

The 4th Higashihiroshima City Internationalization Promotion Plan

A city where everyone is connected,
connected to the world, and creates the future together

June 2025

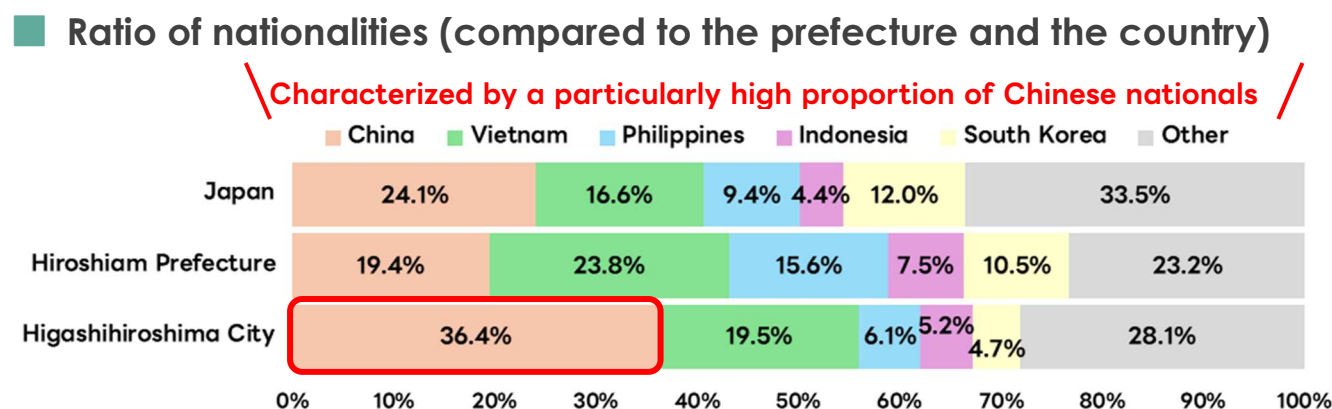
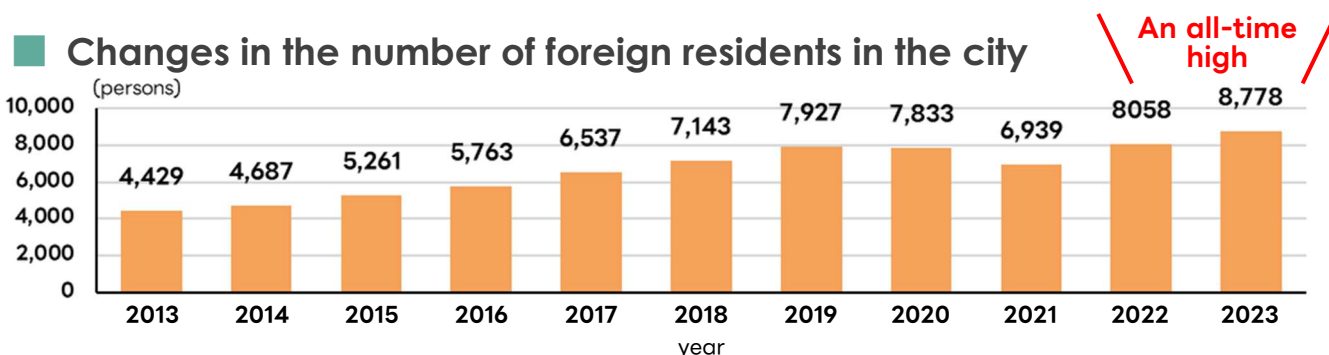
Higashihiroshima

