

Internationalization in Fukui

ABOUT INTERNATIONALIZATION



What & Why?



How?



What & Why?



WHAT & WHY?

What is Internationalization?

Definition:

Integration of social, cultural, and economic activities across countries to foster global connections



? WHAT & WHY?

Why Internationalize?

Why are people and organizations in
Fukui thinking about
internationalization?



WHAT & WHY?

Why Internationalize?

- Japan's population decreasing
 - 2000: 127 million
 - 2023: 123.3 million
 - **3% decrease**
- Fukui's population decreasing
 - 2000: 825,000
 - 2023: 750,000
 - **9.1% decrease**
 - Higher rate of decline than Japan

? WHAT & WHY?

Why Internationalize?

Japan

- Foreign Population: 2.23%
- Working foreigners: 61.7%

Fukui

- Foreign Population: 2.2%
- Working foreigners: 69%.
- Higher percentage of foreigners have a job in Fukui

? WHAT & WHY?

Why Internationalize?

- Due to ongoing internationalization efforts, Fukui has a higher relative foreign working population than other prefectures.
- Basis for internationalization in other small prefectures (Ishikawa, Saga, Tokushima, etc.)

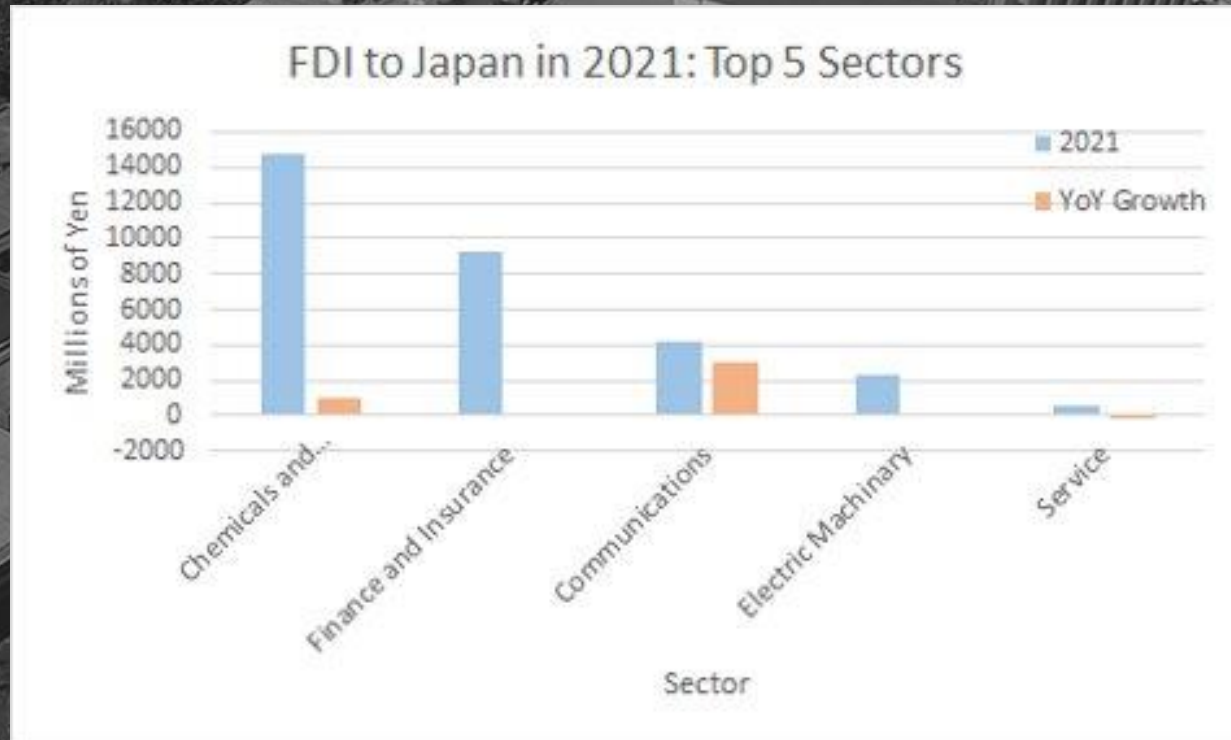


How?

? How?

Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs)

- Economic benefits:
 - National:
 - Semiconductor industry FDI boost
 - Partnership with US
 - In Fukui:
 - Prominent manufacturing and chemical industries
 - FDI flow into the country benefits Fukui local economy



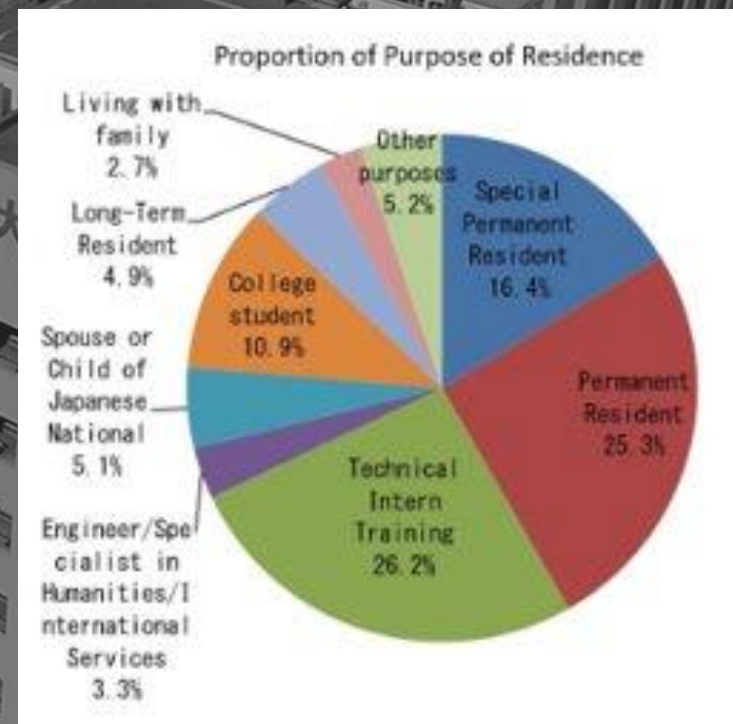
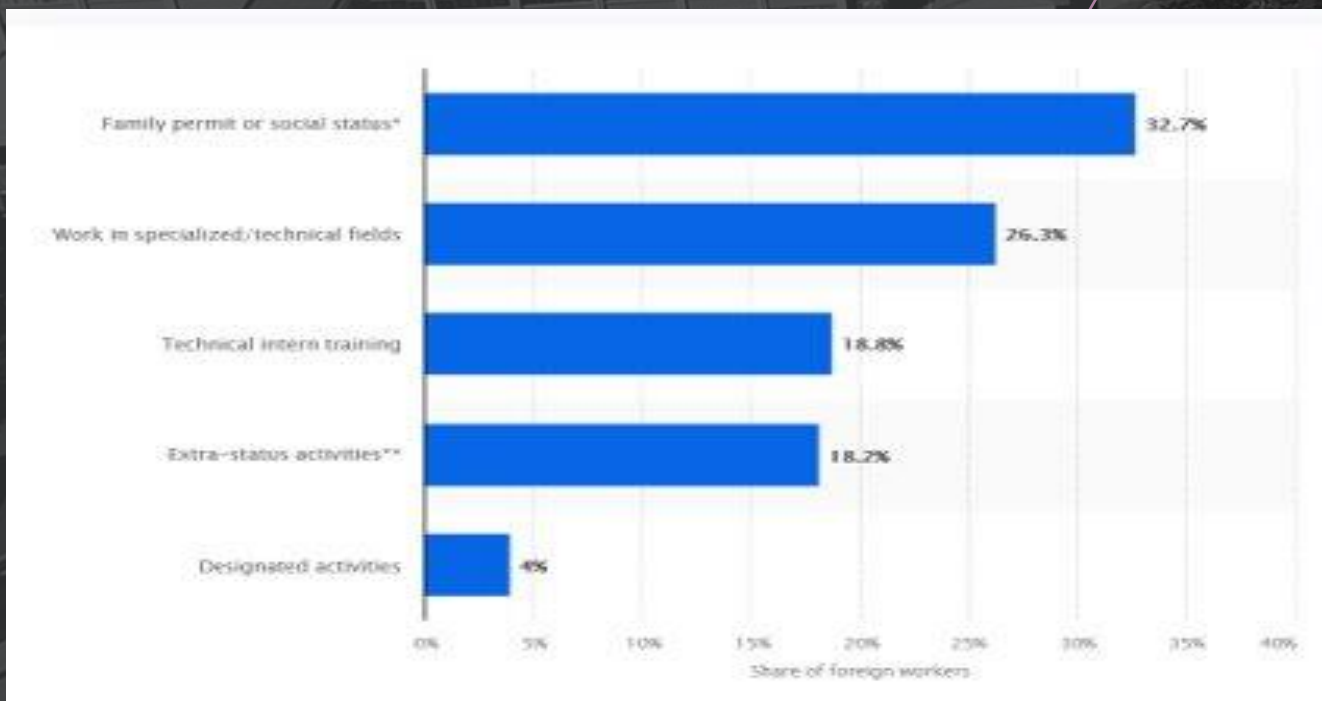
? How?

Foreign Work

- Supplements workforce
 - New skills
 - More entrepreneurs
 - More jobs, more capital
- Supporting a foreign workforce
 - Corporate seminars for companies, to hire their first foreigner
 - Counseling centers for current workers
 - Residency Statuses Policies

? How?

