



Colors, Future!

いろいろって、未来。

川崎市

# The Kawasaki City Representative Assembly for Foreign Residents Newsletter No. 81

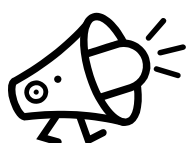
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(Japanese) <http://www.city.kawasaki.jp/shisei/category/60-7-2-0-0-0-0-0-0.html>

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

## Participation in the 2024 International Festival in Kawasaki

Members of the Representative Assembly for Foreign Residents participated in the “2024 International Festival in Kawasaki” on Sunday, November 17. The International Festival used to be held in July, but this year for the first time it was held in November. On the day of the festival, 82 organizations participated from 27 different countries and regions. Activity included stage, exhibitions, exchange experiences, products, consultation corners, and other events, attracting around 8,000 visitors. The Representative Assembly promoted their activities at the activity exhibition corner and interacted with participants through a quiz competition from the reception room stage.



## Why not attend a meeting?

— Meeting Schedule for FY 2024 —

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

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

Time: From 2pm to 5pm

4 <sup>th</sup> Session	1 <sup>st</sup> Day	January 19, 2025 (Sunday)
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Day	February 16, 2025 (Sunday)

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!

# 《Report from 15th Term Deliberations》

The 15th Representative Assembly, which started in April, has completed six regular meetings at the time of the publishing of this Newsletter No. 81 in January. In the 15th term, after group discussions among the representatives to share ideas, a list of potential topics for deliberation was compiled. In September, on the second day of the second session, 6 topics for deliberation were selected from among 24 different possibilities. The group will now be divided into two subcommittees to conduct research and deliberation.

## ► Multicultural Society Subcommittee

My name is ADIDAYA Yoza, and I am the new chairperson of the Multicultural Society Subcommittee. The Multicultural Society Subcommittee will handle three themes for deliberation: “Information Dissemination and Awareness,” “Child-rearing and Education,” and “Separate Surnames for Married Couples.” On the second day of the third session held in November, we discussed “Information Dissemination and Awareness.” The discussion focused on two main issues: improvement of the welcome set and guidebooks distributed to foreign residents when they move into the city, and efforts needed to ensure that foreign residents understand the information the city provides.

Going forward, the members of the subcommittee will reflect on the various ideas received at the Open Meeting, and engage in active deliberation, in order to make the city’s information dissemination more effective.

Subcommittee Chair, ADIDAYA Yoza



## ► Safe and Secure Living Subcommittee

My name is SHAN Wangshu, and I am the new chairperson of the Safe and Secure Living Subcommittee. The Safe and Secure Living Subcommittee will handle three themes for deliberation: “Disaster Prevention and Disaster Mitigation,” “Formation of Communities of Coexistence,” and “Medical Care.” On the second day of the third session held in November, the committee discussed “Disaster Prevention and Disaster Mitigation.” During the discussion, there were opinions such as: “Even if there is information about disaster prevention and disasters, it is hard to see it unless you are aware of it,” “It is necessary to think about how to devise ways to disseminate information,” and “It would be good to make recommendations in areas where the city has not yet done so, for example through the creation of tools as a Representative Assembly.”

Going forward, we will gather a wide range of information on the three themes of deliberation, understand the actual situation, and then put together effective proposals through an active exchange of opinions. Last year, Kawasaki City celebrated its 100th anniversary as a city. We hope to contribute to the creation of a livable city for everyone, regardless of nationality or region.

Subcommittee Chair, SHAN Wangshu





# Yearend & New Year Around the World



How did you spend your New Year's Day? In Japan, we have an image of spending the New Year's holiday slowly, eating "osechi" (traditional New Year's foods), children receiving New Year's gifts of money, and relatives getting together, but how do people around the world spend the New Year's holiday? In this issue, Assembly Representatives will introduce New Year's in their own countries.

## ▷ KOREA

In Korea, New Year's Day is generally not celebrated on January 1st, but on "Solral," the first day of the lunar calendar. The ceremony at this time is called "Charye" in Korea. On the morning of New Year's Day, a lot of food is laid out on the altar of the ancestors, and the type of food varies from family to family. In my family, my mother always prepares "tteok" (Korean stew containing rice cakes and vegetables), "chijimi" (Korean pancake), and roasted sea bream (fish).

