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Class 1: Introductions

Part 1: Getting to Know You

This salon is a chance for you to practice your English skills as well as connect with others who are interested in volunteering for the Fukuyama Association for Global Exchange. We will use themes relating to supporting non-Japanese residents living in Fukuyama. In later classes we will also use topics related to other features of living in and visiting Fukuyama. It is hoped that many of you will take part in FAGE's various volunteer activities and events. Remember, volunteering is not limited to using English, so try to volunteer for a variety of activities.

First, let's learn more about each other. Please introduce yourself in English. Mention the following:

- 1. Your name
- 2. What you like to do in your free time
- 3. Your favorite location in Fukuyama, and why you like it
- 4. What kind of volunteer activities you are currently participating in, or ones that you want to get involved in

You can use the template on the next page to help you.

Suggested Template

I'm_____

and I like to

My favorite location in Fukuyama's_____

because____

I'm currently volunteering as

After everyone has introduced themselves, let's all get to know each other more using the following questions. Feel free to expand on your responses.

- 1. What locations in Fukuyama do you enjoy visiting?
- 2. What events in Fukuyama do you enjoy?
- 3. Do you think Fukuyama is a convenient city to live in? Why, or why not?

Part 2: How Much Do You Know About Fukuyama?

You live in or around Fukuyama, but how much do you know about the city and the people who live here? Here's a short quiz to test your knowledge about Fukuyama. Let's try to answer these questions together as a class!

- 1. What is the population of Fukuyama? What is its total non-Japanese population?
- 2. What are the three largest non-Japanese populations in Fukuyama?
- 3. How many different nationalities live in Fukuyama?
- 4. What are some famous tourist locations in Fukuyama?
- 5. What kinds of products (traditional crafts, etc.) are produced in Fukuyama?
- 6. What are some popular museums in Fukuyama?
- 7. When is the Route 2 bypass scheduled for completion in Fukuyama?
- 8. What was the first business to operate where *iti SETOUCHI* now is?
- 9. What do you know about the Rose Convention held in May 2025?
- 10.What do you know about the Holocaust Education Centre in Miyukicho?

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Yasashii Nihongo

Yasashii Nihongo is a simpler version of Japanese that is easy to understand not only for non-native speakers, but for children and elderly native speakers as well. As the majority of Fukuyama's non-Japanese people are not native English speakers, consider learning the basics of Yasashii Nihongo in order to communicate with more of the people that live in the city.

The following materials are particularly useful for learning the basics of Yasashii Nihongo.

- Aichi Prefecture Yasashii Nihongo Manual: <u>https://www.pref.aichi.jp/soshiki/tabunka/0000059054.html</u>
- NHK News Web Easy (News written in Yasashii Nihongo): https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/easy/

Holocaust Education Centre

Reopened in 2020, this educational centre commemorates the victims of the Holocaust. It includes a replica of the room in Amsterdam where Anne Frank hid from the Nazis. Admission is free.

https://www.hecjpn.org/







Class 2: Living in Fukuyama

What are some important things that you should know when living in Fukuyama? Have you ever thought about differences between living in Japan and in a different country? Together as a class, let's practice our English conversation skills using the following questions.

- Have you ever lived in another country? What challenges did you face?
- Have you ever lived in another municipality in Japan? What were the differences between living there and living in Fukuyama?
- What are some similarities and differences between non-Japanese residents of Japan and visitors from other countries?
- What are some resources that you use when you want to find information in Fukuyama?
- Do you ever read the city's informational magazine, *Kōhō Fukuyama*? What information do you find useful?
- Is there any information that you have trouble finding?
- Have you ever helped non-Japanese residents get adjusted to living in Japan? What things did they have trouble with?
- What are some reasons why a foreign resident would choose to live in Fukuyama compared to a larger city like Tokyo or Osaka?