Foreign Work



? How?

Education

- Promote foreign language proficiency
- Promote culture exchange
- Exchange programs
- JALT (Japan Association for Language Teachers)
- JET (Japan Exchange and Teaching)

? How?

Tourism

- Grow the economy
- Increase notoriety
- Promotes local craft, scenery, culture
- Travel subsidies





MEET THE TEAM



MEET THE TEAM



MEET THE TEAM



Prahladh Raja, Robotics Engineering
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Chonlada DiMascolo, Computer Science & IMGD

Sponsor: Prof. Andrea Urushima, Kyoto Seika University

Goal: Map, categorize, and analyze internationalization initiatives in Fukui.
Purpose: Foundation for future research.

Goals of Surveys and Interviews

Assess how Fukui residents characterize internationalization, as well as their perceptions and expectations

Initial Interviews

- Bathhouse Owner
- Ishimaru-Sensei; Fukui Prefectural University (FPU)
- Initial connection to FPU
- Set up a meeting with World Cafe



Fukui Prefectural University

- World Café
 - Kaz: Manager of World Café
 - Raine: English Professor
- FPU Students
 - Foreign: 4 Chinese, 1 Taiwan
 - Japanese: 2 local Japanese
- Surveys distributed to FPU
 - Displayed in World Café

Attempted to Contact

- Contacted Businesses
 - 16 via fax
 - 7 inquiry forms
 - 25 via email
- Received no responses or were denied



FIAP

- Fukui International Activities Plaza
- Obtained internationalization resources
- Successfully distributed Surveys to FIAP



Findings

Concluded Surveys

18 total local responses

10 total foreign responses

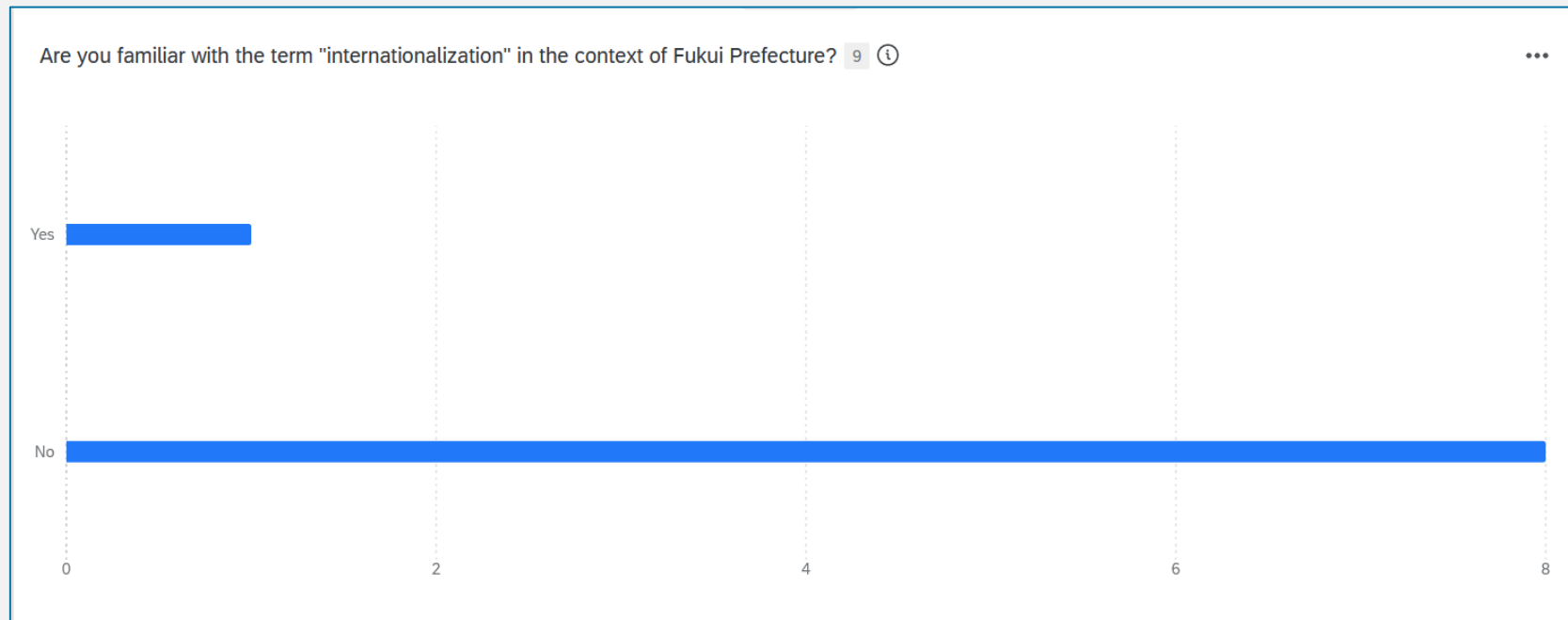
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Limited Responses: 11 complete responses,
limited variety