There is also a custom of bowing during the Korean New Year's holiday, which is called "sebae" (bowing for the New Year). This is a traditional greeting given by a younger person to an older person, expressing gratitude for the past and wishes for future good health. For children, however, it may also include the joyful feeling of "I will get a New Year's money gift!"

KIM Sooyeong

## ▷ VIETNAM

The Vietnamese New Year is called "Tết" in Vietnamese. Tết is the most important event of the year for Vietnamese people, and many people who normally work or live far away from home return home for Tết and celebrate it with their families. After New Year's Day, people go to temples and churches to pay their first respects and exchange New Year's greetings with relatives and neighbors.

The most famous traditional dishes of Tết are "bánh chưng" (northern part) and "bánh tét" (central and southern parts), which are "chimaki" (cake wrapped in bamboo leaves) made of pork, mung beans, and glutinous rice. The custom of giving New Year's gifts is also widespread, regardless of age, from bosses to subordinates, from children to retired parents, and so on. Tết is the beginning of the year, and people often laugh, play, and talk because they believe that what they do during that period will be reflected in their lives for the rest of the year.

VU Hong An

## ▷ NEPAL

In Nepal, the first month of the Nepali calendar (Bikram Samvat) is called "Baisak." Baisak 1st is celebrated as the New Year in a grand way throughout Nepal. On this day, people exchange New Year greetings with family and friends and visit temples to offer "puja" (worship and prayer rituals). Traditional fairs, dances, and events are also held in various places during New Year's. The New Year festival in Pokhara is particularly famous and attracts tourists from all over Nepal.

Families prepare sweet dishes as a special New Year's treat. Bhaktapur biscuits in Kathmandu are famous. It is also customary to eat honey first thing in the morning at the beginning of the New Year to prevent illness throughout the year. In Nepal, New Year's is not only a time to welcome the New Year, but also an opportunity to say goodbye to the old year and begin life with renewed hope and enthusiasm.

POKHAREL Narayan



《Useful Information for Foreign Residents》



## 《Kawasaki Disaster Prevention App》

The Kawasaki Disaster Prevention App is one of the official applications of Kawasaki City, and allows users to receive emergency and evacuation information in the event of a disaster via push notifications. On the top screen of the Kawasaki Disaster Prevention App, two icons, “Evacuation Information” and “Disaster Prevention Map,” are prominently displayed. In the “Evacuation Information” section, you can check information on evacuation orders, a list of evacuation centers and evacuation sites, and so forth. In the “Disaster Prevention Map” section, on a map, you can view the status of evacuation orders, evacuation centers, evacuation sites, and disaster prevention facilities, and check hazard maps for flooding and other disasters. The app also provides a variety of other information and functions, such as “weather (meteorology) information.”

The app also allows you to check evacuation facilities and hazard maps, and read the web version of “Disaster Preparedness in Kawasaki,” making it useful not only in times of disaster, but also for daily disaster preparedness. In addition, the app is available in English, Chinese (simplified), Chinese (traditional), and Korean. The app is intuitive to navigate, so anyone can easily use it. Please use the Kawasaki Disaster Prevention App to prepare for disasters.



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## 《Daily Life Orientation Videos》

The “Daily Life Orientation Videos” are a set of short videos created by the Immigration Services Agency to help foreigners living in Japan settle smoothly into Japanese society. They can be viewed on YouTube and the Immigration Service Agency’s website. The short videos explain in an easy-to-understand manner, with the use of many photos and illustrations, specific situations that foreigners often find confusing when living in Japan. The short videos are divided into 15 parts, including traffic rules, daily living rules, medical institutions, emergencies and disasters, health insurance, pension, taxes, and information on consultation services. For example, in the section on emergencies and disasters, the guide includes highly practical information such as evacuation precautions, the importance of stocking up on supplies, and emergency call procedures.

In addition, translated versions in 17 languages are available. This is very helpful for those who are not yet familiar with Japanese, as they can watch them in their native language. The video content is useful not only for newcomers to Japan, but also for those who have already lived in Japan for a long time, so I hope that many people will watch them!

[https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/support/coexistence/04\\_00078.html](https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/support/coexistence/04_00078.html)



YANG Tzu-yi

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