- What are some things that you think newcomers to Japan/Fukuyama should know? Some areas to consider:
 - Resident Card/visa
- Cycling rules
- Recycling
- City Hall services - Banking
- Public Transport - Moving within Japan

- 'Mynaportal' app

- Driving in Japan

- - Tax & Pension
- Cashless payments

- Manners & etiquette

- Children's education

- Japanese phrases

- Can you think of any other aspects of life that people from other countries might find 'strange' or unusual about life in Japan? Ideas to consider:
 - freedom of speech - human rights use of body language - LGBT people racism and xenophobia - the political system smoking
 - eating while walking -
 - attitudes to historical events
 - tipping

- immigration/re-entry procedures -
- face masks
- camera shutter noise
- personal safety & crime rate _
- ATM hours of operation
- National Pension scheme -
- credit cards and loans
- punctuality/timekeeping

- business cards
- vegetarianism -
- electronic payments
- customer service -
- URLs & internet search
- parking
- consumption tax
- slippers/tatami mats
- online banking -
- residents' tax system -
- personal pronouns -
- 16 national holidays -

- Healthcare
- Sending money
 - Internet
- Law on drugs etc.

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Guidebook on Living and Working

The Immigration Services Agency of Japan publishes a guidebook for non-Japanese residents to help them adjust to living and working in Japan. This guidebook is available in Japanese, simple Japanese, English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Portuguese, Vietnamese, Nepali, Thai, Indonesian, Myanmar language, Khmer, Tagalog, Mongolian, Turkish and Ukranian. Because so many language versions are available, this guidebook is an excellent resource for learning phrases and information useful for supporting non-Japanese residents in Fukuyama.

Examples of information contained in this guidebook:

- · Procedures relating to status of residence
- Procedures at municipal offices (e.g. change of address)
- My Number system
- Employment/working
- Childbirth and parenting
- Education
- Medical services
- Pension and welfare
- Tax
- Traffic (traffic rules, how to get a Japanese driver's license, etc.)
- Emergencies and disasters
- Housing
- Daily rules and customs

https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/support/portal/index.html



Class 3: Volunteering in Fukuyama

Part 1: Being a Volunteer

What sort of volunteering experience do you have? (Any volunteer activities, not just international-related ones.) What sort of volunteer activities do you want to be involved in? Together as a class, let's practice our English conversation skills using the following questions.

- What volunteer activities are you involved in?
- How often do you volunteer?
- How do you use social media or other internet tools (e.g. search) to enable people to find and contact you, especially from abroad?
- What are some positive experiences you have had during your volunteer activities?
- Have you ever participated in volunteer activities for the Fukuyama Association for Global Exchange (FAGE)? What activities were they?
- Have you ever volunteered for city events (the Rose Festival, the 2025 World Rose Convention-related activities, etc.)? What advice do you have for someone who wants to volunteer?
- What are some manners to keep in mind when volunteering (especially when it involves non-Japanese residents)?

Part 2: Learning & Teaching Japanese

Many volunteers for FAGE help teach Japanese to non-Japanese residents of Fukuyama. Have you ever had any experience of teaching Japanese? In the remaining time today, let's practice our English conversation skills by discussing the following questions related to teaching Japanese to foreign residents.

General Questions about Teaching and Learning Japanese

Note: These are questions everyone can discuss, even if you do not have experience teaching Japanese as a professional or volunteer.

- When you were a child, what about learning Japanese was difficult for you?
- What do you think is the most difficult thing about learning Japanese (both for Japanese and non-Japanese people)?
- What do you think is the easiest thing about learning Japanese?
- What are some methods that you recommend for learning and practicing Japanese? (For instance, think about the methods you use to study English.)
- Have you ever tried teaching Japanese (hiragana, katakana, difficult words, etc.) to someone before? (For example, to your children or grandchildren.)
- Do you know about any Japanese language exams for non-native speakers? What about exams for native speakers (ex: Kanji Kentei)? Have you ever tried these exams yourself?

