

# The Kawasaki City Representative Assembly for Foreign Residents Newsletter No. 76



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/60-7-2-0-0-0-0-0-0-0.html>

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

## 〈Participation in the Multicultural Festa Saiwai〉

On Saturday, February 18, members of the Representative Assembly participated in the “Multicultural Festa Saiwai” held at the Saiwai Civic Center. On the day of the event, representatives were put in charge of the multicultural café space in the lobby. A variety of teas were served from around the world, including corn tea, citron tea, honey black tea, yerba mate tea, jasmine tea, sugar beet tea, and pu'er tea, and there were many chances to interact with participants. The weather was very beautiful on the day of the event, and many people attended and brought their families. The decorations at the venue, including balloon art and flags of all nations, were very festive. In between, we also enjoyed Zumba and calligraphy workshops, as well as performances in the main hall!



It has been disappointing that many events have not been held for the past two years, due to the coronavirus pandemic. However, it is good to see that events are gradually on the rise again, such as the Kawasaki Citizens' Festival followed by the Multicultural Festa Saiwai. It is valuable being able to meet and talk with people in person, even if it is through a mask.

As a Representative Assembly, we want to continue to actively participate in various events. We look forward to talking with everyone when we meet you at these events.

# 《14th Term Subcommittee Progress Reports》

## ▶ Safe Living Subcommittee

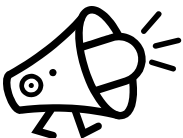
The Safe Living Subcommittee deliberated on the postpartum support system on the first day of its fourth session. During the deliberation, opinions were expressed such as: “Is the postpartum support system of Kawasaki City well known not only to foreigners but also to Japanese people?” “The process of choosing a hospital, the maternal and child health handbook, and other matters from the time a baby is born may be common knowledge for Japanese people, but many foreigners may not know about them.” Also, “I don’t know where to get information in the first place.” In putting together our recommendations, we hope to contribute to the creation of a city that is easy for everyone to live in, while keeping in mind that we are first and foremost “representatives of all foreign residents of Kawasaki City.”

Subcommittee Chair, HRISTOVA Gabriela

## ▶ Information and Society Subcommittee

The Information and Society Subcommittee discussed information on the first day of its fourth session. The deliberations began with a review of the current status of the welcome set distributed at the ward office and other public offices, including its contents and distribution status. Then the committee expressed opinions such as: “There are welcome sets and QR translators and the information already provided is quite complete.” “The issue is how to deliver information to those who really need it.” “For that reason, it is important to make the One-Stop Center better known.” “Representatives themselves can transmit and spread information via SNS.” Also, “It is important to create routes to deliver information.”

Subcommittee Chair, ITO Yurika Karen



## Why not attend a meeting?

— Meeting Schedule for FY 2023 —

Location: The location will vary depending on the meeting schedule. Please check the website for details.

<https://www.city.kawasaki.jp/250/page/0000040963.html>

Time: From 2pm to 5pm

1 <sup>st</sup> Session	1 <sup>st</sup> Day	April 23, 2023 (Sunday)
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Day	May 21, 2023 (Sunday)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Session	1 <sup>st</sup> Day	June 18, 2023 (Sunday)
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Day	September 10, 2023 (Sunday)

3 <sup>rd</sup> Session	1 <sup>st</sup> Day	October 15, 2023 (Sunday)
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Day	December 10, 2023 (Sunday)
4 <sup>th</sup> Session	1 <sup>st</sup> Day	January 14, 2024 (Sunday)
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Day	February 4, 2023 (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!

# Open Meeting Held

The Open Meeting for 2022 was held on Sunday, December 11, at the Nakahara Civic Center. This was the first open meeting in three years, as it could not be held last year and the year before due to the novel coronavirus infection. In all, about 60 people attended this year's meeting, which was held from 2:00 to 5:00 pm.

At this open meeting, the participants were divided into two breakout sessions to exchange opinions on the six deliberated themes of the 14th term, and to receive the free opinion of participants. After the breakout sessions, the content of the breakout sessions was shared in a plenary session, which concluded with comments from KASHIWAZAKI Chikako, a professor at Keio University, and KADO Miyuki, a visiting researcher at the Institute of Human Sciences, Toyo University, who were invited to serve as commentators at the open meeting.



In the questionnaire, impressions were shared such as: "It was a very valuable experience for me because there were many things that I cannot see in my daily life as a Japanese person and that I cannot know unless I am made aware of them." "I learned a lot by listening to the opinions and questions actively expressed not only by the representatives but also by the participants." "I have been living in Kawasaki City for a year, but I didn't know much information about Kawasaki City, so I had a chance to learn about the issues and information of Kawasaki City by attending this subcommittee." "I think the Foreign Citizens Representative Assembly is a wonderful activity. It would be good if there were more opportunities for foreign and Japanese citizens to freely talk and deepen mutual understanding." Also, "I came to know about this conference because of my work, but I think most Japanese are unaware of the existence of such a conference. I think it would be a good idea to publicize this conference so that more Kawasaki citizens will be interested in it in the future."

After the meeting, a short social event was also held. Although there was no food or drink due to the coronavirus pandemic, many people attended and had a very enjoyable and meaningful time.

We will surely make use of the valuable opinions and advice we received this time in our future deliberations. Thank you very much to everyone who participated.





LIU CHEN (China)

### 《New Representative Introduction》

- ▶ I am very happy to be selected as a representative. I would like to discuss topics of interest to foreign residents at the assembly, and make a contribution toward community development.



## Great Things Felt from Life in Kawasaki City

Our rambunctious son has loved service vehicles since he was around two years old. One day, when we learned that a garbage truck leaves every morning from a living environment business near our house, my son and I decided to wait for it to come out.

A little after 8:30 in the morning, my son enthusiastically waved his hands at the garbage trucks as they drove out one after another. The staff of each of the garbage trucks responded by waving back with pleasant smiles. My son was so excited to see that the vehicles he admired were signaling to him. After that, waiting for the garbage trucks to come out became a regular part of our weekend routine for a while. Then I noticed that not only the garbage trucks, but also bus drivers and train drivers would sometimes respond to us by honking their horns.



In Taiwan, where I come from, with its dense population and heavy traffic, it is hard to imagine such a scene because it is all one can do just to drive safely. It was wonderful to experience receiving this “shout out” to the little children and their parents.

YANG Tzu Yi

For me, the best thing about Kawasaki City is that it is safe. Where I live, there is a park near the elementary school where children play after classes, and on weekends from morning to evening. My children often play with their friends. For me, it is very interesting to see so many children enjoying their time without their parents being at the park. In Mexico, where I come from, there are very few parks where children can play. Also, you don't see children playing in situations where their parents are not watching nearby. Parents and children do not feel safe because there are many possibilities, such as a suspicious person coming or being involved in a traffic accident.



So, for me it is very precious that my children can play safely in the park. I think that foreign citizens are fortunate to be able to live in Kawasaki City with peace of mind!

MAY Azael

### <Inquiries>

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