



# 希望の鐘 *The Bell of Hope*



The Y's Men's Club of Kawagoe

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## 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

### Words from Bible

If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. (James 1:5-6)

Date: Dec. 1(Sun.), 2024

16:00~18:30 (15:30 Reception Start)

Venue: Restaurant "Hermitage"

22-5 Wakitahon-cho, Kawagoe City

3 min. walk from the Kawagoe Station's West Exit

Fee: 5,500 yen with all you can drink. French dinner will be served individually.

It is inexpensive, but we are sure you will be satisfied. We are sincerely looking forward to your participation, whether you are a parent club, a club in the eastern Kanto region, a member of the East Japan District, a friend of ours, or anyone who would like to visit Kawagoe. December is a great season for strolling. Please take a walk in Kawagoe and join us for the "Kawagoe 25th Anniversary Meeting".

•Kawagoe Club will publish a 25<sup>th</sup>-anniversary commemorative magazine.

We will issue an A4 size, 16-page, full-color commemorative magazine that mainly covers the history of the Kawagoe Club from its 20th to 25th anniversaries.

2. Renewal of the "Charity Kawagoe Imo Beni Aka Kintoki."

•We will change the name to "The Charity Kawagoe Imo(Sweet Potatoes)" and add additional varieties to the product lineup.

•In addition to the existing "Beniakakintoki," the popular "Beniharuka" and "Silk Sweet" will be added to the list of varieties for pre-order.

### September Attendance (Sept. 28)

Attendance 7 Participants 70%

### Kawagoe Club September Monthly Meeting

Taro Tonegawa  
President

The heat finally eased up in mid-September, just as I was beginning to think that fall would never come, and we were already nearing the end of September. It was at the end of September on the 28th that we were able to hold our third Kawagoe meeting. Many of you are probably fatigued from the long summer.

Although some were absent due to illness, seven people attended the event. The September meeting lasted more than two hours due to many important topics, but we had a lot of fruitful discussions. The following is a summary of the meeting.

1.Regarding the Kawagoe Club's 25th anniversary, the following points were addressed.

- The 25th anniversary meeting of Kawagoe Club will be held as follows:

Type	Beniaka kintoki	Beni haruka	Silk Sweet	Beniharuka and Silk Sweet Mix
5kg	3,330 Yen	3,000Yen	3,000Yen	3,000Yen
3kg	2,930 Yen	2,600Yen	2,600Yen	X

A mixture of Beniaka kintoki and other varieties is not available.

We cannot sell a 3kg-mixture of Beniharuka and Silk Sweet.

The selling price in the table (including tax and delivery charge) is tentative, but we expect to be able to sell at about this price.

### 3. IBC

- We will gather more information on the Hyderabad Club in India and seek a permanent joint activity.
- We aim to sign the agreement during the Asia Pacific Area Convention in Kumamoto in August, 2025 or during the Dubai International Convention from November 5, 2026.

### 4. Hosting a BF delegate couple (information)

- The BF representatives are a couple from India, who will be hosted by the Kanto Tobu from December to January (timing to be determined).

The report's main contents are the above-mentioned issues. The next meeting will be in Tokorozawa on Saturday, October 12.



## [Report on participation in the 36th Youth Volunteer Leaders Forum](#)

### **Taro Tonegawa**

I must begin with a sad report. Mr. Norihiro Shiota (Tokyo Tama Smile Club), the chairperson of the executive committee who dedicatedly spearheaded the 36th Youth Volunteer Leaders Forum, passed away suddenly on the second day of the forum. It is truly unfortunate, as I saw firsthand the meticulous planning and enthusiasm with which he worked from the preparatory stage. I sincerely pray for his soul to rest in peace.

The theme of this year's event is "Finding and Connecting for Us. Growing better." On Friday,

September 6, the forum's first day, Mr. Shintaro Ito of the Kumamoto YMCA gave a keynote speech entitled "Looking at social issues from the perspective of the 'Platform' program to support non-attending school children and students." After the keynote speech, the participating youth leaders had a group discussion, deepening each other's ideas.

We, Keiko Tonegawa and Taro Tonegawa, arrived at the Tokyo YMCA Lake Yamanaka Center at noon on Saturday, September 7, and joined the group for lunch. Upon arrival, we were greeted by Shintaro Kimoto, a participant from Kawagoe YMCA. He happily played dodgeball with other leaders and seemed to be having a great time.

After lunch, YMCA and Y's Men held a round-table discussion, in which Director Kohei Yamada reported on Y's International Association's Time of Fast project, for which TOF had awarded a grant for efforts to help children who have not been attending school in the Japan East Region. He also reported on the details of the project. A summary of the project is as follows:

The project duration is 36 months, from January 2025 to December 2027. Subsequent years will be planned within this period. The vision for the three years is "not to return to school only, but to create training and activities for work, with a view to individual future development, including vocational training, the arts, and skills acquisition. The first year will focus on learning to understand non-attending school, including a series of three or four lectures (e.g., Tochigi YMCA lectures on November 16, December 21, and February 8 at Utsunomiya University; contact Utsunomiya YMCA for details). The provision of a place to stay will begin in the second half of the first year, and an operational structure will be established in the second and third years.

