

The Kawasaki City Representative Assembly for Foreign Residents Newsletter No. 66



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>

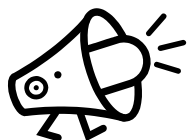
Report to Mayor and Council for FY 2018



On April 25th (Thu) Sutanto Irwan, the chair of the 12th term of the Representative Assembly, Kiyomi Maeda, vice-chair, as well as Ali Fazlat Sharoon, deputy chair of the Information and Public Relation Subcommittee and Batenev Artem, deputy chair of the Education and Employment Subcommittee, submitted the annual report for fiscal year 2018 to Mayor Norihiko Fukuda.

During the report to the Mayor they explained about the topics discussed by the Assembly, the opinions expressed at the meetings, as well as other activities during the fiscal year 2018, like the open forum, based on the yearly Report.

Mayor Fukuda said “The proposals from the Representative Assembly are very helpful and many of them are utilized in the city’s efforts. Like in the past I’m expecting great proposals to arise in the 2 years term.” He further commented “The key phrase of the Representative Assembly is “From request to participation”. I hope that both Japanese citizens and foreign residents, can cooperate as fellows of the same community living in Kawasaki to contribute to the city’s administration.”



Why not attend a meeting?

—Meeting Schedule for FY 2019—

Location: Kawasaki International Center (10 minutes’ walk from Motosumiyoshi Station, Tokyu Toyoko/Meguro Line)

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

Time: From 2pm to 5pm

2 nd Session	1 st Day: June 16 th (Sunday)	2 nd Day: September 8 th (Sunday)
3 rd Session	1 st Day: October 13 th (Sunday)	2 nd Day: December 8 th (Sunday)
4 th Session	1 st Day: January 19 th (Sunday)	2 nd Day: February 9 th (Sunday)

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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: 13th 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 2020 to 31st March 2022 (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 like the city festival.
- Application Method: Send the application form by post, postmarked by 12th November 2019
- People who meet all the following 3 conditions may apply:
 1. Do not hold Japanese citizenship.
 2. At least 18 years old as of 1st April 2020.
 3. Listed on the Kawasaki register of residents for at least one continuous year as of 1st April 2020
- Application forms will be available in all ward offices, citizens' plazas, libraries as well as the International Center from September
- It can also be downloaded from the cities homepage

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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: 10th November 2019 (Sunday), 2 pm to 5 pm (planned)
- Venue: Kawasaki International Center

At this year's open forum we plan to ask for opinions about the currently considered proposal ideas of the 12th term Representatives.

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 report》

◆ Information and Public Relation Subcommittee

As Kyoungsim Choi has resigned, myself, Kiyomi Maeda, is now concurrently serving as Deputy Chair of the Representative Assembly and Chair of the Information and Public Relation Subcommittee. In this Subcommittee we continue to discuss about information for foreign residents as well the support within temporary facilities for people who cannot get home in case of a disaster. We are still at the stage of considering various ideas how to summarize our proposals, but we are hoping to summarize the proposal draft until the Open Forum in November and hear opinions of all the participants during the Open Forum. As Chair of the Subcommittee I want to do my best to summarize everyone's opinions properly.

Kiyomi Maeda, Subcommittee Chair

◆ Education and Employment Subcommittee

As Urakova Mahabat has resigned, myself, Xiangmei Jiang, has become new Chair of the Education and Employment Subcommittee. In this Subcommittee we are currently narrowing down from 3 topics to 2 and focusing our discussion on Japanese language support for children at schools as well as employment and labor issues. We haven't decided yet, what exactly will become our proposal, but until the Open Forum in November we want to summarize our proposal draft and receive opinions from everyone attending. As Subcommittee Chair I want to do my best until the end.

Xiangmei Jiang, Subcommittee Chair

Seasons and climate around the world – Caracas (Venezuela)

Since I have left my hometown of Caracas a long time has passed, but no matter how long time passes, there is one thing I will not forget: that is the weather in Caracas.

Caracas is located in the middle of a valley surrounded by the mountains of northern Venezuela. Even though it is a valley, the altitude of Caracas is still as high as 900 to 1000 meters and the climate is very comfortable with an average temperature of about 22 degrees Celcius.

In Japan it is common to check the weather forecast before going out, however, back when I was living in Caracas, I don't remember ever checking the weather forecast. That's because it was usually sunny in Caracas and even when it rained, it was only for a couple of hours in the afternoon. Japan has four seasons (spring, summer, autumn, winter) and the weather changes depending on the season, but in Caracas the weather never changed much throughout the year.

In Japan there are seasonal specialties and the time goes by while people enjoy wearing different clothes or colors depending on the season. Since the weather is different every day, I have various different enjoyable memories. In Caracas on the other hand, since the weather was the same every day, what I have in my memory seems all like the same single day. The reason I cannot forget about the weather is probably because it is all the same memory.

(Jairo Lopez)

Have you ever used the libraries or citizen's halls and education culture centers of Kawasaki?

《Libraries》

The first library I visited since I became a citizen of Kawasaki was the Saiwai Library. It is large and silent and I still remember the impression of the many books neatly lined up. As "City of reading" Kawasaki puts a lot of effort into reading for children. I also wanted my children to read a lot of books, so I had a lending card made for them as soon as they entered elementary school.

In libraries you can find various kinds of books like foreign language books or dictionaries, picture books, children's books, manga or magazines, you can even borrow CDs, so I think all ages from small children to adults can enjoy libraries. Libraries have readings spaces as well and in Saiwai Library there are also children's seats, which makes it comfortable to use when you bring children along. There also a lot of books in easy Japanese, so foreign residents like ourselves can learn about useful things like Japanese history, culture or manners.

To borrow books or CDs you need a lending card. If you are a citizen of Kawasaki you can have one made in about 5 minutes (you need something to confirm your identity and address like a health insurance card or driver's license to make one).



《Citizen's halls and education culture centers》

In each ward of Kawasaki there are social education facilities, like education culture centers, citizen's halls and annexes, which are the base for citizen's learning and cultural activities. When my children were at elementary school and middle schools, we often went to the education culture center in Kawasaki Ward for events like theater plays. The education culture center did not only hold school events, but also events where local parents could gather or classes, courses and workshops for children.

To use this kind of facility you need to make a personal registration card or a group registration card, but it is easy to understand because there are pamphlets showing how to use the facilities and other important points. When you register you will be able to book several public facilities around the city through the "Fureai (Contact) net". We hope to contribute to multicultural understanding by using facilities like citizen's halls in our neighborhood.

(Kyawt Kyawt Khine)

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

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