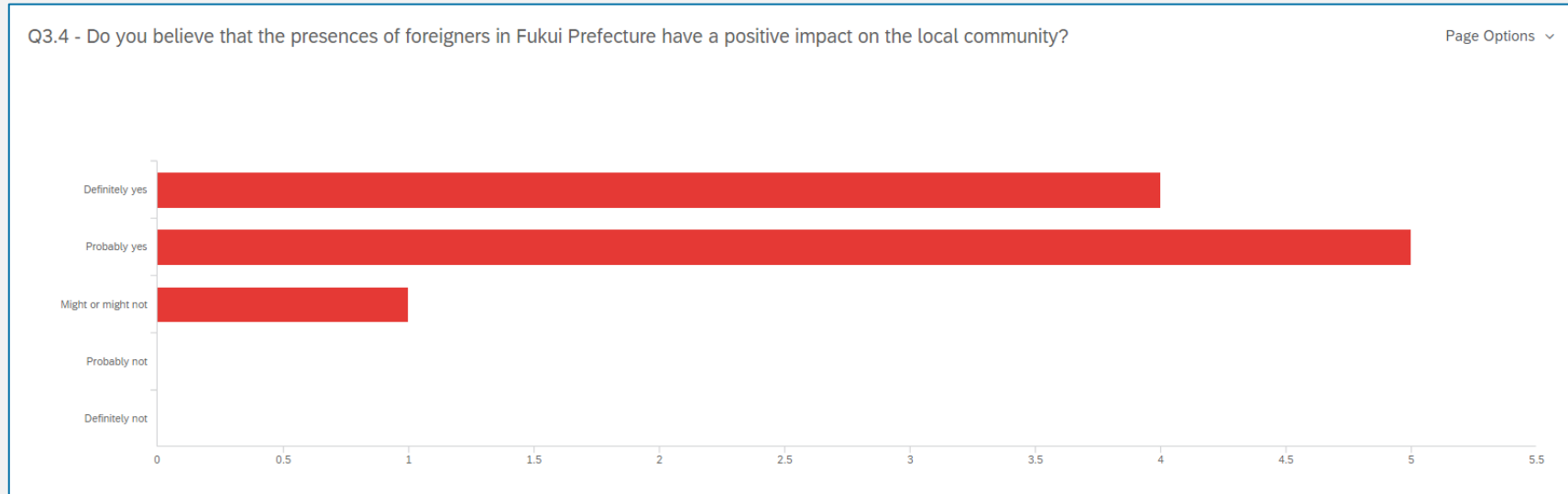
Community: Comprehending Internationalization

Familiar Concept, Unfamiliar Term

- Shown in Surveys
 - Stated they were unfamiliar with the term
 - Familiarity with effects and goals when given brief definition
- Shown in Interviews; World Cafe
 - Initial confusion
 - Listed own experiences after told definition



Community: Positive View of Internationalization



- Shown in Surveys
 - In your opinion, what is the purpose of internationalization in Fukui?
 - “Population growth”
 - “To solve social problems”
 - “Employment of foreign workers”
 - “For the development of Fukui”
 - “To tell them that there are diverse cultures”
 - “Increase in the labor force”

Community: Appreciation for Fukui's Beauty

- Shown in Surveys
 - Frequently answered in surveys as what is notable about Fukui:
 - “The environment of Fukui is quiet and the air is fresh. You can go more to publicize some attractions in Fukui...Then organize some big events...”
 - “It’s comfortable to live here. Hold more events such as firework shows.”
 - “Nice environment.”
 - Comparatively low mentions of expected features
- Shown in Interviews
 - Similar to surveys
 - One preferred Fukui over Tokyo, stating the environment helped her focus on studying



Community: Difficulty of Travel

- Shown in Surveys

- Number one reported issue with Fukui among foreigners

- Personal Experiences

- Match what was expressed in interviews and surveys

- Shown in Interviews

- Exchange students: for those without cars, sporadic public transport is expensive

What challenges, if any, have you faced in Fukui? ⓘ

I don't have a car, so it's not easy to get around. There is less public transport ...

Transportation ...