Introduction

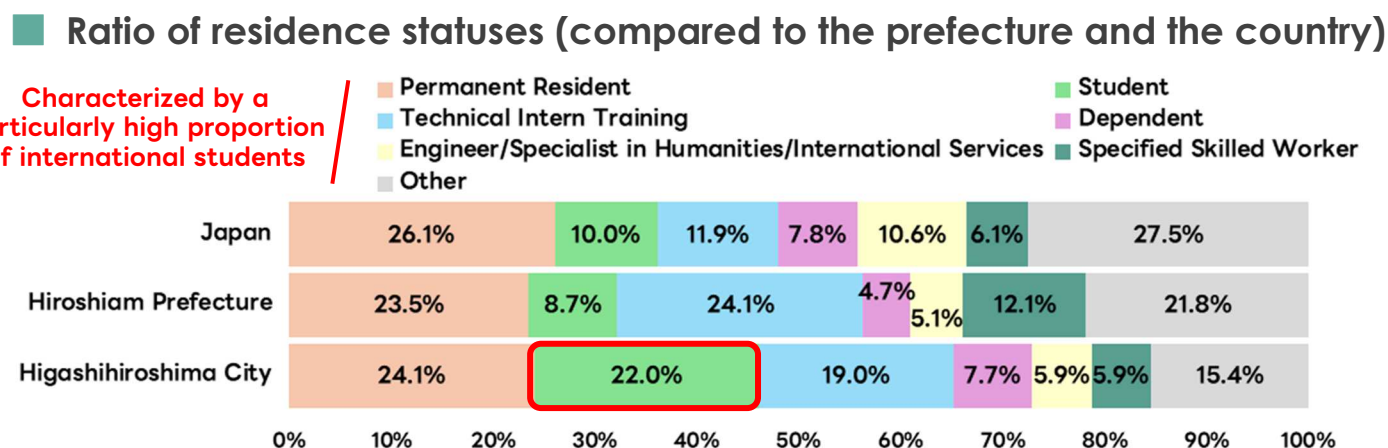
Higashihiroshima City has been working on various initiatives since formulating the 'Third Higashihiroshima City Internationalization Promotion Plan (hereinafter referred to as the 'Third Plan')' in July 2020, with the aim of creating an 'internationalized' and 'multicultural society.'

In the 2024-25 fiscal year, the number of foreign residents in the city will reach approximately 9,000, from more than 100 countries and regions of origin, and responding to this greater multinationalization, the city will promote urban development that is appropriate for the increasingly diverse situation of foreign residents. In order to use this diversity as a source of vitality for the city, projects will be implemented in collaboration with JICA Chugoku and Hiroshima International Center, which are located in the city, as well as the Town & Gown initiative in collaboration with universities and the Higashihiroshima City Next Generation Academic City initiative, with the goal of becoming a 'city that creates innovations that contribute to the world' and a 'city full of smiles that creates value for living, where people can enjoy meaningful, rich lives.'

Against this background, the 'Fourth Higashihiroshima City Internationalization Promotion Plan' (hereinafter referred to as 'this Plan' or 'the Plan') has been formulated, in order to systematically promote internationalization and the creation of a multicultural society in Higashihiroshima City.



Source: Statistics on foreign residents from the Ministry of Justice (as of the end of December 2023) for the country and prefecture; Basic Resident Register (as of the end of December 2023) for the city



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Overview of the Plan

① Positioning and Role of the Plan

- This plan is formulated as one of the sectoral plans of the Higashihiroshima City Comprehensive Plan, which serves as the basic guideline for urban development in the city. As an action plan to realize the internationalization measures in the Higashihiroshima City Comprehensive Plan, the plan positions specific measures that should be implemented within the planning period. In particular, in the Fifth Higashihiroshima City Comprehensive Plan (hereinafter referred to as the 'Current Comprehensive Plan'), the creation of an international city is an important element of the desired image for the city.
- The plan is formulated based on national and prefectural trends regarding internationalization, and on changes in the environment surrounding multicultural coexistence, and is drawn up with consideration given to consistency with national and prefectural policies regarding internationalization, and with other related plans of the city.
- The aim of the plan is to create a society in which all citizens can live comfortably and without worries, regardless of language or cultural differences, accept each other, and fully demonstrate their individuality and capabilities. As a more effective plan, this document sets out guidelines for efforts to internationalize the city and realize a multicultural society, as well as a concrete action plan.

② Period of the Plan

- The period of this plan is six years, from the 2025-26 fiscal year to the 2030-31 fiscal year.
- In the 2030-31 fiscal year, the final year of the period, the contents of the plan will be reviewed, taking into account the outcomes and challenges, and this will be used in the development of the subsequent plan.
- If there are changes to the higher-level plan due to changes in social conditions, etc., a review will be conducted as appropriate.

③ System of Formulation of the Plan

- The opinions of Japanese and foreign residents were identified by means of questionnaires and interviews, and workshops were also held to exchange opinions with residents, from which a wide range of opinions and ideas were received.
- The Higashihiroshima City Internationalization Promotion Plan Council, comprised of academic experts and people in related fields from various groups and organizations, provided opinions from a professional perspective.

