

# The Kawasaki City Representative Assembly for Foreign Residents Newsletter No. 61



Colors, Future!

いろいろって、未来。

川崎市

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## Recent Events

The Representative Assembly does a lot of activities in addition to its eight regular meetings each year. We also participate in a variety of events to gather awareness for the Assembly, contribute to the city's aim of building a multicultural society and have closer interaction with many of the residents of Kawasaki.

This year, we once again attended the International Festival in Kawasaki, Multicultural Festa Saiwai, and the Kawasaki Citizens' Festival.

### 《International Festival in Kawasaki》

This event was held on Sunday July 2<sup>nd</sup> 2017, at the Kawasaki International Center. This year, 15,400 people attended.



- Through a quiz about Kawasaki city and its foreign residents, drawing national flags, and doing puzzles, we were able to both introduce people to the Assembly and talk to many residents.

## 《Multicultural Festa Saiwai》

This event was held on Saturday September 9<sup>th</sup> 2017, at Saiwai Citizens' Hall.



- At this event, we were able to have relaxed conversations with local people about a range of topics.

## 《Kawasaki Citizens' Festival》

The festival was held over three days, from November 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> 2017, and the Representative Assembly participated on the final day, a Sunday.



- We promoted the Representative Assembly in the festival parade, dressing in traditional costume. Many people waved at us from the route, which was really encouraging. At the tent, the now-traditional tasting of teas from around the world was as popular as ever this year.



# The Open Meeting

The 2017 Open Meeting was held at Kawasaki International Center from 2 pm to 5 pm on Sunday November 19<sup>th</sup>. This year, around 100 people attended.

As this is the second year of the 11th term and the representatives are preparing their proposals for the city, we introduced the current state of these proposals at the open meeting, and asked the attendees for their feedback. First, the proposals were explained to all the attendees. The meeting then was split into two groups for further discussion about the different proposals, before everyone gathered again to share their opinions. One group discussed “Orientation for Foreign Residents”, while the other discussed “Applications for Childcare services” and “Multicultural Coexistence in Evacuation Centers”.

At this meeting, we were able to receive many valuable opinions and important contributions, which we will take into account during the remaining meetings as we improve and finalise our proposals.



Many participants gave their impressions in the questionnaires that were handed out, including the following: “I have personally been in Japan for a long time, so I’ve forgotten a lot about my first days here. This meeting made me think once again about how important such things are.” “I was able to understand what Japanese people want foreigners to do.” “It is very good that there is a place where the city and foreigners can seriously share their views. I look forward to Japanese and foreigners deepening their mutual understanding and creating a Kawasaki that is even easier to live in.” “I was impressed by the way people with foreign citizenship who live in the area were engaged in discussion to make life in Kawasaki better. If we can live in peace regardless of nationality and race, we will have achieved the best we can.”

A party was also held after the meeting. It was only short, but we were able to continue discussions with the participants, chat pleasantly, and spend valuable time together. We would like to thank everyone who participated.

## Must-See Sites of the World: Ladakh in India

I think many people have the strong impression that India is hot, but here I would like to introduce Ladakh, one of the cold places in India.

Ladakh is the name for the eastern part of Jammu and Kashmir, near the borders to China and Pakistan, and Leh, the centre of Ladakh, is about an hour from Delhi by plane. It is a region at an elevation of 3,500 m, where the Indus river brings fertility to dark brown earth subjected to violent cold and dryness, sandwiched between the Himalayan and Karakoram mountain ranges, and it makes up more than half of the eastern region of Kashmir. It has a dry climate with little rain, only an eighth compared to the amount of rain in Delhi. In summer, the temperature sometimes exceeds 30°C, but in winter it can reach extremes of below -20°C. Summer lasts from June to September, and spring and autumn are extremely short, with the rest of the year taken up by a long winter.

In the past, the region was the independent Buddhist kingdom of Ladakh, but in the 19th century it was merged with the princely state of Kashmir. Ladakh, being part of the Tibetan cultural sphere, is often called "Little Tibet", and is famous as one centre of Tibetan Buddhism.

In Ladakh, the main type of food is Tibetan cuisine. Tibetan dishes such as thukpa, which is like ramen, thantuk (wantan men), and mog mog (gyoza) have a clean taste that is easy for Japanese people to enjoy. Indian cuisine is also popular, and vegetable curry and chapatis are often eaten. In large towns, or towns with many Muslim residents, you can also eat dishes made with chicken or mutton.



Friends of mine who have visited Ladakh have told me once that it was a life-changing experience to be so close to such awe-inspiring natural beauty. It's a very long way so it's natural to be nervous, but I would encourage you to visit once, and reset your own life.

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