

The Kawasaki City Representative Assembly for Foreign Residents Newsletter No. 64



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>

<International Festival in Kawasaki>

The "2018 International Festival in Kawasaki" took place on July 8th (Sun) in Kawasaki International Center. This year around 16,000 visitors came to the festival.

On the day of the festival we did not only raise awareness for the Assembly, but we were also able to interact with many people by doing a quiz, painting flags and making fish figures out of ribbon.



« Impression of Assembly members »

I participated for the first time, but it was a very friendly atmosphere and I felt nostalgic. There were people from many countries around the world and thanks to the various food, folk craft, dance and musical instrument performance the event was very exciting.

I was surprised by the large number of visitors. And I think it was a truly big event, as the Mayor of Kawasaki and Officials from Embassies came as special guests.

(Kyawt Kyawt Khine)

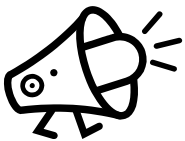
《Investigation process report of the 12th Term》

In this term the Assembly has more first-time appointed members than ever before. Through active discussions from a fresh point-of-view we want to work on even better proposals.

First of all, we started this term with group work to exchange opinions among the representatives and share our thoughts about the problems foreign residents are facing. After that each of the representatives gave topics they are especially interested in and we held a study meeting during the summer holidays to discuss about each topic.

In the September meeting we narrowed down the 25 topics given by all representatives to the following 6: 1. Information and Consultation, 2. PR of the Cities' initiatives via companies or Japanese schools, 3. Disaster preparedness information for tourists, 4. Multicultural and international education, 5. Japanese language support for children at school, 6. Employment support. In the October meeting we split these 6 topics into 2 groups to be able to proceed with our investigation and discussion more efficiently, and set up to 2 subcommittees. We want to deepen our discussions in each subcommittee based on the opinions we hope to receive during the Open Meeting in December.

Irwan Sutanto, Chair of the Assembly



Why not attend a meeting?

—Meeting Schedule for FY 2018—

Location: Kawasaki International Center

(10 minutes' walk from Motsumiyoshi Station, Tokyu Toyoko/Meguro Line)

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

Time: From 2pm to 5pm

FY 2018

4th Session 1st Day: January 20th (Sunday) 2nd Day: February 24th (Sunday)

FY 2019

1st Session 1st Day: April 21st (Sunday) 2nd Day: May 19th (Sunday)

2nd Session 1st Day: June 16th (Sunday) 2nd Day: September 8th (Sunday)

3rd Session 1st Day: October 13th (Sunday) 2nd Day: December 8th (Sunday)

4th Session 1st Day: January 19th (Sunday) 2nd Day: February 9th (Sunday)

* * * * *

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!



Did you know about childcare for sick and recovering children?



Childcare for sick and recovering children is a system that can be used temporarily when a child cannot go to its child care facility as usual due to sickness.

- * Childcare for sick children: in case a child cannot go to its usual daycare facility due to sickness.
- * Childcare for recovering children: in case the child is already recovering, but cannot yet go to its usual daycare facility

【Terms of use】

The child is living in Kawasaki City and goes to a childcare facility

【How to use】

- (1) A registration in advance is necessary. Furthermore, before using the system a reservation by phone is necessary.
 - For registration, download the “registry form”, fill it out and take it to the facility you want to use or send it there via mail.
 <<<http://www.city.kawasaki.jp/450/cmsfiles/contents/0000086/86021/29tourokuhyou.pdf>>>
- (2) A “physician’s instruction form” (shujii shijisho) from your attending doctor is necessary.
- (3) Bring all the medicine that is stated on your “physician’s instruction form”.

【Childcare times】

Weekdays between 8:00 am and 6:00 pm (On Saturdays, Sundays, National Holidays and Year end/New Year Holidays facilities are closed)

【Fee】

- 2,900 Yen per day (including lunch and afternoon snack)
- Municipal tax-exempt household: 1,000 Yen (The “Tax exemption certificate” is necessary)
- Households receiving Public Assistance: 400 Yen (The “Public Assistance recipient certificate” is necessary)

【Please note】

- (1) If your child is evidently in bad physical condition the childcare facility may not be able to accept your child.
- (2) The childcare facility may ask you to pick up your child earlier than planned if his/her condition worsens.
- (3) In case of emergency medical treatment may be started by “post consent” (A separate payment will be necessary)
- (4) If the childcare facility is fully booked, you may not be able to use it.

<<Available Facilities>>

| Name of facility | Available system | Contact |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Angel Kawasaki | Childcare for sick children | 044-201-6937 |
| Angel Nakahara | | 044-872-9137 |
| Angel Miyamae | | 044-789-9117 |
| Angel Asao | | 044-455-5473 |
| Angel Saiwai | Childcare for recovering children | 044-555-6741 |
| Angel Takatsu | | 044-833-8872 |
| Angel Tama | | 044-922-8724 |

【Contact】

Please directly contact the facility you would like to use.

(Jairo Lopez)

My experience in Japan



When I first came to Japan as a student, I was not yet thinking about my career. Neither did I know anything about the rules of society and the strict job hunting process (known as “*shūkatsu*”). My first job hunting activity was attending a career event in which an older student had informed me during my first year of graduate school. As a foreigner who was not a native speaker in Japanese, I was hesitant about job hunting as I had heard about the scary experiences from my *sempai*, but I wanted to live in Japan and told myself to do my best at job hunting.

In the beginning, I went to explanatory events of the companies I was interested in and then took part in career forums from universities and companies. Through such events I was able to grasp the atmosphere of companies and became interested in applying to several of such companies. I made a list of my top 10 preferred companies and began preparing my CV (curriculum vitae). However, since a Japanese CV is completely different from an American CV, I learned about the process of writing an CV from scratch. Also, because a photo is necessary for the CV in Japan, I had to have a professional photographer take my photo.

When I decided which company to apply to, I already knew about the necessity to prepare for the SPI (Synthetic Personality Inventory – a test that is often used as entry exam for companies), job interviews, and my self-introduction. I had been doing part time jobs since I was 16, so this was not my first job hunting experience, nevertheless I knew job hunting outside of the USA would be difficult. I was grateful for the support of my *sempai* and other support groups to make the job-hunting process smoother. There were 4 to 5 interviews for each company, so it took quite a long time, but eventually I was able to get a job at a Japanese company.

In the first year at work it was quite hard to learn about the right usage of *keigo* (polite Japanese), the manners inside companies (the differences between the USA and Japan), hierarchical relations, and customer service. I had a hard time, but if I think about it now, this experience improved my work a lot. Now, I work at another Japanese company, but I belong to an international department. People from a lot of different cultures work there, but we get along well at work because we have adjusted to the Japanese workstyle.

Japanese and American work cultures are quite different. At first, it was very difficult to get used to the strict work culture of Japan from the relaxed culture of the USA, but during the job hunting process, I think it was good that I was able to hone my strengths and learn about Japanese companies.



(Heather Terada)

<Inquiries>

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Looking forward to your opinions or impressions about the Assembly and this newsletter.