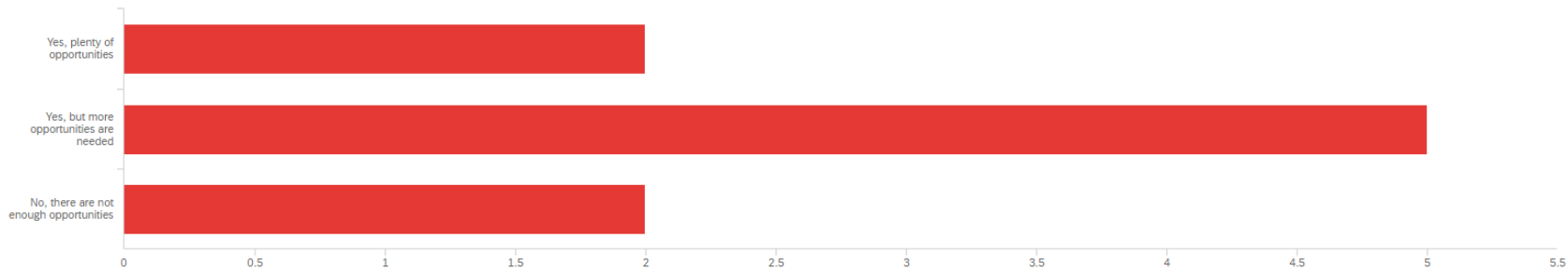
For people without cars, transportation is inconvenient and public transportation is also expensive. ...

No more results to show

Community: Desire for More vs Participation

Q3.7 - Do you think there are enough opportunities for exchange between locals and foreigners in Fukui Prefecture?

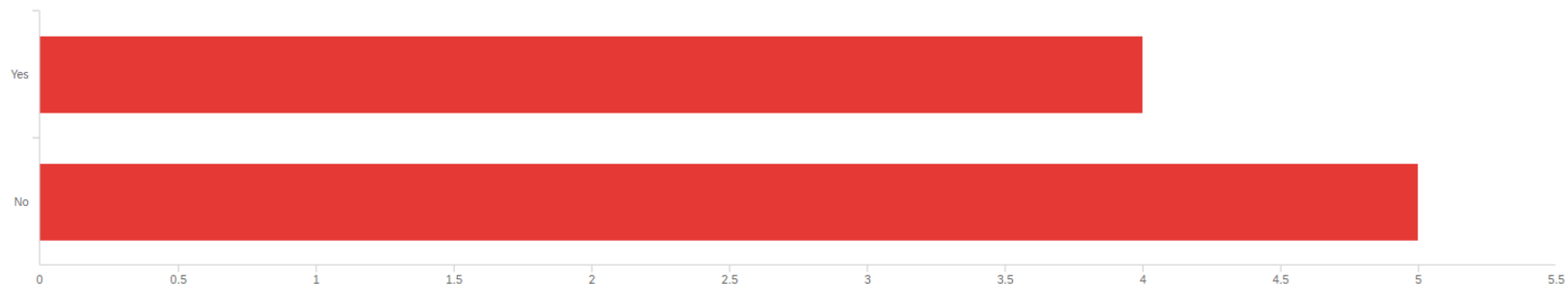
Page Options ▾



- In Surveys
 - Most local responses indicated a desire for more efforts
 - In contrast, less than half partook in efforts
- Similar lack of participation from foreigners

Q4.5 - Have you personally been involved in any internationalization initiatives or activities within Fukui Prefecture? (e.g., cultural exchanges, business partner...

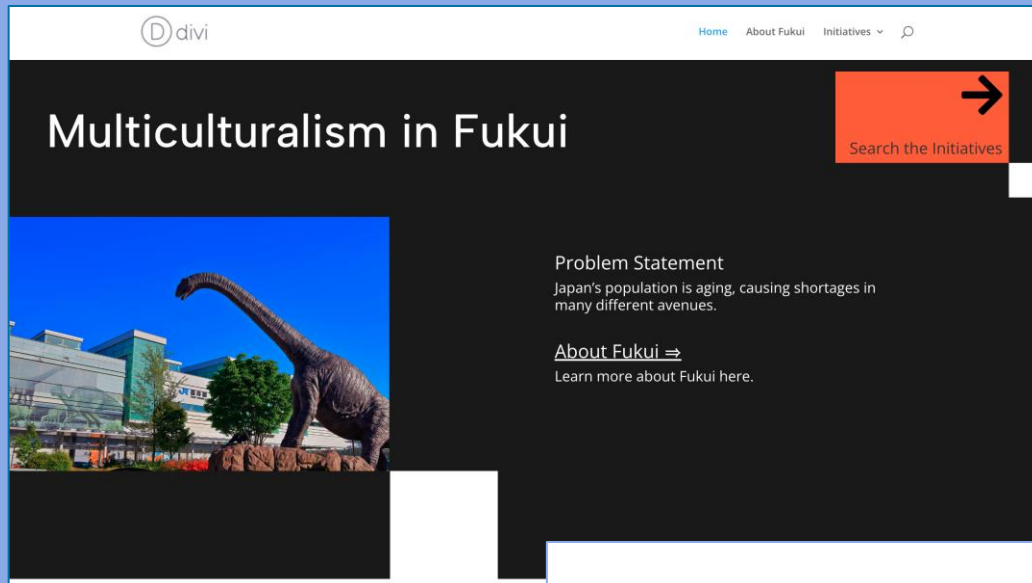
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Initiative Findings