Basic Concepts of the Plan

① Basic Philosophy

Higashihiroshima City is home to people with diverse languages and cultural backgrounds from all over the world, and this diversity is expected to continue to increase in the future. Given this situation, it is necessary for Japanese and foreign residents to accept each other's cultures and differences, recognize each other as citizens living together in the community, and coexist with each other.

The fact that Higashihiroshima City is chosen by people from all over the world, and that its charm is spreading around the world through the people who have lived means that the city is 'connected' to the world. The diversity brought about by connections with the world creates new values and leads to the development of the economy and culture that creates a sustainable future for the city.

Aiming to create a situation where diverse people can live with peace of mind, understand each other, and play active roles as fellow citizens by making use of their individuality and abilities to build the city together, the basic philosophy of this plan has been established as 'A city where everyone is connected, connected to the world, and creates the future together'.

Basic Philosophy

A city where everyone is connected, connected to the world, and creates the future together.

② Basic Goals

Based on the current situation and issues facing Higashihiroshima City, three Basic Goals have been set, and the 'direction of policies' for each defined. A 'common foundation' has also been defined, to serve as the 'support' for achieving the Basic Goals.

Basic Goal 1

A multicultural city where everyone can live comfortably

Higashihiroshima City is home to foreign residents from over 100 countries and regions with diverse languages and cultures. The aim is to develop a city where everyone can live a fulfilling life, regardless of whether they are Japanese or foreign, and where everyone can make use of their individuality and abilities and play active roles together as members of the community.

<Policy Direction>

- ① Improving the living environment for foreign residents
- ② Creating an environment in which foreign residents can play active roles
- ③ Creating a system for multicultural coexistence



Basic Goal 2

A city that creates and develops enduring values through international exchange and understanding

Through international exchange, the city aims not only to promote mutual understanding, but also to foster new values, such as cultures and ideas different from those of the past, and to develop human resources who can create value.

<Policy Direction>

- ① Promoting international exchange
- ② Promoting international understanding



Basic Goal 3

A city that harnesses diversity to create innovation

The city does not view foreign residents simply from the point of view of support, but also regards the diversity of people with different languages and cultures living together in the same area as a valuable resource. By promoting the Town & Gown concept and the next-generation academic town concept in collaboration with the universities, the aim is to improve the city's cultural and economic appeal, leading to the creation of vitality and innovation in Higashihiroshima City.

<Policy Direction>

- ① Improving the urban environment for internationalization
- ② Utilizing diverse human resources and local resources



Common Foundation

Establishment of a promotion system involving various parties

By bringing together a variety of parties, including local residents, foreign residents, exchange groups, support groups, and local government, the city aims to create networks and enhance exchange hubs, and alongside this to revitalize organizations that promote internationalization and deepen cooperation, promoting efforts to develop a city of multicultural coexistence and growth towards an international city.

Furthermore, within the City Office, the aim is to promote the creation of an environment that can handle the increasing number of foreign residents, to raise staff awareness, and to devise ways to disseminate information about the city based on easy Japanese, as well to promote wide-area cooperation with surrounding towns and cities and related organizations.

<Policy Direction>

- ① Strengthening activity bases
- ② Vitalizing promotion organizations
- ③ Establishing a system in the City Office
- ④ Promoting wide-area collaboration



Higashihiroshima City's Initiatives to Promote Internationalization

【Basic Philosophy】

A city where everyone is connected, connected to the world, and creates the future together

<Basic Goal>

<Policy Directions>

<Measures to Be Taken>

Basic Goal 1

A multicultural city where everyone can live comfortably

1 Improving the living environment for foreign residents

- (1) Improving the system for consultations and advice
- (2) Improving information dissemination
- (3) Improving communication support
- (4) Improving support for children's education
- (5) Improving child-raising and welfare services **[Priority]**
- (6) Improving disaster prevention measures **[Priority]**
- (7) Supporting the securing of housing

2 Creating an environment in which foreign residents can play active roles

- (1) Promoting diverse local activities **[Priority]**
- (2) Improving the entrepreneurial and job-seeking/working environment **[Priority]**

