

The Kawasaki City Representative Assembly for Foreign Residents Newsletter No. 75



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>

〈Greetings from the Chairperson〉

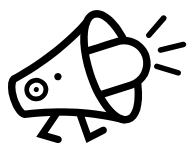
My name is Perera, and I am the chairperson of the fourteenth term. I am honored to be chosen as the chairperson for the fourteenth term consecutively, following the thirteenth term.

The activities of the fourteenth term started in April, and during this term, together as 26 representatives, we are discussing problems, issues, and areas for improvement that foreign residents are facing. Since its establishment in 1996, the Kawasaki City Representative Assembly for Foreign Residents has been working on various issues to make Kawasaki a better place to live for foreign residents of the city.

This term, we have already divided into two subcommittees, the Safe Living Subcommittee and the Information and Society Subcommittee, and all the representatives are enthusiastically discussing the issues. Although we are from different countries and regions, we all share the same common goal of making Kawasaki a better city and a more comfortable place for foreigners to live.

Anyone is welcome to attend the meetings. If you are interested, please come and observe the meeting. We look forward to seeing you.

PERERA Lahiru Sanketha, Fourteenth Term Chairperson



Why not attend a meeting?

— Meeting Schedule for FY 2022 —

Location: Kawasaki International Center (10 minute walk from Motsumiyoshi Station, Tokyu Toyoko/Meguro Line)

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

Time: From 2pm to 5pm

4 th Session	1 st Day	January 15, 2023 (Sunday)
	2 nd Day	February 19, 2023 (Sunday)

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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!

Participation in the Kawasaki Citizens' Festival

Representative Assembly members participated in the third day of the 43rd Kawasaki Citizens' Festival held from November 4th (Fri.) to 6th (Sun.). The festival was not held for the past two years due to the spread of the novel coronavirus, so it was the first time in three years. The festival was held on a reduced scale due to infection control measures. This time there was no parade, which Assembly members usually participate in, so the activity was mainly organized in a tent. In addition to the customary quiz and flag drawing, a video was also played in which Assembly members introduced their countries and such.



《 Impressions from the Assembly Representatives 》

I live in Asao Ward, so this was my first time attending the Citizens' Festival. I was overwhelmed by the large number of people who came to the festival, and was even more surprised to learn that citizens, businesses, and the government were all working together to make the event a success. The atmosphere of the festival was different from that of other historical festivals held in various parts of Kawasaki City, or the Asao Fudosen Daruma Market held every January 28 where I live in Asao Ward.

YUN Ji Ha

This was my first time to participate in the Representative Assembly tent. I was in charge of the quiz corner. It was a wonderful experience for me to prepare a quiz about my country with all the representatives and let the children and their parents who came to the Citizens' Festival know about our country and culture. I am glad I participated.

MAY Azael

《14th Term Subcommittee Progress Reports》

The 14th Representative Assembly, which started in April, has completed six regular meetings by the time this Newsletter No. 75 is published in December. In the 14th term, after group discussions among the representatives to share ideas, a list of potential topics for deliberation was compiled. At the second meeting on the second day, six topics for deliberation were selected from among 30 different possibilities. The group will now be divided into two subcommittees to conduct research and deliberation.

▶ Safe Living Subcommittee

My name is Gabriela Hristova, and I am the new chairperson of the Safe Living Subcommittee. The Safe Living Subcommittee deals with three topics for deliberation: 1) mental health care, 2) postpartum support system, and 3) support for single parents of foreign nationality. On the second day of the third session held in November, the committee discussed (1) mental health care.

During the discussion, there were opinions such as: “It is difficult to seek advice on mental health care,” “It is difficult to know where to seek advice, so it is necessary to inform the public in an easy-to-understand way,” “It is necessary to make the Multicultural Consultation One-Stop Center for Foreign Residents better known,” and “There are cultural differences in the way people seek advice, so it is necessary to respond according to these differences in culture.”



Going forward, we will focus on resolving the issues raised in our deliberations and strive to make the lives of both foreign and Japanese residents of Kawasaki City richer, safer, and more secure.

Subcommittee Chair, HRISTOVA Gabriela

▶ Information and Society Subcommittee

My name is Yurika Karen Ito, and I am the new chairperson of the Information and Society Subcommittee. The Information and Society Subcommittee deals with three topics: 1) Japanese language learning opportunities, 2) Information, and 3) Participation in the municipal government. On the second day of the third session held in November, the committee discussed (1) places for learning Japanese language. The discussion included opinions such as:

“The awareness of literacy classes is low, so publicity should be improved,” “Since the time available for attendance is limited, could the number of classes be increased?” and “We should think from the standpoint of increasing opportunities for learning, not just increasing the number of places for learning.”

Through careful deliberation of each proposal, we will continue to work together as one team to make our recommendations better and more precise.



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Subcommittee Chair, ITO Yurika Karen



Yearend & New Year Around the World



Christmas in Italy

Most people think of Christmas as the 25th, but Italians start gathering with their families on the evening of December 24th. At any rate, we “Talk!” “Eat!” “Play!” repeatedly, waiting for Santa to come on Christmas Eve. Then, at midnight, the families exchange gifts and celebrate together. After that, they go home for the real Christmas on the 25th. The meal begins at noon with countless antipasto (appetizers), followed by Primo (pasta) and Secondo (main dish), and Dolce (dessert) to round out a full course that fills the family’s stomachs. In Turin, where I am from, VitelloTonnato (roast beef with tuna mayonnaise dressing), Bagna Cauda (anchovy and fresh cream sauce), Agnolotti (wrapped pasta), and more will fill the table with Christmas colors. “Buon Natale!” (Merry Christmas!)

ROTINI Federica



Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year is the lunar New Year, and although the date varies from year to year, it is usually in mid-January to early February. It is the most important holiday of the year for Chinese people, and there is a tradition of great family celebration.

Even within China, the customs of the Chinese New Year vary greatly from place to place. In Shenyang City in Liaoning Province (in northeastern China), where I am from, every year the whole family gathers to cook sumptuous home-cooked food and dumplings, a standard menu item, and celebrate New Year’s Eve while watching special Chinese New Year programs broadcast on state-run television. Also, there is a custom of setting off firecrackers during the Chinese New Year. Firecrackers are believed to drive away demons and plague, and to bring good luck for prosperous business. In China, setting off firecrackers is usually banned to protect the environment, but during the Chinese New Year, the ban is lifted. Many people set off firecrackers and pray for the health of their families and success in business, and many mornings during the Chinese New Year are spent waking up to the sound of firecrackers. For many children, setting off firecrackers while chasing each other around town is the most exciting part of the year.

LI Chen

<Inquiries>

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