- FDI
 - Lack of FDI initiatives
- Foreign Work
 - Attract new workforce through students
 - Happier workforce
- Education
 - Lack of variety of initiatives for primary or secondary education
- Tourism
 - Most tourism initiatives were found via brochures in Fukui
- General Life
 - Governments put a large emphasis on helping foreigners acclimate

Conclusion



The screenshot shows a website header with the 'divi' logo and navigation links for 'Home', 'About Fukui', and 'Initiatives'. The main heading is 'Multiculturalism in Fukui'. Below the heading is a large image of a dinosaur in a park. To the right of the image is a 'Search the Initiatives' button with a right-pointing arrow. Further right is a 'Problem Statement' section with the text: 'Japan's population is aging, causing shortages in many different avenues.' Below that is an 'About Fukui' link with a right-pointing arrow and the text: 'Learn more about Fukui here.'



The screenshot shows a website header with the title '- Meet the Teams -'. Below the title is a large image of a group of people standing in a park. To the right of the image is a 'Phase 1 - Project Mission' section with the text: 'The purpose of this project is to conduct a comprehensive exploration of the ongoing multiculturalism efforts in Fukui Prefecture. This exploration is necessitated by the need for economic revitalization in a region struggling with its population demographic. It is important to clarify that the primary objective of these efforts is not necessarily growth, but rather the preservation of Fukui's current status and the prevention of further decline.' Below this text is a table with four objectives:

| | |
|---|--|
| Objective 1 Describe and characterize multiculturalism in the Fukui Prefecture. | Objective 2 Document and organize multiculturalism in Fukui. |
| Objective 3 Assess the perceptions, views, and expectations of various actors on multiculturalism. | Objective 4 Identify untapped areas or innovative approaches within existing sectors in Fukui that can benefit from multiculturalism efforts. |

What is IQP?

The Interactive Qualifying project (IQP) involves interdisciplinary student teams, working collaboratively on projects that address social, cultural, and technological issues.



Avenues of Research

For this project, we decided to split our focus into 4 different avenues: Foreign Direct Investment, Foreign Work, Education, and Tourism.

Click on the buttons below to learn more about these avenues.

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

About

Foreign Work

About

Education

About

Tourism

About

Conclusion


divi

Home About Fukui Initiatives

About Fukui

Fukui Prefecture offers a treasure trove of natural beauty, cultural heritage, and economic potential. Yet like many other regions across Japan, it faces challenges that have since pushed it to explore multiculturalism. In this section, we aim to understand Fukui Prefecture: its history, geography, economy, culture, and people.

By comprehensively understanding the elements that make Fukui the prefecture it is, we will understand the factors that drive the multiculturalism efforts and the potential such efforts have in the region.



Contents [hide]

- 1 About Fukui
 - 1.1 Local Japanese Population
 - 1.2 Local Foreign Population
 - 1.3 Timeline
 - 1.4 Getting to Fukui
 - 1.5 Regional Economy
 - 1.6 Regional Culture

Getting to Fukui

- Komatsu Airport, Ishikawa**
Fukui does not have its own public airport.
- Fukui Station, Tsuruga Station**
Fuku's first Shinkansen will be built by March 2024.
- Cars are the best way to get around Fukui.**
- Highway and overnight bus**
- Tsuruga-Tomakomai Route**
The ferry from Fukui to Hokkaido takes about 20 hours and is ¥1,100 JPY.

Regional Economy



Prefecture Population: **749,682**

Population 60+: **277,382**

Foreign Population: **20,241**


2022 Population Change: **-5997**

Local Japanese Population

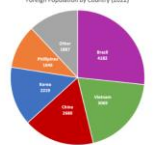
Fukui Prefecture is ranked 43rd smallest among 47 prefectures, contributing to just 0.6% of Japan's total population.¹

Fukui's demographic landscape has been shaped by a consistent trend of population decline. Over the past 23 years, the prefecture has seen decreases in population. In 2022, the prefecture saw a net loss of 4,564, resulting from 5,204 new births against 9,768 deaths.¹

Additionally, the prefecture consistently sees net migration figures surpassing immigration. In 2021, 12,640 individuals moved into the prefecture, while 14,799 exited.¹ Many immigrants come from the neighboring regions of Ishikawa, Aichi, and Osaka. While the allure of urbanization attracts residents to Osaka Prefecture, Tokyo, and Aichi Prefecture,



Local Foreign Population



Recognizing the pressing demographic challenges, Fukui Prefecture has sought to increase the number residents via foreigners. As of 2022, the prefecture counted 15,663 foreign residents, constituting 2.1% of the prefecture's total population.¹⁰ This marked the first increase in two years, signifying a more proactive approach to diversifying its demographic.