3 Creating a system for multicultural coexistence

- (1) Creating a mechanism to reflect citizens' opinions

Basic Goal 2

A city that creates and develops enduring values through international exchange and understanding

1 Promoting international exchange

- (1) Creating opportunities for exchange
- (2) Fostering and providing assistance to human resources who support exchange
- (3) Providing support information

2 Promoting international understanding

- (1) Raising awareness of multicultural coexistence
- (2) Promoting international cooperation

Basic Goal 3

A city that harnesses diversity to create innovation

1 Improving the urban environment for internationalization

- (1) Improving the convenience of the environment for those staying in the city
- (2) Enhancing the innovation environment through industry-academia-government collaboration **[Priority]**

2 Utilizing diverse human resources and local resources

- (1) Promoting the city's appeal overseas
- (2) Utilizing local resources
- (3) Supporting the active participation of diverse human resources
- (4) Supporting the overseas expansion of local companies

Common Foundation

Establishment of a promotion system involving various parties

- (1) Strengthening activity bases
- (2) Vitalizing promotion organizations **[Priority]**
- (3) Establishing a system in the City Office
- (4) Promoting wide-area collaboration



<Priority Initiatives>



1 - 1 - (5) Improving childcare and welfare services

- Support for childbirth and child-raising
- Improvement of welfare services
- Provision of support information tailored to life stages

1 - 1 - (6) Enhancing disaster prevention measures

- Promotion of awareness of disaster prevention
- Improved provision of information in multiple languages during disasters
- Publicizing of multilingual support during emergencies
- Development of a system of preparation for disasters

1 - 2 - (1) Promotion of diverse local activities

- Identification of key foreign residents
- Promotion of participation in local activities
- Creation of an environment where foreign residents can easily play active roles

1 - 2 - (2) Improving the environment for entrepreneurship and employment

- Creation of employment opportunities and provision of employment information
- Job-search and employment support for international students
- Job-search and employment support for permanent residents, etc.

3 - 1 - (2) Enhancing the environment for innovation through industry-academia-government collaboration

- Creation of an internationalized urban hub

Common Foundation (2) Vitalizing Promotion Organizations

- Building of links between international exchange organizations and groups

Numerical Goals for the Plan

Basic Goals		Content	Current Reiwa 6 fiscal year (2024-25)	Target Reiwa 12 fiscal year (2030-31)
1	A multicultural city where everyone can live comfortably	Percentage of residents who think that multicultural coexistence is 'necessary' or 'somewhat necessary'	85.2%※1	88.2%
		Percentage of foreign residents who are 'very satisfied' or "somewhat satisfied" with their life in Higashihiroshima	89.1%※2	90.0%
		Percentage of foreign residents who are able to obtain 'a lot' or 'most' of the information they need to live in Japan	82.3%※2	85.3%
2	A city that creates and develops values that continue into the future through international exchange and understanding	Percentage of citizens who think that the large number of foreign residents in Higashihiroshima City is a 'good opportunity to learn about foreign languages, cultures, and customs'	38.5%※1	41.5%
		Percentage of foreign citizens who 'participate in local events, or would like to participate in them in the future'	71.2%※2	74.2%
3	A city that harnesses diversity to create innovation	Number of collaborative projects with the four universities (excluding members of councils, etc.)	103 per year	123 per year

※1 Higashihiroshima City Citizen Satisfaction Survey (2023)

※2 Higashihiroshima City Foreign Citizen Survey on Internationalization (2024)

Promotion of the Plan

① Strengthening the promotion system within the City Office

- The city will work to ensure that relevant departments within the City Office work closely together and to improve the system for promoting various cross-sectoral initiatives.
- The city will improve the support system for foreign residents, including multilingual support within the City Office, by assigning administrative internationalization promoters and providing staff training.

② Participation and collaboration with various entities

- Various parties will work together to promote understanding of internationalization among citizens and related organizations and institutions, as well as to secure and develop people who will provide support and promote exchange in the region.

③ Management of the progress of the plan

- The progress of policies will be regularly inspected and evaluated within the City Office based on progress management using the PDCA cycle. The city will also review the progress of internationalization efforts through the Higashihiroshima City Internationalization Promotion Plan Council and strive to reflect the results in future efforts.

The 4th Higashihiroshima City Internationalization Promotion Plan [Summary]

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