

Kawasaki City Representative Assembly for Foreign Residents Newsletter

Issue No. 39



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Eighth Representative Assembly Convenes

Representatives from 17 countries and regions

Day 1 of the 1st meeting of the Eighth Kawasaki City Representative Assembly for Foreign Residents was held on Sunday, April 25, at the Kawasaki International Center. Deputy mayor Atsushi MIURA presented the new representatives with their commissioning letters, along with words of encouragement.

The Representatives, from 17 countries and regions, introduced themselves to the meeting and explained their ambitions for the Assembly. The representatives then discussed and decided on a method for electing the chairperson and vice-chairperson. Halimah ELOK (Indonesia) and Deke OPANGO (Democratic Republic of Congo) were respectively elected as chairperson and vice-chairperson. Chairperson ELOK stated "I would like to work together with everyone to accomplish our goals, and your support will be greatly appreciated." Many of this term's representatives are new to the Assembly.

We look forward to the activities of the Representative Assembly this term.



Observe an Assembly Meeting!

★Kawasaki City Representative Assembly for Foreign Residents FY2010 Meeting Schedule★

Location: Kawasaki International Center (Closest station: Tokyu Toyoko Line Motosumiyoshi Station)
 Time: 2:00-5:00 PM

First Meeting: Day 1 – Sunday, April 25 Discussion topics: Issuing commissioning letters, electing the chairperson and vice-chairperson, determining the year's agenda, etc.

First Meeting: Day 2 – Sunday, May 16 Discussion Topics: Executive committee appointments, visit to municipal facilities, participation in various events.

Second Meeting: Day 1 – Sunday, June 13 Day 2 – Sunday, July 11

Third Meeting: Day 1 – Sunday, September 26 Day 2 – Sunday, November 7

Fourth Meeting: Day 1 – Sunday, January 23 Day 2 – Sunday, February 20

☆ **Open Forum: Sunday, December 5 Location: Takatsu Civic Hall**

Everyone is welcome to observe the meetings!



Representatives of the Eighth Assembly



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For the next two years, we will work together as representatives of all foreign residents in Kawasaki to study and deliberate on concerning our community. Your support will be greatly appreciated.  
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- (1) Name
- (2) Nationality
- (3) Thoughts on becoming a representative, issues you would like the Assembly to address
- (4) Favorite quotes or sayings



- (1) **HSU, Ke Hsin**
- (2) China
- (3) I would like to help create a local community in which Japanese and foreign residents mutually accept and respect one other.
- (4) Man proposes, God disposes.



- (1) **GENG, Hui**
- (2) China
- (3) I only recently learned that the Kawasaki City Representative Assembly for Foreign Residents had existed for the last 14 years, but Kawasaki is a globally advanced city. I would like to discuss various topics from the perspective of a foreign resident.
- (4) Ten years to sharpen one sword.



- (1) **KORONCZI, Karol**
- (2) Slovakia
- (3) I would like to discuss themes that will contribute to peace and facilitate a harmonious relationship between Japanese and foreign residents. Through various events and cultural exchanges, I would like to narrow the gap in our ways of thinking, and reflect this change in our systems and laws.
- (4) Both sun and rain are needed to make a rainbow.

<Chairperson>



- (1) **ELOK, Halimah**
- (2) Indonesia
- (3) I will put my best efforts into the Assembly for the next 2 years, and would like to ask for your support.
- (4) Terimja Kasih (*Thank you* in Indonesian).

<Vice-Chairperson>



- (1) **OPANGO, Deke**
- (2) Democratic Republic of Congo
- (3) I would like to make Kawasaki a place where it is easy for Japanese and foreign residents to live in harmony.
- (4) When you lose, don't lose the lesson.



