



Colors, Future!

いろいろって、未来。

川崎市

The Kawasaki City Representative Assembly for Foreign Residents Newsletter No. 82

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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 Kawasaki Citizens' Festival

Members of the Representative Assembly for Foreign Residents participated in the first day of the 45th "Kawasaki Citizens' Festival," which took place from December 7th (Saturday) to December 8th (Sunday). The festival is typically held for three days, but this year it occurred over just two days. For the first time, it was held in winter, and several new features were introduced, including a happy hour starting at 5:00 p.m. It was a substantial festival, attracting about 450,000 visitors in those two days.

The Representative Assembly was located inside a tent within Fujitsu Stadium, where they interacted with participants in the customary quiz and flag drawing. They also promoted the Open Meeting and activity of the Representative Assembly by handing out flyers and balloons.



Participation in the Multicultural Festa Saiwai

Members of the Representative Assembly participated in the "Multicultural Festa Saiwai," held at the Saiwai Civic Center on Saturday, February 8. On the day of the event, representatives were in charge of the multicultural café space in the lobby. They served a variety of teas from around the world, including corn tea, honey black tea, yerba mate tea, jasmine tea, chai tea, and rooibos tea, and had a good time interacting with the participants.



Open Meeting Held

The Open Meeting for 2024 was held on Sunday, December 15, at the Nakahara Civic Center. Approximately 70 people attended the meeting, which ran from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

At this open meeting, representatives and participants were organized into six breakout groups to engage in free exchanges of opinions and discussions, centered around the six themes of the 15th term: “Disaster Prevention and Disaster Mitigation,” “Medical Care,” “Child-rearing and Education,” “Information Dissemination and Awareness,” “Formation of Communities of Coexistence,” and “Separate Surnames for Married Couples.” The representatives and participants actively shared their thoughts and participated in discussions within their groups. After the group discussions, each group’s content was shared in a plenary session, followed by comments from TSUCHIDA Kumiko, Associate Professor at Komazawa University, and KATO Emi, Teikyo University Associate Professor, who were invited to serve as commentators at the open meeting.



In the participants’ questionnaires, some responses included: “It was great to hear various opinions. It was a relief to know that others share the same problems I do.” “It was my first time participating and I’m glad for the good discussion.” “This year we were able to talk in small groups, which was great because we were able to discuss many things in depth!” “I learned a lot by listening to everyone’s thoughts and concerns. I was also impressed by how the participants immediately offered advice and solutions to the issues raised during the discussion. Despite being formally titled as ‘assembly’ for foreign resident representatives, I felt that the gathering represents a wonderful multicultural community.” “I think that meetings like this are often facilitated by Japanese personnel, but it’s fantastic that foreigners are taking the initiative in doing so!” and “I hope residents of Kawasaki become more aware of the impactful activities of these incredible individuals.”

After the meeting, a brief social event was held. Many attendees participated, and all had a very enjoyable and meaningful time.

We will surely use the valuable opinions and advice received this time in future discussions, and hope to develop a solid set of proposals in the upcoming meetings. Thank you very much to everyone who participated.

《Report from 15th Term Deliberations》

▶ Multicultural Society Subcommittee

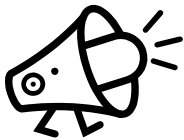
On the first day of the fourth session of the Assembly, the subcommittee discussed “Child-rearing and Education.” During the deliberations, opinions were expressed, such as, “When a foreign couple who could not speak Japanese participated in a parents’ class, they seemed to have difficulty building relationships with others,” and “Some foreign parents are isolated and need support.”

Subcommittee Chair, ADIDAYA Yoza

▶ Safe and Secure Living Subcommittee

On the first day of the fourth session of the Assembly, the subcommittee discussed the “Formation of Communities of Coexistence.” During the discussions, sentiments such as “foreign residents do not understand what a ‘neighborhood association or council’ is” were raised. The members also discussed the unit of “community” and decided from now on to address the issue based on a common understanding of “the familiar area where you live.”

Subcommittee Co-chair, KIM Sooyeong



Why not attend a meeting?

— Meeting Schedule for FY 2025 —

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

1 st Session	1 st Day	April 20, 2025 (Sunday)
	2 nd Day	May 18, 2025 (Sunday)
2 nd Session	1 st Day	June 15, 2025 (Sunday)
	2 nd Day	September 7, 2025 (Sunday)
3 rd Session	1 st Day	October 12, 2025 (Sunday)
	2 nd Day	December 14, 2025 (Sunday)
4 th Session	1 st Day	January 18, 2026 (Sunday)
	2 nd Day	February 8, 2026 (Sunday)

Anyone may come to listen to the discussions of the Assembly, which are conducted in Japanese.

Why don't you come and see the Assembly at work!



Japanese Authors Read Around the World

Do you usually read books? Some Japanese authors are popular worldwide, and their works are read by people around the world. In this issue, we will introduce some of these authors.

▷ KOREA

Many Japanese authors enjoy popularity in Korea, and HIGASHINO Keigo has been one of the most successful and beloved novelists for over a decade. His works deeply depict human dramas, evoking empathy and emotion in readers. *“The Miracles of the Namiya General Store”* has been a bestseller for many years, and *“Journey Under the Midnight Sun”* has been adapted into a drama in Korea. The appeal of Japanese literature has also been widely embraced in Korea.

JEONG Jaehun

▷ TAIWAN

Since the 1990s, many of MURAKAMI Haruki’s works, including *“Norwegian Wood,”* translated by Lai Ming-chu, who studied in Japan, have sparked a Haruki Murakami boom in Taiwan. His influence has resonated not only in the literary world but has also profoundly affected the everyday language of Taiwanese people. This is evident in the newly-coined phrase *“shoukakkou”* (small certain happiness),” which is not originally a Chinese word.

YANG Tzu-yi

▷ VIETNAM

Eight of YOSHIMOTO Banana’s works have been published in Vietnam. Her stories explore sensitive themes for young people, including homosexuality and gender reassignment. Through her writing, we gain insight into Japanese attitudes toward these topics, which are the focus of considerable attention in contemporary society. Many characters in her works are young individuals who have endured physical and emotional trauma, and their journey toward the future despite these struggles resonates deeply with Vietnamese readers.

VU Hong An



When you renew your residence card, don’t forget to renew your My Number Card, too!

The expiration date of the My Number Card is that same as that of the residence card. If you renew your residence card, you must also renew your My Number Card. When renewing your residence card, remember to update your My Number Card at the counter of each ward office in Kawasaki City!



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