

The Kawasaki City Representative Assembly for



Foreign Residents Newsletter No. 73

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Colors, Future!

いろいろって、未来。

川崎市

(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>

Representative Assembly for Foreign Residents 13th Term 〈Proposals〉

After two years of investigation and discussion, the Representative Assembly submits those issues that are considered particularly important as “Proposals” to the city of Kawasaki. We, the 13th term of the Assembly, have summarized the following three requests as our proposals. These proposals will be presented to the mayor of Kawasaki in April, together with our annual report.

【1】 In order to help foreign residents whose first language is not Japanese to complete paperwork related to childcare, make efforts to provide complete multilingual support

1: Make use of the multilingual guide produced by the Assembly for filling out the forms “Kyoiku / hoiku kyufu nintei henko shinsesho” (application for authorization for, or change of, benefits for childcare or education) and “Hoikusho to riyo henko moshikomisho ken jido daicho” (application to enter, or change, daycare facility and child registry)

【2】 Support foreign residents to live confidently as independent citizens of the city.

(Re-proposed from 2017 Proposals)

1: Hold orientation sessions, primarily for foreign residents who have newly moved to Kawasaki, at which governmental systems and information, rules and manners for daily life, other useful information, and the attractions of Kawasaki are explained.

【3】 In order to improve support for foreign residents and multicultural life, we propose that the city promote the creation of local hubs to act as intermediates in linking residents both to the city government and to each other.

(Re-proposed from 2015 Proposals)

1: Establish “Multicultural Lounges” (tentative name) within the city.

* The FY 2021 Annual Report of the Representative Assembly for Foreign Residents (in Japanese) includes more detail on the contents of the proposals.
* The Annual Report is available at meetings of the Representative Assembly, and can be read at ward offices, civic halls, and libraries. It is also available for download from the city's webpage.
<http://www.city.kawasaki.jp/250/page/0000042762.html>



A Retrospective from the Chair of the Assembly Looking back on the 13th Term

The 13th term of the Assembly, from start to finish, was held during the COVID crisis. So, when the ordinary Assembly meetings could not be held, naturally the yearly Open Meetings, important for exchanging opinions with the public, also could not be held, and the Assembly was not able to attend any of various other events.

While our usual activities were, unfortunately, limited, even in this difficult situation we the members of the 13th Assembly were able to make use of limited resources and continue working actively to promote the further development of a multicultural society and submit our Proposals to Kawasaki City.

For example, the 13th Assembly experimented for the first time with holding meetings online. Also, instead of the Open Meetings which we could not hold, we invited experts to give their opinions to help us make our proposals.

The success of the 13th term was made possible through the support and cooperation of a great many people, from the secretariat through all those connected to our work, including the professors who gave us the benefit of their advice, the people at the Kawasaki International Center, the people who came to observe our sessions over the two years despite the COVID situation, and everyone who took an interest in what we do. I'd like to express my sincerest thanks to all of you.

I look forward to your continued understanding and support of the Assembly as we work towards the further development of the multicultural society growing here in Kawasaki City.

Perera Lahiru Sanketha, Chair of the 13 Term



* Masks were removed only for the photograph

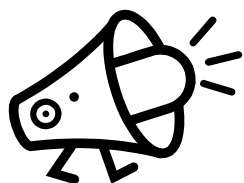
◆Editorial Afterward◇

When I first learned about the Assembly I was, to put it simply, both surprised and inspired. Before I knew about the Assembly I was not aware that Kawasaki City was making such an effort to improve things that caused problems or concerns for the foreign residents. On top of that, it is wonderful that the City cooperates with its foreign residents to solve these problems. Of course I wanted to join the Assembly and work with the City on these things.

When I first joined the Assembly I was struck by how many different countries the members came from; it is a truly international group. I was worried whether I would be able to make a contribution to their work, but I continued to do my best.

When I look back on my activities with the Assembly, I notice how many things I learned here. For example, how complex the administrative systems are, and how many efforts are already being made to improve things. Of course, any kind of change takes time, as well as a lot of effort. However, if we work together and move forward little by little, the future holds limitless possibilities for us.

Sara Deena Scarf, head of the Newsletter committee



Why not attend a meeting?

—1st Day of the 1st Session of the 14th Term—

Date & Time: April 17th, 2022 (Sun) From 2pm to 5pm

Location: Kawasaki International Center (10 minutes' walk from Motosumiyoshi Station on the Tokyu Toyoko and Meguro Lines)

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

Schedule for the 2022 Assembly: <https://www.city.kawasaki.jp/250/page/0000040963.html>

Anyone may come to listen to the discussions of the Assembly. Come and see the Assembly at work!

<Inquiries>

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

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