- (1) **JUNG, Sojin**
- (2) Korea
- (3) I would like to discuss various topics with Kawasaki residents. I hope to contribute good opinions. Personally, I would like to discuss how overseas students in Japanese universities feel and exchange opinions with them.
- (4) Chance encounters



- (1) **TAKAHASHI, Rosa**
- (2) The Philippines
- (3) I would like to discuss issues faced by foreign workers on the job.
- (4) Persistence makes your dreams come true.

(1) DASHDOOROV, Maralgoo



- (2) Mongolia
- (3) Let's make our Kawasaki a city where Japanese and foreign residents can cooperate even more.
- (4) Treasure every encounter.



- (1) **ADHIKARI, Sudeep**
- (2) Nepal
- (3) I look forward to voicing my opinion as a representative of the foreign residents in Kawasaki. I would like foreign residents who are company employees to discuss their opinions in the Assembly.
- (4) Walk looking upward



- (1) **AN, Yeong Il**
- (2) North Korea
- (3) I would like to help create a discrimination-free, multicultural society for the future generation of Koreans in Japan.
- (4) If you want to be happy, don't depend on others to pay you back for what you did for them. Make it your sole purpose in life to make people happy.



- (1) **WU, Jie**
- (2) Canada
- (3) I would like to work closely with everyone to help make Kawasaki a city that is easy for foreigners to live in.
- (4) Health and happiness



- (1) **THAOWAN, Kittichai**
- (2) Thailand
- (3) I am pleased to have become a representative. I would like to discuss problems I encountered while living in Kawasaki and things that could be improved.
- (4) "Hard work and diligence." If you do your best, you can accomplish anything.



- (1) **LINGMU, Xinqin**
- (2) China
- (3) I am pleased to have become again a representative for the Eighth Assembly. I look forward to getting to know the new members, and working together with everyone. Following the Seventh Assembly, I would like to continue discussions about education.
- (4) Treasure every encounter.



- (1) **CHART, David**
- (2) United Kingdom
- (3) I would like to help create a community with no disparity between Japanese and foreign residents.
- (4) Nothing is obvious.



- (1) **VEMURI, Ruchika**
- (2) India
- (3) I feel a lot of responsibility on being chosen as a representative. With everyone's support, I will do my best to serve the interest of Kawasaki residents.
- (4) There is no alternative to hard work. It takes all sorts to make a world.



- (1) **OIDE, Orietta**
- (2) Chile
- (3) I am slightly worried because all the documents are in Japanese. I would like to discuss problems for foreigners living in Japan, such as stress and education.
- (4) If you think you can, you can.



- (1) **EDMOND, Duncan**
- (2) Australia
- (3) I hope to use my past experience for the Assembly. I want to help the Kawasaki I love become an even easier place to live.
- (4) Don't put off till tomorrow what you can do today!



- (1) **CHEN, Xi**
- (2) China
- (3) With everyone's help, I would like to create a city that is easier to live in. I will do my best to contribute.
- (4) Your dream will come true.



- (1) **NATANIYA, Jinky**
- (2) The Philippines
- (3) I am very honored to have become a representative! In order to establish a truly multicultural society, I would like to discuss how we can create a community with mutual respect for human rights culture.
- (4) Love



- (1) **NAKAMORI, Julia Midori**
- (2) Brazil
- (3) I would like to help make Kawasaki a city that is easier to live in.
- (4) Nature, understanding.



- (1) **WANG, Ping**
- (2) China
- (3) I am pleased to have become a representative and will do my best. In the Assembly, I would like to discuss issues such as how children of foreign residents can learn about their culture of origin.
- (4) Time is money. As the boat draws near the pier, it naturally moves straight ahead.



- (1) **OCAMPOS, Hernán**
- (2) Argentina
- (3) I am delighted to have this opportunity to be a bridge between Japanese society and the foreign residents of Kawasaki. In the Assembly, I would like to discuss solutions to problems that apply not only to myself, but also to many foreigners.
- (4) Perseverance prevails.