Foreign residents come from 82 countries, with Brazil accounting for the largest number, followed by Vietnam, South Korea, China, and the Philippines.¹⁰ The majority of these foreign residents held permanent resident status, followed by technical interns, and students.

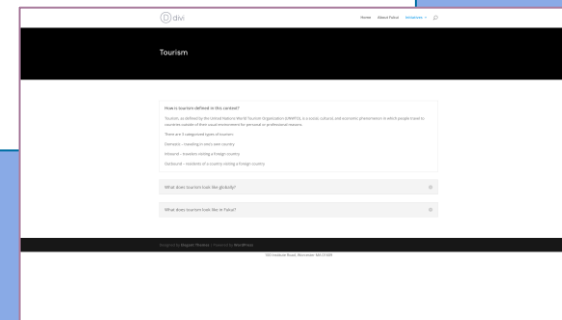
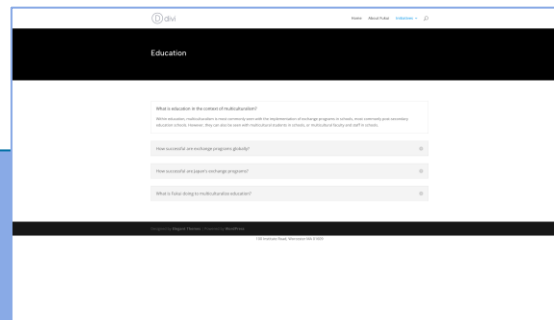
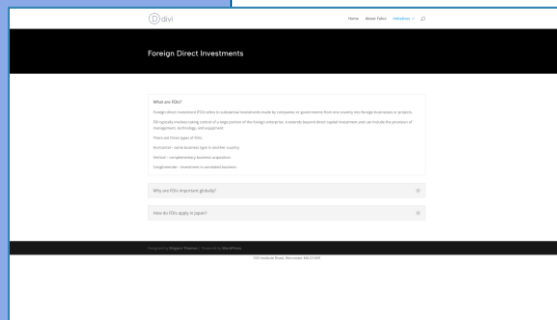
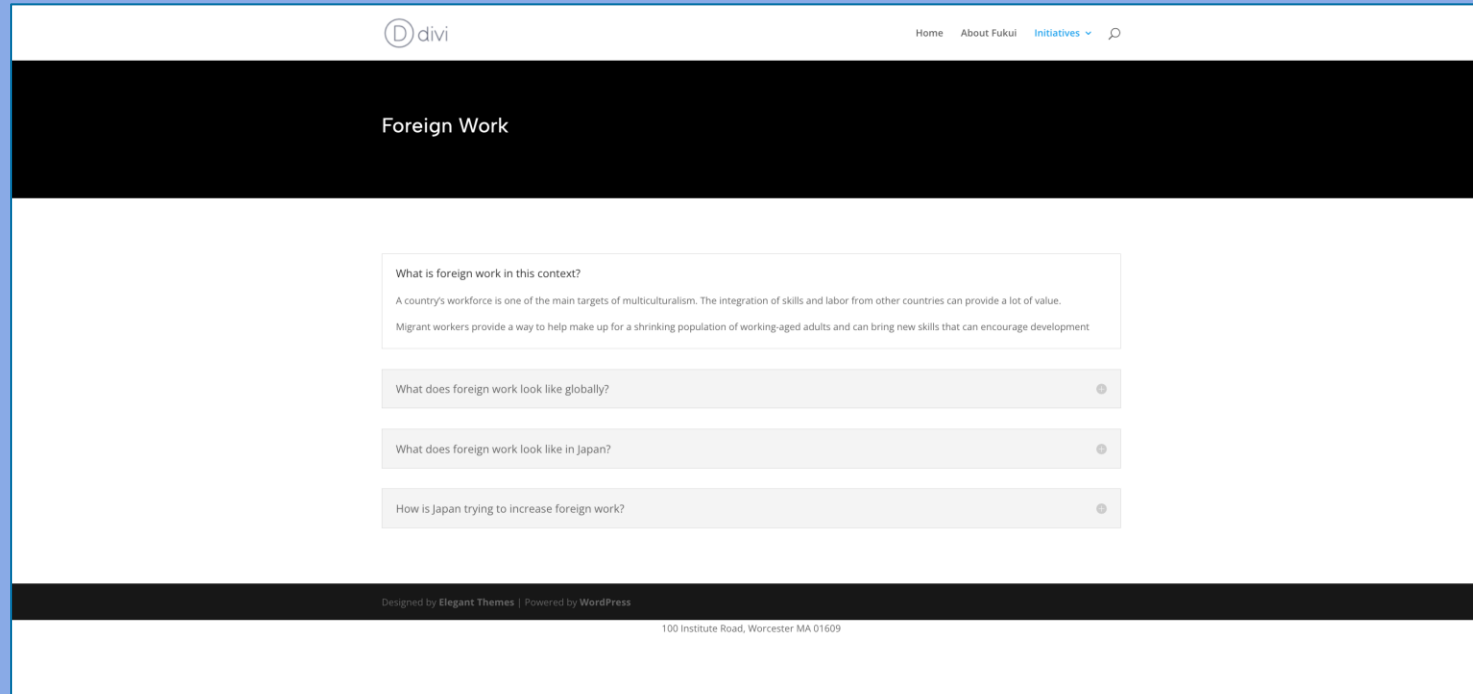
By municipality, Echizen City, Fukui City, and Sakai City reported the highest percentage of foreign residents.¹¹