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Volunteer Activities in Fukuyama

If you are looking for volunteer activities to take part in, consider volunteering through the Fukuyama City Social Welfare Council (福山市社会 福祉協議会). From their website, you can see activities you can get involved in or read their volunteer information newsletter called "TUNAGU."

https://www.f-shakyo.net/index.html



Tsunahiro: Website for Foreign Nationals as Residents to Learn Japanese Language

The Japanese Agency for Cultural Affairs Japanese Language Division has a website called *Tsunahiro* (full name in Japanese: つながるひろがる にほん ごでのくらし(つなひろ)). This website teaches Japanese through common situations non-Japanese residents often face in Japan. If you are interested in teaching Japanese, you can look at this website to try to understand the perspective of those learning Japanese as a foreign language. In addition, this website is available in multiple languages, such as English, Chinese, Portuguese, Nepali, Thai, and more—so please show this website to your friends who are beginning to learn Japanese as well!

http://tsunagarujp.bunka.go.jp

*URL to change in June 2024. If the link above doesn't work, search online for つながるひろがる にほんごでのくらし.



(Textbook) Irodori: Japanese for Life in Japan

The Japan Foundation has produced a free Japanese textbook called *Irodori*. With three volumes, this textbook covers all the points needed to begin learning Japanese. This textbook can be used for self-study, and an online language course is also available on the website. If you want to teach Japanese to non-Japanese residents, consider using this textbook as a teaching material.



https://www.irodori.jpf.go.jp/

Class 4: Eating in Fukuyama

Do you enjoy eating? What challenges might non-Japanese residents have when eating in Japan? Together as a class, let's practice our English conversation skills using the following questions.

- What are your favorite kinds of foods?
- What kind of foods do you eat at home?
- · Do you often cook your own meals?
- What are some examples of Japanese foods that are popular abroad?
- What are some examples of Japanese foods that aren't well known outside of Japan?
- Have you ever eaten Japanese food in another country? Was it different than the same dish you would eat in Japan?
- Do you often eat at restaurants in Fukuyama?
- What are your recommendations for restaurants in Fukuyama?
- What are some examples of local cuisine in Fukuyama?
- Are there any foods that you enjoy that you can't find in Fukuyama?
- What are some issues that non-Japanese residents might have when eating in Fukuyama/Japan?
- Do you think it is difficult to shop for foreign foods in Fukuyama? What about in other cities (Tokyo, Osaka, etc.)?
- Do you think it is easy to make foreign dishes using ingredients at a regular Japanese supermarket?
- Do you think it is easy to be vegetarian or vegan when living in Fukuyama?
- What are some common dietary restrictions abroad that might not be well-known in Japan?
- Do you think dietary issues can cause stress when living in Japan?
- If you have ever lived in another country, did you ever have issues related to food?

Your Notes:

Note: Everyone will make a presentation during the next class! Be sure to be prepared!

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Fukuyama Brand Products

Have you ever heard of "Fukuyama Brand" products? These are original products, services, and other unique items created in Fukuyama. This includes food items such as ginger syrup, Tomonoura ramen, uzumi sushi, and more! Discover more unique products through the official Fukuyama Brand website.

https://fukuyama-brand.jp/

Class 5: Individual Presentations – Living in Japan

In the past few classes, we talked about some issues that non-Japanese residents might face when living in Fukuyama. For this class, everyone will make a brief presentation to talk about other issues faced by non-Japanese residents. Please find a news article written in English, summarize it, and think of a discussion question to ask others in the class. If you want, you can bring copies of the article for your classmates as well (please print them yourself in that case).

Some examples of topics you can search for: finding work, finding an apartment/house, the school system in Japan, earthquakes and disaster preparedness

Please see the Extra Information section if you are having trouble finding articles in English.

Everyone will have a **maximum of five minutes** to present, followed by up to five minutes of questions and discussion. You can use these questions to help organize your presentation.

- 1. What is this article about?
- 2. Why did you choose this article?
- 3. What is a question that you want to ask your classmates about this article?

Your Presentation Notes:

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News about Japan in English

The following are sources for news articles about Japan in English. You can read these pages to help improve your English as well as learn more about the viewpoints of non-Japanese residents of Japan.

Hint: If you are looking for an article for your presentation, you can try checking the "Opinion" or "Editorial" pages of some of these news sources for more opinion-based articles.

The Japan Times https://www.japantimes.co.jp/

The Mainichi https://mainichi.jp/english/

The Japan News https://japannews.yomiuri.co.jp/

The Asahi Shimbun https://www.asahi.com/ajw/

Japan Today https://japantoday.com/

NHK World https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/













Class 6: Tourism in Fukuyama

In this class, let's talk more about tourism, and more specifically tourism in Fukuyama! As a class, let's practice our English conversation using the following questions.

