

The Kawasaki City Representative Assembly for Foreign Residents Newsletter No. 78



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>

Participation in the International Festival in Kawasaki

Members of the Representative Assembly for Foreign Residents participated in the International Festival in Kawasaki on Sunday, July 9. The International Festival, held for the first time in four years, involved about 80 organizations and 25 countries and regions, and attracted many visitors on the day of the event with a variety of activities including stage, exhibitions, exchange experiences, products, and a consultation corner. The Representative Assembly promoted their activities at the activity exhibition corner and interacted with participants in a quiz competition from the reception room stage.



Participation in the Kawasaki Citizens' Festival

Members of the Representative Assembly for Foreign Residents participated in the third day of the 44th Kawasaki Citizens' Festival held from November 3rd (Fri., national holiday) to 5th (Sun.). This year, approximately 540,000 people participated in the three-day festival, and the lively atmosphere experienced prior to coronavirus returned, making it a very exciting Citizens' Festival. The Representative Assembly was located inside a tent within Fujitsu Stadium, where they deepened interaction with participants through the customary quiz and flag drawing, and also promoted the Representative Assembly by handing out flyers and balloons.



Open Meeting Held

The Open Meeting for 2023 was held on Sunday, November 19, at the Nakahara Civic Center. In all, about 60 people attended the meeting, which ran from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

At this open meeting, the participants were divided into two breakout sessions to explain the three (draft) proposals for the 14th term, namely a “Postpartum Support System,” “Nursing Care Support System,” and “Japanese Language Study,” and to receive feedback from the participants. After the breakout sessions, the content of the breakout sessions was shared in a plenary session, and comments were given by invited commentators, IGARASHI Yukari, Professor at St. Luke’s International University, and KADO Miyuki, Manager of the Multicultural Society Division for the Yokohama Association for International Communication and Exchanges.



In the questionnaire, impressions were shared such as: “It was very informative to hear the positive opinions of foreign residents.” “There is a lot of information available, but it is often not well known, so I think the issue is how to expand and communicate it.” “This was my first time attending such a meeting, and it was interesting to see the lively exchange of opinions. I would be happy to hear if opinions of those who have experienced childbirth, those who have family members who have given birth, those who support them, and various other opinions were to be included in the proposals.” “I am very glad that I was able to learn about the activities of the Representative Assembly for Foreign Residents. I feel encouraged by your activities. Thank you very much.” Also, “I would like to use this time as an opportunity to interact with people in the community, including foreigners!”

After the meeting, we also held a social event, albeit a short one. Many people participated, and we 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, and we hope to compile a solid set of proposals in the remaining meetings. Thank you very much to everyone who participated.



Valentine's Day Around the World



Do you all know what day February 14 is? That's right, it's Valentine's Day! In Japan, it's known as the day when women give chocolates to men, but how to celebrate and spend Valentine's Day varies from country to country. What kind of Valentine's Day culture would you see around the world? In this issue, Assembly representatives introduce Valentine's Day in their own country.



▷ UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Valentine's Day in the United States is not a day for women to give chocolate to men. It's a day for men to express their feelings to their significant others (girlfriends and spouses). Many men give romantic or funny cards, stuffed bears, bouquets of flowers, and even jewelry. The couple have dinner at a fancy restaurant, or even a candlelit meal at home, sometimes cooked by the man himself.

In the United States, Valentine's Day is also the day most often chosen to propose marriage. Some men even send a dozen (12) roses to the lady's workplace on Valentine's Day, so colleagues can know she is loved. This all may sound like something out of a romance movie, but it's how Americans celebrate Valentine's Day.

One recent funny trend: if one feels betrayed or disappointed by a man or boyfriend, on Valentine's Day, some zoos allow the lady to name a cockroach after him for a small donation.

So, the important lesson all men are trained to learn early in life: don't forget about your important lady on this special day!

LAVERMAN Kevin

▷ THAILAND

Valentine's Day is an important day for Thai couples. However, unlike in Japan, it is the men who give the gifts. The most common gift is a bouquet of flowers, but the most popular gift is the red rose, a symbol of love. There is a famous 24-hour fresh flower wholesale market (Pak Khlong Talat) in Bangkok, and the period before Valentine's Day is the busiest time of the year. Every year, news is broadcast about the skyrocketing price of red roses.

Valentine's Day is an important day not only for adults but also for students. It is customary for students to put a heart-shaped sticker on the uniform of the person they love. The most popular students in the class are covered with so many colorful heart stickers on their white uniforms that there is sometimes no space left.

In Japan, there is a custom called "giri-choko," in which chocolate is given to men as a token of appreciation, but in Thailand, there is no such custom. February 14 is a special "day of love" for Thai people, and is said to be the day when the most couples get married. Although Valentine's Day is a custom from the West, it is a very important day for Thais to express their passion for the other.

NODA Yuwaree

▷ MEXICO

In Mexico, Valentine's Day is known as the "Day of Love and Friendship." One of the most notable aspects of Valentine's Day in Mexico is its emphasis not only on romantic love, but also on friendship and love among family members. Exchanging gifts and tokens of appreciation with friends and family on Valentine's Day is common and is usually celebrated beyond romantic relationships. This culture of Valentine's Day reflects the Mexican culture's emphasis on the importance of close relationships and family ties.

Red and pink decorations, hearts, and flowers are some of the visual elements that adorn Valentine's Day in Mexico. Streets, stores, and homes are decorated with symbols of love. Roses, in particular, are the symbolic gift of Valentine's Day, and florists get very busy before Valentine's Day, with red roses representing passionate love and pink roses representing admiration and gratitude.

Mexican cuisine also plays an important role in Valentine's Day celebrations. During a special, romantic dinner at a restaurant, couples enjoy traditional dishes such as moles and tamales to celebrate their love. Meanwhile, chocolates and "conchas," heart-shaped sweet breads, are traditional treats exchanged among friends and family. The exchange of chocolates and conchas adds a sweet and delicious essence to the Valentine's Day celebration.

MAY Azael

Where to study Japanese in Kawasaki City

In Kawasaki City, you can study Japanese language necessary for everyday life at places such as Fureaikan, Kyoiku Bunka Kaikan, Shiminkan, and Kawasaki International Center. Local residents serve as volunteer Japanese language instructors to help foreigners learn Japanese. Although not as extensive as specialized Japanese language schools, these programs are not only a place to study Japanese, but also a place where you can enjoy interacting with people from the local community. Why don't you come and talk about Japanese language and life in Japan with people from various countries?



- ▶ List of each Japanese language class offered and contact information (English version also available)

<https://www.city.kawasaki.jp/880/page/0000042877.html>

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