

The Kawasaki City Representative Assembly for Foreign Residents Newsletter No. 59



Colors, Future!

いろいろって、未来。

川崎市

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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>

The Kawasaki Citizens' Festival

On Sunday, November 6th, members of the Representative Assembly participated in the 39th Kawasaki Citizens' Festival.

Members of the Assembly, together with their families and friends, many of them wearing traditional costume, joined the parade to raise awareness for the Assembly. In our booth we deepened our cultural exchange with the residents of the city through many activities, including the now-customary "Teas of the World" tasting, national flag quiz, stamp rally, and fishing game. Afterwards, several of the representatives found people stopping to talk to them, saying "I saw you in the parade!". Looking back on it, they said they were delighted that people started conversations with them.



Open Meeting

The 2016 Open Meeting was held on Sunday, November 20th at Takatsu Civic Hall. This year, the meeting was held from 2pm to 5pm, and about 70 people attended in total.

The first half of the meeting was spent on group discussions. The attendees were divided into six groups, within each they spent about an hour discussing about child care and education, Japanese language instruction, disaster preparedness, and other topics. The whole discussion was structured around the question “What can be done for Kawasaki do to become a city that is comfortable for anyone to live in, and even more attractive than it is now?” In the second half, each group presented the results of their discussions, and finally Mioko Tsuboya, associate professor at Yokohama City University, offered her comments on the presentations.



Afterwards, the participants reported getting a great deal out of the meeting. “It was good to be able to talk to people of many different nationalities, and with different backgrounds and experiences.” “Everyone was able to put forward their opinions in their own words. Still, I realised that it will take a lot of effort to actually resolve the issues.” “It was my first time attending, but I felt that the representatives were very conscious of the issues, and had a strong resolve to make Kawasaki better.”

A party was held after the meeting finished, and although it was short everyone had a chance to continue their discussions or just chat, getting to know one another better. We would like to thank everyone who participated.

Reflections on the Open Meeting

Unfortunately there were fewer people attending than expected, but thanks to that everyone had enough time to explain their opinions in the group discussion. In Group F, which I facilitated, there were not just foreign residents, but also people who had been participating in local multicultural and Japanese instruction activities for many years. I had the chance to hear many valuable opinions and suggestions on the current situation and the issues we face, and I hope to bring them into our future discussions.

Sunok Kim

Progress of Discussions

The first year of the 11th term of the Representative Assembly has drawn to a close. In the December and January meetings, we discussed the establishment of subcommittees, looking back over the group work and the opinions expressed at the Open Meeting. In the end, we decided to establish an Information and Social Education Subcommittee, and a Local Community Life Subcommittee. Over the next year, the Information and Social Education Subcommittee will delve into the issues of “Information (particularly websites and apps)”, “Japanese Language Instruction for Adults”, and “Orientation Courses for Foreigners”, while the Local Community Life Subcommittee will investigate “Child Raising (Pregnancy, Childbirth, and Pre-School)”, “Disasters and Disaster Preparedness”, and “Medical Care and Hospitals”.

Jia Hui He, Assembly Chair

■ From the Subcommittee Chairs

< Information and Social Education Subcommittee >

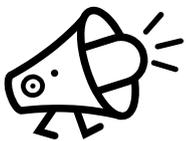
The subcommittees for the 11th term of the Representative Assembly have been established. From this point, we will engage fully with various issues in the subcommittee discussions. As subcommittee chair, I want to guide us towards good proposals that do something, however small, towards solving the problems faced by many city residents. I will make every effort to see Kawasaki become a city easy to live in for all of its residents.

Cari Peterson, Subcommittee Chair

< Local Community Life Subcommittee >

Hello everyone! I applied to be a representative because I wanted to give something back to my city of Kawasaki after living here for over thirty years. I have now been given the heavy responsibility of chairing this subcommittee, so I will do my best to produce the best proposals possible, reflecting everyone’s beliefs and hopes.

Sunok Kim, Subcommittee Chair



Why Not Observe A Meeting?

--Meeting Schedule for the 11th Term--

Location: Kawasaki International Center (10 minutes’ walk from Motosumiyoshi Station on the Tokyu Toyoko and Meguro Lines)

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

Time: From 2pm to 5pm

< Fiscal Year 2017 >

【1st Meeting】

First Day: 23rd April (Sun)

Second Day: 21st May (Sun)

【2nd Meeting】

First Day: 25th June (Sun)

Second Day: 3rd September (Sun)

【3rd Meeting】

First Day: 15th October (Sun)

Second Day: 10th December (Sun)

【4th Meeting】

First Day: 21st January (Sun)

Second Day: 18th February (Sun)

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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?

For Foreign Residents of Kawasaki

: List of Main Administrative Service Counters and Useful Telephone Numbers for Foreign Residents of Kawasaki City



“For Foreign Residents of Kawasaki” is a booklet aimed at foreign residents, listing the main services of the city government and how to contact them. The services and contact telephone numbers are divided into categories such as “Emergencies”, “Resident Registration/Residence System”, “Social Insurance and Pension”, “Health and Welfare”, “Education and Culture”, and “Living and Consultation”. The information is given in Japanese, English, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese, so that even people who are not comfortable in Japanese can use the booklet.

This booklet is available in all ward offices and civic halls, and in the International Center. It can also be downloaded from the city’s website.



<http://www.city.kawasaki.jp/250/page/0000049029.html>

Jerry Vilamar

Must-See Sites of the World: The Brazilian Amazon

The River Amazon rises in the South American Andes, and, at 6,526 km, it is the second-longest river in the world. Its river basin is the largest in the world, covering over 7 million square kilometres, eighteen times the area of Japan.

The tropical rainforest that spreads throughout the basin is a treasure trove of living creatures, from 3,000 species of fish, including the arapaima, a 2-meter-long giant freshwater fish, and the famously carnivorous piranha, 250 species of mammals, including monkeys and river dolphins, and many reptiles and amphibians. In 2003 it was recognised as a World Natural Heritage Site, but 20% of the rainforest is said to have been lost since 1967, and the destruction of the environment has reached a serious level.

The Amazon is also one of Brazil’s greatest tourist attractions. Most people who visit the great jungle of the Amazon stay at a hotel in the forest and go on tours that the hotel organises. The tours include such activities as piranha fishing, alligator watching, canoe cruises, and jungle trekking. Further, in the central city of the Amazon, Manaus, there are historic buildings such as the Amazon Theatre, modelled after the Opera in Paris, so there are many important tourist sights to visit besides the jungle.



Fatima Kamata

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