Tourism in General

- What are some good and bad things about tourism?
- Do you think international tourism helps people around world to understand each other?
- Where have you traveled abroad? What were your best and worst experiences?
- · How has tourism in Japan changed recently?
- What are some helpful phrases in English you can use when speaking with tourists?
- What are some manners to be aware of when talking to non-Japanese tourists?

Tourism in Fukuyama

- What are some famous tourist locations in Fukuyama?
- What are some less-famous tourist locations in Fukuyama? For instance, are there any tourist spots you would recommend that you can't find in a travel guide?
- What do you think are some appealing points of Fukuyama?
- What are some famous events that happen in Fukuyama?
- Would you recommend Fukuyama as a tourist destination for international tourists? What about local tourists? Why, or why not?

Roses of Fukuyama

- What do you know about the history of Fukuyama's roses?
- Have you ever been to any of the rose parks in Fukuyama? Would you recommend them to visitors?

- Have you ever been to the Fukuyama Rose Festival before? When?
- What sort of activities at the Fukuyama Rose Festival do you enjoy?
- Have you ever attended any concerts, displays, etc. at a past Fukuyama Rose Festival?

Fukuyama Cultural Zone and Fukuyama Castle

- Where is the Cultural Zone located? How do you get there?
- Have you ever been to the Cultural Zone?
- Have you ever been on a guided tour of the area (e.g. Fukuyama Castle)?
- Have you ever visited any of the museums in the Cultural Zone? What exhibits did you see?
- Do you like to spend time in the Cultural Zone or around Fukuyama Station? Where do you like to go?
- What would you do to improve the Cultural Zone or the area around Fukuyama Station generally?
- Fukuyama Castle celebrated its 400th anniversary in August 2022. Did you take part in any activities or events related to this anniversary?
- Would you recommend Fukuyama Castle to your friends and family? Why or why not?

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The following are some helpful resources regarding tourism in Fukuyama and its surrounding areas in English. Try using these resources to learn how to introduce various tourist spots in English!

Dive! Hiroshima - The Official Guide to Hiroshima

This website has lots of information in English about tourist destinations around the entire prefecture. This website is available in Japanese, English, Korean, Chinese, French, German, and other languages. (Note: Some information is machine translated.)

https://dive-hiroshima.com/en/

Japan Guide

This website is aimed at English-speaking tourists, and articles are written primarily by non-Japanese writers, so you can use this website to get an idea of how native English speakers introduce tourist destinations.

Hiroshima: https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2160.html

Fukuyama: <u>https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e3430.html</u>







Japan National Tourism Organization

This website is a helpful resource for tourism throughout Japan. However, information about Fukuyama is limited.

https://www.japan.travel/en/destinations/chugoku/hiroshima/

Fukuyama Convention & Visitors Association

This website contains information specific to Fukuyama. You can also find travel guides in English to download as well.

https://www.fukuyama-kanko.com/inbound/

English travel guides: <u>https://www.fukuyama-kanko.com/inbound/guide/</u>





Class 7: Transportation in Fukuyama

How often do you use public transportation in Fukuyama? Do you think it is convenient, or needs improvement? As a class, let's practice our English conversation using the following questions.

- What mode of transportation do you prefer?
- Do you think public transportation in Japan is expensive or inexpensive? Why?
- Do you prefer public transportation, or your own car/bicycle when you need to go somewhere?
- Do you ever have problems related to public transportation? What kind?
- Have you ever used public transportation in another country? How was your experience?
- Do you think Japanese public transportation is easy for non-Japanese residents and foreign tourists to use?
- Do you think public transportation in Japan is easy to understand in larger cities such as Tokyo and Osaka? Have you ever had problems with the transportation in these cities?
- What are some useful English phrases you can use relating to transportation?
- Have you ever helped someone use public transportation? Have you ever needed help using public transportation?
- How do you find information relating to transportation? (For instance, how would you find out about the next train to JR Bingo-Akasaka Station?)
- When you travel to Tokyo, do you prefer flying, or the Shinkansen?
- How often do you use Hiroshima or Okayama airports? Do you think they are conveniently located?
- When you travel abroad, which airport do you prefer to use?
- If you wanted to tell a visitor at Haneda Airport how to visit Fukuyama, what would you tell them?
- What would you do to improve transportation in Fukuyama?

