



希望の鐘 *The Bell of Hope*



The Y's Men's Club of Kawagoe

〒350-0046 川越市菅原町 7-16

tel:049-226-2491 fax:049-226-2304

c/o Kawagoe YMCA, 7-16 Sugawara-cho, Kawagoe, Saitama 350-0046 Japan

Kawagoe Y's Men's Club Bulletin

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Chartered 1998

President Taro Tonegawa

Vice President Atsuko Matsukawa

Treasurer Kimiyo Yoshida

Secretary Katsusaburo Yoshino

Club President Theme 「Return to the starting point and support Kawagoe YMCA.」

International President: A. Shanavaskhan (India)

Theme Together for a better world Slogan Arise and Shine
Asia Pacific Area President Joan Wong (Hong Kong)

Theme Make a big impact!

Japan East Region Director Kohei Yamada (Utsunomiya)

Theme Determine the direction of Y's Movement.

Kantotobu Director Goshiro Yamamoto (Kawagoe)

Theme We may be small, but we are not helpless.

July Scripture

All of them may be one, Father, just as You are in me, and I am in You. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that You have sent me.
John 17:21

[June Registration \(June 22\)](#)

Participants 7 Make up 2 Attendance 90%

[Preface](#)

2024-2025 Kawagoe Club President Inaugural Address

Taro Tonegawa
President

Kawagoe Y's Men's Club

The 2024-2025 Y's year has begun, and Taro Tonegawa has been asked to serve as President of the Kawagoe Club for this term. It has been 27 years since the Kawagoe Club was established, and this is the first time that a non-charter member has assumed the prominent role of president. As a slow-witted person, I am sure I will cause you some inconvenience.

This term, Mr. Yamamoto, the immediate past president, has assumed the role of Kanto East Division Director. Numerous Kawagoe Club members have supported the organization and activities of Y's Men's Clubs in Japan and abroad, including the Asia-Pacific Area President, Japan East Region Director, Regional Treasurer, Regional

Chief, Governor, and District Officers. On the other hand, as a Kawagoe Club, we have been involved in various YMCA services and community activities. Last year, the Kawagoe Club was honored to receive the Best Club Award for these activities.

This term, we would like to consider future club activities based on the activities of the Kawagoe Club. To this end, we would like to return to our starting point and consider supporting the Kawagoe YMCA. We have been supporting the Kawagoe YMCA in the past. Still, we would like to consider how we can support the YMCA in response to the changes at the Saitama YMCA, such as the closure of the Saitama YMCA Urawa Center while listening to the opinions of the Kawagoe YMCA staff.

For starters, we are considering having club members utilize their strengths to help with YMCA programs. We will also continue our past achievements, such as the bus trip during March's Spring break. I am an inexperienced president, but with the help of our strong club members, I look forward to serving you all for the next year.

[Kawagoe Club Activity Plan for 2024-2025](#)

President Taro Tonegawa

1. President's Objectives

Let's go back to the starting point and support Kawagoe YMCA.

2. Goals for this term

(1) What can we do to support Kawagoe YMCA activities? Think together with the staff.

(2) Support the development of youth volunteers.

(3) Continue and develop activities with IBC.

[Future Plans](#)

July monthly meeting

July 20th (Sat)13:00 at Kawagoe YMCA

The 1st Kantotobu District Meeting

July 20th (Sat) at WESTA Kawagoe 15:00

It will be held right after the Kawagoe Club meeting, so everyone is invited to attend.

[Report on June monthly meeting](#)

Report on Rihito Kimura's lecture "If you're happy, clap your hands."

Goshiro Yamamoto

On Saturday, June 22, 2024, a lecture meeting of Mr. Rihito Kimura, "Birth Story of 'If you are happy, clap your hands'" was held under the sponsorship of Kawagoe Y's Men's Club and co-sponsored by Saitama YMCA, Saitama Y's Men's Club and Tokorozawa Y's Men's Club. The venue was the "Child Rearing and Child Raising Center" of Saitama YMCA Tokorozawa Center, and many participants gathered for this excellent meeting.

I was familiar with the story of the birth of Mr. Kimura's "If you are happy, clap your hands" as I had heard it from Mr. Akira Futagoishi, former general secretary of Saitama YMCA since I participated in a work camp in the Philippines in 1994. It was broadcast on NHK-BS as a two-hour drama program. As a manga about it was published this year, I sent an e-mail to Mr. Kimura to ask him to speak about it again, and he graciously agreed.

