



The Kawasaki City Representative Assembly for Foreign Residents Newsletter No. 84

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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 2025 International Festival in Kawasaki

Members of the Representative Assembly for Foreign Residents participated in the International Festival in Kawasaki on Sunday, November 9.

Approximately 80 organizations representing over 20 countries and regions enlivened the event with stage performances, exhibits, cultural exchange

experiences, product displays, and consultation corners, attracting around 4,000 visitors.

The Representative Assembly promoted its activities at the activity exhibition corner and interacted with participants by holding a quiz contest from the reception room stage.



Participation in the Kawasaki Citizens' Festival

Members of the Representative Assembly participated in the first day of the 46th Kawasaki Citizens' Festival, held from Saturday, November 1st through Monday, November 3rd (national holiday).

At a tent inside Fujitsu Stadium, the Representative Assembly deepened engagement with participants through activities such as quizzes on members' home countries, a candy roulette game, balloon distribution, and national flag drawing. They also distributed flyers for the Open Meeting and promoted the Representative Assembly.



Open Meeting Held

The Open Meeting for FY2025 was held on Sunday, November 16, at the Kawasaki International Center. Altogether around 30 people attended the meeting, which ran from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

During this Open Meeting, participants were divided into two breakout sessions. Explanations were given on the three (draft) policy proposals for the 15th term: Child Rearing and Education, Information Dissemination and Awareness, and Disaster Prevention and Preparedness. Participants were invited to share their opinions and feedback.

After the breakout sessions, the content of the breakout sessions was shared in a plenary session, and comments were given by invited commentator, KADO Miyuki, Specially Appointed Associate Professor at Rikkyo University.



In the participants' questionnaires, some responses included: "I was delighted to learn that people from various countries are actively involved in the community. I would like to participate again. Thank you." "This was my first time participating. I heard many valuable opinions. Thank you very much." "It would be good to have more opportunities for exchange and cooperation between the administration and the local community that contribute to multicultural coexistence." "There weren't many materials today, and it was unclear what to discuss." As well as, "I think presenting questions that can be answered by majority vote would make it easier for participants to engage in discussion."

After the meeting, we also held a brief networking social event. Many people participated, and we had a very enjoyable and meaningful time.

We will definitely utilize 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.

Report from 15th Term Deliberations

► Multicultural Society Subcommittee

At this Open Meeting, an important proposal was presented on developing a flowchart on education and daily life support from the elementary school level and up, as part of preparations for future policy consideration. During the meeting, participants engaged in active discussion from multiple perspectives, sharing insights into challenges encountered in real-world settings as well as concrete suggestions to create clearer and more practical support systems. In particular, many opinions were expressed on the design of pathways that provide continuous, sustained support.

In addition, participant feedback highlighted numerous areas for improvement and introduced new perspectives on the initial proposal, making the meeting a very meaningful forum for the exchange of ideas. We plan to utilize the valuable input received toward the implementation of more effective and impactful policy measures.

ADIDAYA Yoza, Subcommittee Chair
(at the time of the Open Meeting)

The Multicultural Society Subcommittee will work to develop more practical proposals for the childcare flowchart, based on specific information and opinions on sharing methods gathered during the Open Meeting.

JEONG Jaehun, Subcommittee Vice Chair
(at the time of the Open Meeting)

► Safe and Secure Living Subcommittee

The Safe and Secure Living Subcommittee has compiled draft proposals for disaster prevention and response, focusing on two key pillars: one for city staff and evacuation shelter operators, and another for foreign residents. We aim to integrate existing initiatives and make them as effective as possible.

We sincerely thank the senior representatives and the general public for the valuable opinions and comments shared at this Open Meeting. We will incorporate this important input to ensure the final draft proposals are truly beneficial for all foreign residents.

SHAN Wangshu, Subcommittee Chair

While we have held numerous discussions in previous meetings, the Open Meeting provided new and previously unconsidered perspectives from the general public, offering valuable insights.

Although our term is nearly complete, we will continue to engage actively in our deliberations and strive to submit concrete and meaningful proposals based on the feedback received.

KIM Sooyeong, Subcommittee Vice Chair

Introduction to Home Country Cultures of the 15th Term Representatives

Nepalese Tradition of Children Caring for Parents

Nepal's family system is a close-knit community rooted in deep emotional bonds. Caring for one's parents is not merely regarded as an obligation, but as an essential part of the country's religious and cultural traditions. Through this tradition, family ties are strengthened, respect for elders is fostered, and a culture of love, compassion, and responsibility is passed down through the generations.

In many households, this role is most commonly assumed by an only child or the eldest son. In Nepal, it is a culturally important value to express gratitude for the love, sacrifice, and care shown by parents throughout their lives, and to support them in their later years.



POKHAREL Narayan

Brazilian Superstitions: Unusual Customs

Brazil has many unique superstitions that are still widely believed today. For example, it is said that if you sweep your feet with a broom while cleaning, you will never get married, and placing slippers upside down will cause your mother to die. Knocking on wood three times to ward off bad luck is also a widely-believed custom.

There is also a belief that placing a broom behind the door will encourage unwanted visitors to leave. Putting a handbag on the floor is thought to lead to loss of money, so people are advised to place it on a table or chair instead.

These superstitions are still cherished within Brazilian culture and continue to influence daily life. Learning about this interesting cultural aspect can help you feel more connected to Brazil.

KAMATA Fatima

Popular Chinese Noodles: Lanzhou Beef Noodles

Lanzhou beef noodles are a traditional noodle dish originating from Lanzhou, Gansu Province, China. The clear beef bone broth is light yet deeply flavorful, with cilantro, garlic chives, radish, and chili oil providing balanced accents. Many specialty shops line the streets, with most opening as early as 5 AM.

The broth prepared first thing in the morning is said to be the most delicious, making it the breakfast staple for Lanzhou residents.

Artisans hand-pull the noodles, offering different choices of thickness and shape. The chewy texture pairs wonderfully with the broth.

Loved enough to draw long lines from the early hours of the day, this dish's simple yet profound flavor is cherished by all generations.

ZHANG Yao

【INQUIRIES】

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We welcome your comments and opinions about the Representative Assembly or this newsletter.