Trains

- Do you ever use the trains in Fukuyama? Which train lines? Do you think they are easy for tourists to use?
- If you have to travel to see someone far away, which lines do you use?
- When you use the Shinkansen from Fukuyama, do you buy physical tickets, or do you buy your tickets online (SMART-EX, etc.)?

Buses

- · How often do you use the buses in Fukuyama?
- · Are there any conveniently located bus routes near your home?
- Do you think the buses in Fukuyama offer a good service? Why, or why not?

Cars

- Do you drive your own car in Fukuyama? Do you prefer your car, or public transportation?
- Do you think a car is important for people to live in Fukuyama? Why, or why not?
- Do you think it is difficult to drive and find parking in Fukuyama?
- How well-developed is the electric vehicle charging infrastructure in Fukuyama?
- · How often do you use taxis in Fukuyama?

Bicycles

- Do you ever ride a bicycle in Fukuyama?
- Have you used the rental bicycles in front of Fukuyama Station?
- How easy is it to ride and park a bicycle in Fukuyama?

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JAL – Quick Guide to Public Transportation in Japan

Aimed at tourists, this guide gives a brief overview of how to use public transportation in Japan. You can use this to learn vocabulary related to how to talk about transportation in Japan.

https://www.jal.co.jp/ar/en/guide-to-japan/plan-your-trip/tips/transportation-options-in-japan.html



Japan Guide - Transportation

This guide is also aimed at tourists and goes into a little more detail for each category of transportation (railways, cars, bicycles, etc.) in Japan.

https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e627.html



Class 8: Businesses in Fukuyama

Do you like to support local businesses? Can you name any famous businesses that can be found in Fukuyama? As a class, let's practice our English conversation using the following questions.

- What are some products that are made in Fukuyama?
- What are some major agricultural products of Fukuyama?
- What are some major industries of Fukuyama? Are these recent industries, or ones that have been around for many years?
- What are some major businesses headquartered in Fukuyama?
- Are these businesses famous in other countries or only within Japan?
- What are some smaller, local businesses of Fukuyama?
- Have you or your family/friends ever worked for a local business in Fukuyama?
- Do you or your family/friends own their own business in Fukuyama?
- What are some businesses of Fukuyama that you would recommend to your friends and family? Why?
- Do you tend to buy local brands, or just what is cheapest?
- Do you enjoy supporting small businesses? Why, or why not?
- What are some of your favorite small businesses? Why are they your favorites?
- What are some industries that you wish would come to Fukuyama?
- Have you ever heard of the *Only One, Number One* industries of Fukuyama? (Hint: See the Extra Information for this month.)
- Do you think Fukuyama is a convenient place to work? Do you think many people from abroad want to work in Fukuyama?
- If you could start a business, what type of business would it be?

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"Only One Number One" Industries of Fukuyama

Industries located in Fukuyama who use unique technologies, have products not found anywhere else, or hold a major share of the industry in Japan are called "Only One Number One" industries. You can find a list of these industries on the Fukuyama City website.

https://www.city.fukuyama.hiroshima.jp/soshiki/sangyou/56573.html



"Only One Number One" Industries of Hiroshima Prefecture

You can also find information on "Only One Number One" industries throughout the prefecture on the Hiroshima Prefecture website.

https://www.pref.hiroshima.lg.jp/site/onlyonenoonezigyou/1173088481190.html



Class 9: Promoting Fukuyama

How would you promote Fukuyama through social media? What is your impression of Fukuyama (or Hiroshima prefecture in general) in the media (TV, films, etc.)? As a class, let's practice our English conversation using the following questions.