Timeline

Pre-Meiji Period:

- The region is divided into Wakasa and Echizen provinces.¹²
- Wakasa Province, located along the Sea of Japan, becomes a crucial food supplier to ancient Japanese capitals Nara and Kyoto.¹²

Conclusion



Conclusion

Multicultural Initiatives

| URL | Category | Time Period | Fukui? | Level | Actor | Perspective | Aa Notes |
|--|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|------------|--------------|-------------|---|
| Fukui Multicultural Coexistence Promotion Plan | Workforce Education | Present Future | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Prefecture | Local Pop... | Government | A plan with the goal of making Fukui the "Leading Multicultural City" by bolstering communications, strengthening livelihood support systems, improving medical and welfare sectors, and more |
| Overview of the Japanese Government's Tourism Policy for Foreign Tourists | Tourism | Future | <input type="checkbox"/> | National | Governm... | Local | This elaborates over the "Visit Japan Campaign", a plan to combat the decline in tourism as a result of COVID-19. This plan includes enhancing the environment for foreign visitors, promoting sustainable tourism, and strategies to attract tourists. The goal is to support sector recovery, stimulate the local economy, and ensure infection prevention measure. |
| Major Issues and Guidelines on Immigration Control Administration Services | Workforce Tourism | Past | <input type="checkbox"/> | National | Governm... | Government | Japan aims to openly accept highly-skilled and professional foreign workers that can contribute to its economy and society, while implementing measures to smooth tourism immigration procedures. In light of a declining population, Japan will also review acceptance criteria for foreign workers in non-technical roles, taking into account impacts across various sectors. Additionally, Japan is improving training and student exchange programs to align with original objectives, and enhancing long-term residency options and support services for law-abiding foreigners building lives in Japan. At the same time, border control and immigration screening mechanisms are being augmented considerably in order to halve illegal foreign residents in 5 years and rapidly deport visa violators, although some special permissions may be granted based on humanitarian considerations or victim status. |
| Tourism Government Initiatives | Tourism | Future | <input type="checkbox"/> | National | Governm... | Government | This initiative comes from the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) which outlines the Japan government's efforts to increase tourism as a growth strategy and regional revitalization tool. This includes measures such as digital transformation, enhanced communication, tax exemptions, and multilingual support. There is emphasis on attracting key market tourists and promoting Japanophile segments via overseas campaigns and digital marketing. |
| Fukui International Association (tips, tricks and useful info for foreign residents) | Workforce Tourism | Present | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Prefecture | Local Pop... | Local | The Fukui International Association's efforts include providing information and support for foreign residents. |
| Fukui Tour Guides Association | Tourism | Present | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Prefecture | Local Pop... | Foreigner | The Fukui Tour Guides Association, including the association aims to support and promote tourism in the prefecture. |
| About Echizen-shi tourist association | Tourism | Present | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | City-wide | Local Pop... | Local | The Echizen-shi Tourist Association involves collecting and managing information about local tourism events, managing to attract tourists, and providing information and support for tourists. |

Total - 85

| Category | Amount | Level most Prevalent |
|--------------|--------|-----------------------------|
| FDI | 4 | Prefectural |
| Foreign Work | 11 | Prefectural(5)/National (4) |
| Education | 6 | Prefectural |
| Tourism | 48 | Prefectural |
| General Life | 35 | City |

Conclusion

Recommendations

- Use “multiculturalism” instead of “internationalization”
 - This term was more familiar to the local population
- More cross-cultural events and improve advertisement
 - Both foreign and local communities
- Promote Fukui’s natural scenery and spiritual heritage
 - Boost tourism and appeal
- Develop more intuitive transportation
 - Electronic payment systems, autonomous vehicles, more bus routes with frequent timings

Conclusion

Future Research

- Our website can serve as the basis for future projects
- Expand the scope of research
 - Government and business perspectives
 - Collective qualitative data
 - Larger variety of cities
 - Recently arrived foreigners



Thank you.