

The Kawasaki City Representative Assembly for Foreign Residents Newsletter No. 77



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>

Report to the Mayor and City Council for FY2022

On Friday, April 21, PERERA Lahiru Sanketha, Chairperson of the 14th Representative Assembly, LI Huanhuan, Deputy Chair, HRISTOVA Gabriela, Chair of the Safe Living Subcommittee, and ITO Yurika Karen, Chair of the Information and Society Subcommittee, presented the Mayor's Report for fiscal year 2022 to Mayor Norihiko Fukuda.

In the Mayor's Report, based on the annual report, they reported on the topics discussed by the Representative Assembly in FY2022, opinions expressed at the meetings, and activities undertaken.

Mayor Fukuda commented, "I have sincere respect and appreciation for the various activities that the Assembly have been involved in, not only in deliberations but also in participating in events such as the Citizens' Festival, even though the coronavirus has not yet been fully contained. In the past, we have established a good relationship in which your proposals have led to city policies, such as the multilingualization of childcare application forms, and I anticipate your activities again this term. I look forward to next year's proposals."

In addition, on Thursday, July 27, PERERA Lahiru Sanketha, Chairperson of the Assembly, and LI Huanhuan, Deputy Chair of the Assembly, were invited as witnesses to the City Council's Education Committee, where they reported on their activities for FY2022.



► The annual report is also available here:

<https://www.city.kawasaki.jp/250/page/0000042762.html>

Call for Representatives for the 15th Term

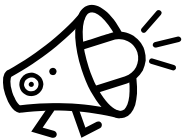
Kawasaki City established the Representative Assembly for Foreign Residents by city ordinance in 1996 as a means for foreign residents to participate in the government of the city. The Assembly decide on their own topics, conduct surveys and deliberations on issues that foreign residents are feeling and facing in their daily lives, and make proposals to the mayor on the results.

- Term of Office: April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2026 (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: Mail the application form, postmarked by November 21, 2023 (Tues)
- People who meet all the following 3 conditions may apply:
 1. Do not hold Japanese citizenship.
 2. Are at least 18 years of age as of April 1, 2024.
 3. Listed on the Kawasaki register of residents for at least one continuous year as of April 1, 2024
- Application forms will be available from September in all ward offices, citizens' plazas, libraries as well as the International Center.
- It can also be downloaded from the city's homepage.

【Inquiries】

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Why not attend a meeting?

— Meeting Schedule for FY 2023 —

Time: From 2pm to 5pm

		Date	Location
2 nd Session	2 nd Day	September 10, 2023 (Sunday)	Kawasaki International Center
3 rd Session	1 st Day	October 15, 2023 (Sunday)	Nakahara Community Center
	2 nd Day	December 10, 2023 (Sunday)	Nakahara Community Center
4 th Session	1 st Day	January 14, 2024 (Sunday)	Kawasaki International Center
	2 nd Day	February 4, 2024 (Sunday)	Kawasaki International Center

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!

《14th Term Subcommittee Progress Reports》

▶ Safe Living Subcommittee

The Safe Living Subcommittee narrowed down the list of candidate proposals at the first day of its second session. The Safe Living Subcommittee actively exchanged opinions on each topic and, after deliberations, decided on “postpartum support system” as the topic for the proposal.

Future tasks include confirming the rules for publication in the Maternal and Child Health Handbook and the Child Rearing Guidebook, as well as research on parenting classes and the Kawasaki Child Rearing App, in order to narrow down the direction of our proposal.

Subcommittee Chair, HRISTOVA Gabriela

▶ Information and Society Subcommittee

The Information and Society Subcommittee narrowed down the list of candidate proposals at the first day of its second session. So far, we have deliberated on four topics, and out of the many opinions received, we decided to compile a proposal on the “long-term care insurance system,” which is an important topic not only for foreigners but also for Japanese people.

We will work together as one to sort out the current situation and issues and make a proposal that is meaningful to the citizens of Kawasaki and those involved in nursing care.

Subcommittee Chair, ITO Yurika Karen

☆ Open Meeting Notice ☆

Open Meetings are intended to let as many people as possible know about the Representative Assembly and to receive opinions and questions from a wide range of participants. Anyone can participate. For those who are not fluent in Japanese, the representatives will provide interpretation.

- DATE: November 19, 2023 (Sunday), 2pm to 5pm (planned)
- LOCATION: Nakahara Community Center



- ★ At this year’s open meeting, we will be asking for your opinions about the proposal ideas being considered by the representatives of the 14th term.
- ☆ People considering applying to be representatives are especially welcome!

◆◆◆ Traditional Fall Festivals Around the World ◆◆◆

▷ Thailand's "Vegetarian Festival"

In Japan, October is known as "autumn of appetite," but in Thailand, there is a nine-day meat-free festival around the middle of October (October 14-23 this year). The festival was started by an overseas Chinese merchant living in Phuket, but interestingly, this festival is not held in mainland China. It is said to have originated from a legend that when many people died of an epidemic in the past, they prayed to the gods and purified themselves, without killing any animals.

During the festival period, especially in Phuket, you will often see flags with the word "sai" written in red letters on a yellow background. Food products with this symbol on them are also sold at convenience stores. In Thai, it is called "Kin Jae" (eat vegetables), but what is not allowed is not only meat, but also eggs, milk, yogurt, and vegetables with strong smells (garlic, green onions, onions, chives, etc.). Nam pla, a popular Thai condiment, is also not allowed.

One of the highlights of the festival is the parade, in which participants march about with cutlery and iron skewers sticking through their cheeks and tongues. It is a painful sight to see, but it is said that by hurting themselves, they are trying to get closer to God. If you have an opportunity, why not experience this festival overflowing with people's faith and energy?



NODA Yuwaree

▷ Mexico's "Day of the Dead"

Mexico has a traditional festival called "Dia de Muertos (Day of the Dead)," which runs from October 31 to November 2. It was the inspiration for the 2017 movie "Remember Me." This festival is a time to return to one's hometown and remember the deceased with one's family. It is similar to Obon in Japan, but unlike Obon, it is wholly cheerful and fun.



On the "Day of the Dead," an altar called "ofrenda" is set up in the house, where photos of the deceased are placed along with offerings of food and drink that the deceased loved during their lifetime, "Pan de Muerto (day of the dead bread)" which is only eaten at this time of year, candles, and so forth. Other common decorations in the Ofrenda include chocolates and candies in the shape of skulls, and semper scutellum (senju chrysanthemum flowers; marigolds). This is influenced by the Aztec civilization, but the "Day of the Dead" is the result of a mixture of Catholic influences after the Spanish invasion, and indigenous Mexican beliefs.

MAY Azael

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