

# The Kawasaki City Representative Assembly for Foreign Residents Newsletter

COLORS  
FUTURE!  
ACTIONS  
KAWASAKI 100<sup>th</sup>



Colors, Future!  
いろいろって、未来。  
川崎市

## Kawasaki 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Special Edition

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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>

## 100 Years of Kawasaki City History and Foreign Residents

In 2024, Kawasaki City celebrated its 100th anniversary. Kawasaki has developed as a vibrant and diverse city where many people from Japan and abroad gather and various cultures take root. Foreign residents have also played a major role in this process. In 1996, the Kawasaki City Representative Assembly for Foreign Residents was established by city ordinance to bring to life the voice of foreign residents — indispensable members of the local community — in city government, and to create a society where all live together. The Assembly has been active for 15 terms to date. The Assembly will continue to use the rich differences in nationality, ethnicity, and culture, and work toward the realization of a multicultural society in which all people accept each other and live in harmony.

### 【Representative Assembly Q & A】

#### Q. What is the purpose of the Assembly?

The purpose is to promote the participation of foreign residents in city government and create a society where all can live together.

#### Q. What is the activity of the Assembly?

We discuss problems and issues felt by foreign residents. We then compile our opinions and submit them to the city. In addition, we participate in events such as the Kawasaki Citizens' Festival.

#### Q. Who can be a member (representative) of the Assembly? What is the term of office and number of members?

Assembly members must be foreign residents who are at least 18 years old and have lived in Kawasaki for at least one year. The term of office is two years, and the number of members is limited to 26, who are selected through an open recruitment process.

### 【3 Key Words of the Assembly】

From demands to participation / Individual and Universal / Mutual Understanding and Coexistence

### 【History of the Representative Assembly】

**1994** Case study of the German Representative Assembly for Foreign Residents is introduced at the 7th "New Era of Local Government" Symposium of Municipalities.

Inauguration of the Kawasaki City Representative Assembly of Foreign Residents Research and Study Committee.

**1995** Implementation of the "Representative Assembly of Foreign Residents" model meeting.

**1996** Kawasaki City Representative Assembly of Foreign Residents ordinance enacted.

First Representative Assembly begins activity.

**2024 (Present)** 15th Representative Assembly in action.

**By the 14th term, 58 (135 items) proposals were submitted. The implementation rate of the proposals is 81.5% (as of October 2024)**

### 【Examples of major measures implemented in response to proposals by the Assembly】

**1996** Established foreign resident information corner

**2000** Enacted Kawasaki Basic Housing Ordinance

**2014** Conducted survey of foreign residents' awareness  
\*Conducted in 2015, 2019, and 2024.

**2018** Added multilingual materials in the evacuation center operation manual

**2021** Established city guidelines for "Easy Japanese"



# Kawasaki City 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

## Representative Assembly for Foreign Residents Alumni Meeting



In commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the city's founding, an "Alumni Meeting of the Representative Assembly for Foreign Residents" was held on Saturday, July 6, 2024 at the Kawasaki International Center, with 39 representatives from 2nd to 15th terms, and their families, in attendance.



After an icebreaker at the beginning of the meeting to relieve tension, each table had a group discussion. First, senior representatives spoke about "what was good about being a representative," and "what changed as a result of their experience of being a representative." The 15th-term representatives listened carefully to the valuable stories that the senior representatives had experienced. Next, it was time for the 15th-term representatives to ask questions to the senior representatives. The representatives of the 15th term, who had just started, shared their thoughts with the senior representatives regarding what they wanted to do at the assembly, their concerns, and so on. The senior representatives took the questions and answered them politely.

When approaching the final topic, "The Future of Kawasaki and Multiculturalism: What kind of Kawasaki do you want from a multicultural perspective?" Mayor Fukuda arrived at the venue. The Mayor went around to each table to listen to the discussion, and at the end of the discussion, he shared his impressions and message.

After the discussion, the participants enjoyed a social gathering with light refreshments. Afterwards, some of them attended the "2024 Multicultural Forum Concert in Kawasaki" held at the International Center. It was a rare opportunity for representatives of successive generations to meet and interact on the occasion of the city's 100th anniversary.

## Participants wrote "What I like about Kawasaki!"







## Representative Assembly and Fujitsu Frontiers Exchange Meeting



On Sunday, October 6, 2024, a social exchange meeting was held between the Representative Assembly representatives and the “Fujitsu Frontiers” American football team. The Frontiers are a group of players of various backgrounds, including players with foreign roots and Japanese players who grew up in America, who all practice every day to win together. This exchange meeting was held for the first time last year, but this encounter led to new connections, such as representatives coming to cheer on the Frontiers at their games, and so another exchange meeting was held this year.



The exchange meeting featured #64 OL Captain Masaya Okubo, #44 LB Shoki Cho, #4 WR Samajie Grant, and #16 WR Nozomu Imanaka. First, the representatives introduced themselves and the activity of the Assembly, and then asked the players questions to learn about the appeal of American football, what made them join the Frontiers, and how they try to understand people from different backgrounds. As players of different nationalities and cultures bring their diverse strengths to fight as one family, there was something to be learned as a Representative Assembly of 26 foreign residents representing all foreign residents living in the city. As Kawasaki City celebrates its 100th anniversary as a city, the Assembly hopes to continue sharing the value of diversity with people in the city from all walks of life.

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