- (1) **KIM, Sang Hwa**
- (2) Korea
- (3) I am very honored. I will strive to deepen the mutual understanding between the Japanese and foreigners living in Japan.
- (4) A precipice in front, a wolf behind. A conviction is harder to bend than to carry out.



- (1) **PARK, Chang Ho**
- (2) Korea
- (3) Although this is my first time to work on the administration side, it will be a great learning experience. Your support is greatly appreciated. I would like to discuss issues that concern both Japanese and foreign residents, such as raising children, social welfare, and local government.
- (4) Tradition is not about inheriting the framework, but about inheriting the spirit.



- (1) **MOCHAMAD, Asri**
- (2) Indonesia
- (3) I will do my best to fulfill the expectations of foreign residents living in Kawasaki!
- (4) A representative is the first to bear the citizens' hardships, and the last to be satisfied with the citizens' smiles.



- (1) **YANAGISAWA, Anna**
- (2) Russia
- (3) Although I am very pleased to have become a representative, I feel the responsibility of this role. I would like to discuss education for international understanding and support for raising children.
- (4) Ask, and it shall be given unto you.

FY2009 Activity Report and Proposals Presented to the Mayor and City Assembly

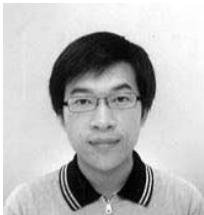


On Tuesday, April 20, Chairperson Yong Jae CHO and Vice-Chairperson Halimah ELOK of the Seventh Representative Assembly presented the FY2009 Annual Report to Mayor Takao ABE and made proposals in four policy areas: high school entry, education on international understanding, the medical system, and responding to increasingly diverse requirements for consultations. In response, Mayor ABE said, "I would like to apply these proposals in order to make life in Kawasaki easier for everyone." The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson were also invited as witnesses to the Citizens' Affairs Standing Committee of the City Assembly on Wednesday, May 26, where they also presented the report. For details about the proposals, refer to the FY2009 Annual Report and Issue No. 38 of this newsletter.



Representatives and Their Multicultural Experiences Volume 4

■ Studying Abroad



Kittichai THAOWAN

Three years ago, I came to Japan as a foreign student immediately after graduating from high school.

Comparing Thai universities to their Japanese counterparts is an advantage, the freedom in Japanese universities. This freedom entails freedom of time, freedom of opinion, and freedom of participation. Freedom of time means that you can decide when you want to do a certain activity. Freedom of opinion means that anyone can give their opinion. Freedom of participation means that you can decide if you want to participate in society or certain activity groups. Because of this freedom, I have had experiences that would not have been possible in Thailand, and I have met many different people. The discussions I had with the people I have met will become useful to me in the future. This is also because of the freedom we enjoy in Japanese universities.

■ Christmas

in the Philippines

Rosa TAKAHASHI



In the Philippines, we start preparing for Christmas in the beginning of September. Christmas is the most anticipated celebration of the year in the Philippines. In addition to Christmas trees and lights, *parols* are a symbol of Christmas in the Philippines. *Parols* are star-shaped Christmas lanterns that are used to decorate homes, schools and streets. At night, children go around the neighborhood singing Christmas carols and receive pocket money. In the Philippines, it is a customary greeting and a sign of respect to take the hand of a senior or superior and place it on your forehead. On Christmas Day, the children greet adults this way before receiving their presents. The Philippines boasts the longest Christmas season in the world. How about spending Christmas in the Philippines?

◆ Notice from the City of Kawasaki ◆



2010 National Census

The census is a survey that investigates the number, age, and so on of everyone living in Japan on October 1st 2010, and foreign residents are also included. However, employees of foreign governments and foreign troops are not covered. From September 23rd, census officers will visit all households, and distribute census forms. Please return your forms by post, using the envelope distributed with them, by October 7th. No stamp is necessary. If you wish, the census officers can also come to collect the form. The information you provide will not be used for any purpose other than generating statistics. Your participation is important to the survey, so we ask you to return the form.

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