

To Residents of Kawaguchi City
~Message from the Mayor~

Hello, I am Yuriko Okamura, the Mayor of Kawaguchi City.

It has already passed six months since I took office as the mayor of Kawaguchi City. During this period, I was blessed with opportunities to visit each area of the city to hear opinions from residents. Among warm encouraging words, I could gather residents' daily life-based issues as well as complaints against civic operation. I sincerely appreciate for being given your candid opinions.

Every talk with you refreshed my recognition that many of you are putting forth strenuous and unrelenting efforts to improve the community. I am stirred by deep emotion to have found "This city still has hidden potential waiting for the turn to come".

On the other hand, in addition to carrying out measures to deal with a stubborn price rise to protect residents' daily life, we still have many tasks and issues such as to improve administrative services on disaster prevention measure/crime prevention, to upgrade child rearing/education environments, to enrich welfare services on elderly/challenged persons, and to energize local economy. As a part of our recent efforts to tackle with community problems one by one, we established "Foreign Resident Affairs Consultation Desk", provided emergency support for small and medium-sized enterprises whose business have been devastated by the Middle-East situation, and held "Policy Proposal Forum by Junior and Senior High School Students" to arouse interest in civic operation.

To carry out 6 basic policies I have drafted, I submitted the supplementary budget bill to the June Assembly for the first time and that was successfully passed as drafted. To be precise, we needed to secure budgets; for the development of school library system to improve students' better school life, for the renovation of a designated smoking area at Kawaguchi Station bicycle parking, and for the installment of outdoor mist shower on the pedestrian deck in front of Kawaguchi Station as a precaution against the heat, and for the filmmaking of a campaign to raise public awareness on the earliest resolution of the abduction issue. We are now carrying out these 4 new projects to be materialized very soon.

We should like to announce that by considering the safety and health of festival-goers and staff under recent years' record-setting high temperature, we rescheduled the date of this year's "*Tatara* Matsuri-festival", a special attraction of summer of the City, to September 26th (Sat) and 27th (Sun), as a two-days-festival. We hope to make this festival, which has long been beloved as a summer

festival, to be reborn as a more spirited autumn festival working together with residents. The timing of the late summer heat will be softened-up, I hope you all can make the time and come to this festival with your family, friends, etc., to enjoy the atmosphere and energy of Kawaguchi. I cannot wait to see you there.

Always be ready to hear the voices of residents, the entire staff of the City Hall will work out together in civic operation to make you feel the city as; “Best place to live in, best place to keep living”. We will appreciate your continued support for our civic operation.

Thank you.

August, 2026.

Yuriko OKAMURA
Mayor of Kawaguchi City