Part 1: Promoting Fukuyama through Social Media

- Do you use social media? Why or why not?
- Have you ever promoted Fukuyama through social media? For instance, do you ever post photos of locations in Fukuyama?
- Do you know about any of Fukuyama City's official social media accounts? (Facebook, X, etc.)
- Do you follow any of Fukuyama City's official social media accounts? Why, or why not?
- Do you follow any non-official social media accounts with information about Fukuyama or Hiroshima? What are they?
- Do you think a social media presence is necessary to attract tourists?
- When you travel somewhere, do you look at social media related to that location?
- Do you think social media is helpful or harmful for tourism? Why or why not?
- How good is the free Wi-Fi available to tourists in Fukuyama? How can Wi-Fi availability affect promotion through social media?

Part 2: Promoting Fukuyama through TV & Other Media

- Have you ever seen Fukuyama in TV dramas or in films? Where?
- Have you ever seen Fukuyama on variety TV programs?
- Have you ever read about Fukuyama in a book or seen an article about the city in a magazine?

- Have you seen any interesting news about Fukuyama on local TV recently?
- Fukuyama was a topic of discussion on news sites abroad because of its "friendship city" agreement with a famous "city". Did you hear about this? (If not, see the *Extra Information* section for this class!)
- Do you think Fukuyama should appear in more Japanese TV shows or films? Why or why not?
- Do you think Fukuyama should appear in more non-Japanese TV shows or films? Why or why not?
- Do you think being featured on TV or in films affects tourism in a place? How?

Your Notes:

Note: Everyone will make a presentation during the next class! Be sure to be prepared!

This *Extra Information* section is a chance for you to learn on your own about something related to the class's topic. We will not cover this information in class; it is a chance for you to practice your English skills and learn more about Fukuyama and other topics yourself!

Friendship City Agreement with Gotham City

Gotham City is the fictional setting for the famous *Batman* series. To celebrate the release of the series' latest film, *The Batman*, a friendship city agreement was signed between Fukuyama City and Gotham City (via Warner Bros. Japan LLC). This news immediately spread across social media abroad, bringing a lot of attention to the city. A message from the cast of *The Batman* was recorded as well. You can read more about this from the following websites.

Information from Fukuyama City website (Japanese) https://www.city.fukuyama.hiroshima.jp/soshiki/bunka/252427.html



English news articles about this topic https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20220225/p2a/00m/0et/039000c https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2022/03/c7546c955308-batmans-hometown-gothamjapanese-castle-site-become-friends.html





Video message from the cast (English) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vaK2rTxCJBQ



Fukuyama City's Social Media Accounts

Do you want to follow some of the city's official social media accounts? You can find information about the city's Facebook, Instagram, LINE, X, and YouTube accounts from the Fukuyama City website.

https://www.city.fukuyama.hiroshima.jp



Class 10: Individual Presentations -Roses of Fukuyama

The Rose Expo and World Rose Convention were held in 2025. Since today is the last class of the year, let's present information in English relating to the roses of Fukuyama. Since the World Rose Convention also involved tours to rose gardens outside of Fukuyama, you can present about other locations as well.

Here are some examples of topics you can present about. However, anything is okay, as long as it is rose-related!

- History of roses in Fukuyama
- History of the Rose Festival
- Your experience as a volunteer or visitor to the 2025 Rose Expo or 2025 World Rose Convention
- Recent changes to the Rose Festival
- Fukuyama becoming the "City of One Million Roses"
- Major and minor rose gardens in Fukuyama
- Rose gardens around Hiroshima Prefecture (Sera, etc.)
- Famous rose gardens in Japan (example: Keisei Rose Garden)
- How new roses are developed

Everyone will have a **maximum of five minutes** to present, followed by up to five minutes of questions and discussion. You can use these questions to help organize your presentation.

- 1. What is your presentation about? Why did you choose this topic?
- 2. Where did you find information about your topic?
- 3. What are your thoughts about this topic?
- 4. What questions could you ask your classmates about this topic?

Your Presentation Notes:

References and Acknowledgments

Cover photo: Richard Howe, all rights reserved

Fukuyama population data: https://www.city.fukuyama.hiroshima.jp/soshiki/johokanri/24115.html

FAGE: <u>https://www.city.fukuyama.hiroshima.jp/site/fage/</u>

2025 International Rose Convention: https://en.wrc2025fukuyama.jp/

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