Dr. Kimura was born in January 1934, and he told us about his background of being educated as a military boy and growing up with that thinking as the situation at that time. However, his uncle, who had studied in Germany, foresaw Japan's defeat in the war, and Japan lost the war in 1945. Later, while studying law, Dr. Kimura was encouraged by the Waseda Service to participate in a work camp in the Philippines, where he was told of the atrocities committed by the Japanese military. Of course, Filipinos' feelings toward the Japanese were horrible, and he was often bombarded with the words "Hapon Patai (Japanese, die)" wherever he went. He told us how he had such experiences through the Philippine Work Camp, but later returned to Japan and shared his various thoughts and feelings, and how the words of the Bible and Psalm 47 inspired him to write the famous song "If you are happy, clap your hands."

Dr. Kimura spoke about his experiences with laughter and vigor, which is hard to believe he is 90 years old, but it was indeed something that I would like young people to hear. I want to thank Dr. Rihito Kimura and the Saitama YMCA, Saitama Y's Men's Club, and Tokorozawa Y's Men's Club for this successful event.



[From the International Stage](#) ["Keiko's Monthly Briefing of YMI/ASP"](#)

Concluding my term as President of the Asia Pacific Area

Keiko Tonegawa

My term as Asia Pacific Area President ends on June 30, 2024. Looking back on that term, I feel both joy and frustration that I did not do enough. It has been a journey with many challenges, but I am proud that I managed to accomplish my mission and foster growth. During my term, I had the opportunity to visit all the regions twice. However, I was only able to visit Taiwan once due to a scheduling conflict with the Japan East Regional Convention. These visits were a testament to my motto, "Shine and Empower through Fellowship." I am especially proud that two new clubs were formed in the Sri Lanka and Southeast Asia Regions, respectively, near the end of my term. These clubs are significant in that they were formed in two new cities, Kandy, Sri Lanka and Kathmandu, Nepal (there is a club in Kathmandu, but it is no longer active).

Another highlight of my term was the successful Asia Pacific Area Youth Convocation in Nepal and the Asia Pacific Area Convention in Hong Kong.

The outstanding work of the Southeast Asia Region, especially the Hong Kong District, made these events possible.

Additionally, I am thrilled that the three YMI centennial regional projects are not merely surviving but thriving. Songs from the Songfest Book are being used at various meetings worldwide. The solar panel project at the Makati YMCA is producing expected annual profits and the repayment of funds to the Area (a 4-year plan) appears to be on schedule. The e-Cookbook continues to be a great tool for exploring foreign recipes and providing a multicultural experience for our members.

As I complete my term as President, I am deeply grateful for the unwavering support and assistance of everyone in the Kawagoe Club.

My successor is Ms. Joan Wong from Hong Kong. I would like to assure you that with her leadership, the values and vision of our association will continue to be upheld. I ask for your continued understanding and cooperation in the management of our Area.

Charming Hsien, who was expected to be the first International President from Taiwan, suffered a stroke in April and is currently undergoing medical treatment. Therefore, according to the International Constitution, the incoming International President, Mr. A. Shanavaskaran (India), has taken office as the International President. As a result of this appointment, the position of International President-Elect is vacant, and an election to elect the International President-Elect will be held in the near future.



Int'l President
Mr. Shavaskaran (India)



Asia Pacific Area President
Ms. Joan Wong (Hong Kong)

YMCA Report

Because of the hot weather, we made ice cream parfaits in the June Toaster Program. They each made their own original ice cream parfait with their favorite ingredients and seemed to be very satisfied!



We also enjoyed playing in the water, a particular activity for this time of the year. The participants enjoyed the leader vs. members games. Using water

guns they brought from home, they played with the water, saying, "All right! Leader!" and they played with all their might by spraying water at the leader.



Children will be on summer vacation from late July, and the summer program will continue with river play, insect hunting, water slides, train rides, and other unique summer programs. As William Wordsworth said, "Children grow up in summer."

Lastly, this time of year is not only a time for fun but also a time for many water-related accidents. Under the slogan "Protect your own life and cherish the lives of others," we will continue to promote water safety as part of our mission.



My prayer is that your health and lives will be protected. (Haruna Kinoshita)

(Editor's Note)

We had another excellent Bulletin this month, thanks to everyone's help. I want to thank everyone who contributed to this issue. I believe that the "Bell of Hope" played a significant role in our receiving the "Best Club Award" at the Tokachi Convention last term. I would like to ask for everyone's cooperation so we can continue to publish this newsletter every month.

Finally, the Tonegawa Taro Year has begun. The president's goal is "Let's go back to the basics and support the Kawagoe YMCA." I am very much in favor of this goal. I will serve as secretary again this year, so let's work hard to achieve this goal. (KY)