On the evening of the second day of the forum, a campfire was held under the leadership of Yamanakako Center staff. This was the first time I had experienced this kind of activity, so I felt it was very fresh. The youth leaders who participated in the campfire seemed to have a lot of experience and seemed to be having a lot of fun.

On the morning of the third and final day of the forum, the news of Mr. Shiota's death was announced to the youth leaders during the Holy Day service. It was the consideration of the organizing committee members and others involved to ensure that this forum, which Mr. Shiota had poured his heart and soul into, would be completed to the last minute.

During the group presentations by the youth leaders in the morning, it was very meaningful to hear how the leaders who participated in the forum have grown, and their honest hesitations, which are typical of young people. If you have a chance, why don't you join the Youth Volunteer Leaders Forum?



With Mr. Kimoto, who participated in the event. Mt. Fuji reflected in Lake Yamanaka

**From the International Stage**  
**“Keiko’s Monthly Briefing of YMI/ASP”**

**Edward Ong to be the next International President for 2024-2025**

**Keiko Tonegawa**

In the July issue of “Bell of Hope,” we reported that Charming Shen of Taiwan, who was scheduled to be the next International President, fell ill and was unable to fulfill his duties as International President, and that an election would be held.

On September 21, the official election results were announced by the International Headquarters, and Mr. Edward Ong of Singapore was elected as the next International President for the 2024-2025 term. Edward's term as International President will begin on July 1, 2025 and end on June 30, 2026.

Incoming International President Edward Ong has served as General Manager of the Singapore YMCA and has been a Singapore Alpha Chapter Club member since 1980. He has been a member of the Singapore Alpha Chapter Club since 1980. During that time, he has served as President of the Asia Pacific Area in 2015-2016 and as Chairman of the 28th Asia Pacific Regional Convention Organizing Committee in Sendai, Japan, in 2019. As a side note, his daughter runs a pension in Furano, Hokkaido.

We look forward to the leadership of incoming International President Edward and ask for your support and cooperation.



**YMCA Report**

Yumiko Sakamuro

On Monday, September 23, an autumn fun party was held at JUN Hall, a rental space in Kawagoe City, with members. The event was hosted by New☆Kawagoe Oyako Gekijo.

First was a mini-concert by singer-songwriter “Takahashi Ben. He sang with a powerful and elongated voice that one

could not imagine from the soft tone he used when he spoke. The children sang along with the lyrics, laughing and swaying their bodies together.

Next, everyone experienced the universal sport of “Carrette” together. It is a miniature version of curling, a familiar sport in the Winter Olympics. The person who brought it to us was “Mazekose” from Sayama Carrette Club. About 50 participants were oohing and ahing and having a great time. They cheered in sign language and used a slingshot shooter for the little ones who could not slide the stones well. The hand movements, which were awkward at first, gradually became more precise. Then, it was time for lunch, a picnic with yakisoba, frankfurters, popcorn, s'mores, and bread outside.

Finally, it's a choice time. We played games and stacked paper cup towers as high as we could.

It was an autumn day (although it was still quite hot) that both adults and children enjoyed together.



**< The 25th Saitama YMCA Charity Run will be held. >**

**Kyoko Kawai**

There are three ways to participate!  
 Your small step will make a big circle.  
 We would be grateful for your cooperation.

**① Sign up for individual run**

Sign up for an individual run for Adults 3,000 yen, Junior high and high school students 1,500 yen, Elementary school students 1,000 yen

**② Participation as a volunteer**

Volunteer for operations or substitute for runners  
 \* a person who can volunteer in a responsible manner  
 \* Target: Junior high school students and above  
 Please apply using the links below for (1) and (2).

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScrT21EsRZ3gtcJUSr7nRrRipH9CJTS2go\\_vKHxKZ3ImTefPw/vi ewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScrT21EsRZ3gtcJUSr7nRrRipH9CJTS2go_vKHxKZ3ImTefPw/vi ewform)

**\* Application deadline 10/15(Tue)**

**③ Fundraising activities and donations of goods**

Donation boxes are available at the Kawagoe and Tokorozawa Centers. If you have any new items worth more than 100 yen, please bring them to the YMCA.

The support received will be used for the “Programs for Children”.

Please refer to the PR document at the link below for the entire guide.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/101UWoK0EQK2CLFp-QVLEgU7Koj70ktFb/view?usp=sharing>

### (Editor's note)

I thought it had finally cooled off, but as early as October 9, Shumarinai in Hokkaido recorded below-freezing temperatures (according to a report). My nearly 80-year-old body cannot keep up with this sudden temperature change. I can't take it easy. How about you? Let's all keep our health first and spend our days in good health.

Last week, an old acquaintance, a Kumagaya City native who has lived in London for 28 years, and his wife stayed at our house. They are both over 70 years old and are concerned about their health. We talked about the National Health Service in the UK. They lamented that social welfare in the United Kingdom, which is said to be “cradle to grave,” has begun to fray, and it is difficult to receive prompt and appropriate medical treatment. When my friend's wife had intestinal obstruction, she was unable to get anywhere through the usual home doctor, since their two children are doctors, so it was through their connections that she was able to survive. Among Japanese living in the U.K., it is not uncommon for people to return to Japan once to receive a state-of-the-art diagnosis, such as an MRI. It was a sobering story for me as I underwent the city's medical checkup for the current fiscal year last week.

Can we expect the new Prime Minister Ishiba to do the same? (KY)