japan, I was often asked "Where is Ukraine?" Recently, with the situation in Ukraine often in the news, I get the impression that more people have heard of the country. Even so, I don't think many people know much about my country.

What sort of place is Ukraine? It is in eastern Europe, with Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Romania, and Moldova to its West, and the Russian Federation to the East. It is on the Black Sea, and is well known as a country rich of crops. There are no direct flights from Japan to Ukraine, so, including transit, it takes at least about 16 hours.



In Ukraine, it is often said that "love saves the world", and the people cherish love. Here, I would like to introduce the famous "Tunnel of Love" in Ukraine. This is a very romantic tunnel in the Rivne region, entirely enclosed in living plants. The tunnel is about 3 km long, and two or three times a day a train carrying timber passes through. There is a legend that if you pass through this tunnel, your wishes will come true, and it is very popular with young people and lovers. Further, it is said that if a single person goes through the tunnel, they will find a partner without fail. No matter the season, it is always a beautiful, enchanted tunnel. If you have the chance, be sure to visit!



Oksana Bartkova

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