

Outline of the Fukushima International Initiatives Promotion Plan (Revised December 2021)

Chapter 1: Introduction

1. Purpose of Revisions

- To implement necessary revisions in light of significant changes in socio-economic conditions surrounding the prefecture, including progress in revitalization following the Great East Japan Earthquake.

2. Position of the Plan

- To outline the direction of the prefecture's international initiatives, as part of the area plan within the Fukushima Prefecture Comprehensive Plan.

3. Duration of the Plan

- Nine years, from FY2022 to FY2030.

Chapter 2: The Current Situation and Challenges

1. The Current Situation in Japan

- (1) An increase in foreign residents and greater diversification of nationalities
- (2) Revisions of the immigration control system
- (3) Rising needs for Japanese language education
- (4) Realising a diverse and inclusive society
- (5) Advancement of digitalisation
- (6) Increasing severity of natural disasters and the impact of the pandemic
- (7) Development of initiatives for building a multicultural society

2. The Current Situation in Fukushima Prefecture

- (1) An increase in foreign residents and greater diversification of nationalities, coupled with depopulation
- (2) Broadening of exchanges with other countries (including sister city exchanges)
- (3) Development of initiatives for building a multicultural society
- (4) Trends in trade and foreign visitors

3. Challenges

- (1) Living in harmony with foreign residents
- (2) Addressing depopulation, the declining birthrate, and the aging population, along with globalisation
- (3) Dispelling harmful rumours following the Great East Japan Earthquake and nuclear disaster, and the easing or lifting of import restrictions

Chapter 3: Basic Objective and Policies

1. Basic Objective

Towards a Fukushima Where Everyone Shines, Embracing Global Visions in Unison

2. Basic Policies

1. Multicultural Society and Globalisation of Local Communities

- - Fostering an environment that encourages mutual understanding among citizens, allowing them to feel safe and vibrant in their lives.
- Cultivating human resources through various exchanges with other countries and regions.

2. Embracing Global Visions

- Taking pride in Fukushima, which is progressing towards revitalization, actively embracing new challenges.

Chapter 4: Basic Initiatives

1. Cooperation and Co-creation between Local Residents from Diverse Backgrounds

- (1) Multilingual communication support
- (2) Raising awareness among local residents and supporting social participation of foreign residents
- (3) Livelihood support for foreign residents

2. Cultivating Global Citizens Who Learn from and Understand One Another

- (1) Promoting international exchange through the utilisation of diverse networks
- (2) Enhancing local revitalization through collaboration and cooperation with foreign residents
- (3) Contributing to the international community by leveraging Fukushima's knowledge

3. Proud of Fukushima and Embracing Global Visions

- (1) Advancing industries by harnessing global expertise
- (2) Dispelling harmful rumours, the easing or lifting import restrictions, and promoting inbound tourism

Chapter 5: System to Promote the Plan

1. Role of Organisations

- The prefectural and municipal governments, the Fukushima International Association, support groups for foreign residents (including non-profit organisations), as well as prefectural citizens and businesses.

2. Progress Management and Review

Managing progress based on the status of initiatives and their indicators, with reviews of the plan as necessary.

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Basic Initiatives 1: Cooperation and Co-creation between Local Residents from Diverse Backgrounds

(1) Multilingual Communication Support

- Providing government and daily life information in multiple languages and establishing a consultation system.
(Offering services in multiple languages or simplified Japanese.)
- Promoting Japanese language education.
(Enhancing the learning environment and training educators.)



Easy Japanese Lecture

(2) Raising Awareness among Local Residents and Supporting Social Participation of Foreign Residents

- Promoting awareness and fostering a multicultural society.
(Creating opportunities for mutual networking, etc.)
- Social participation of foreign residents.
(Creating an environment for them to play roles in supporting the region, etc.)



Networking with Foreign Residents

(3) Livelihood Support for Foreign Residents

- Ensuring educational opportunities for foreign students.
- Fostering a comfortable working environment for foreign residents.
- Establishing a system to support foreign residents in times of disaster.
(Provide disaster prevention information in multiple languages and promote measures during normal times.)
- Providing medical, health, and welfare services for foreign residents.
- Supporting international students.
(Assisting with job placement or starting a business in the prefecture, etc.)
- Response during infectious disease outbreaks.
(Providing information and consultations in multiple languages, etc.)



Disaster Prevention Session for Foreign Residents

Basic Initiatives 2: Cultivating Global Citizens Who Learn from and Understand One Another

(1) Promoting International Exchange through the Utilisation of Diverse Networks

- Cooperation with international students, CIRs, expatriate communities and overseas prefectural associations.
(Providing networking opportunities between international students and local residents.)
(Promoting exchange through the networks of JET Programme participants.)
(Collaboration with overseas prefectural associations as information dissemination hubs, etc.)
- Promoting exchanges with countries like China, Canada, New Zealand, and others with a history of interaction, along with those initiated by the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics.



Training program for Young Members of Central, Latin American, and North American Prefectural Associations

(2) Enhancing Local Revitalization through Collaboration and Cooperation with Foreign Residents

- Promoting efforts that leverage the perspectives and insights of foreign residents.
- Developing global human resources to play roles in increasingly internationalised local communities.
- Enhancing local revitalization through collaboration and cooperation with foreign residents.



Global Seminar

(3) Contributing to the international community by leveraging Fukushima's knowledge

- International contribution through sharing of revitalization processes in the prefecture.
(Sharing information both domestically and internationally, enhancing planning capabilities for internationally related projects, etc.)



Fukushima Today

Basic Initiatives 3: Proud of Fukushima and Embracing Global Visions

(1) Advancing Industries by Harnessing Global Expertise

- Enhancing economic ties with countries worldwide.
(Cooperation with organisations such as the JETRO Fukushima Trade Information Center and the utilisation of foreign human resources).
- Expanding overseas sales channels in cutting-edge Industries and promoting foreign investment.
(Promoting renewable energy, robotics, medical devices, and aerospace Industries.)
(Advising on intellectual property strategies and assisting businesses in acquiring them).



Fukushima Robot Test Field

(2) Dispelling harmful rumours following the Great East Japan Earthquake and nuclear disaster, the easing or lifting of import restrictions, and promoting inbound tourism

- Dispelling harmful rumours and the easing or lifting of import restrictions.
- Maintaining and developing new market channels for prefectural products.
- Promoting inbound tourism.
(Tourism promotion, enhancement of hospitality environment, and improved airport accessibility.)
- Harnessing the rapid digitalisation of the global economy and society.
- Dispelling harmful rumours through attracting international conferences, etc.



Promotion of peaches in Thailand