



Shikokuchuo City International Vision

~ A city imagined together, by all citizens as one ~

February 2014

Shikokuchuo City

Forward



Today, our social environment has become increasingly globalized thanks to economic progress and advances in information technology.

Shihokuchuo City, Japan's paper capital, is actively involved in global exchange through the sharing of technical knowledge via our technical intern programs. The city is also engaged in expanding and deepening international exchange with a variety of countries and international organizations, including our sister cities.

Furthermore, Shihokuchuo City boasts over 600 foreign residents sharing language and culture from over 19 countries, and we are excited about the opportunities for city-building that come with that diversity.

Within this context, the 2014-2023 Shihokuchuo City International Vision was created to aid in the internationalization of the city, create a more comfortable living environment for our international citizens, and support local companies' international business development.

The Vision has been created and promoted jointly by the city government and citizens, conscious of the necessity of internationalization. We continue to work closely with citizens, organizations, businesses, regional communities, and educational groups to achieve the goals contained herein.

I would like to express sincere thanks to all of the citizens who have communicated their opinions to us, as well as to the Shihokuchuo Internationalization Committee and Shihokuchuo International Relations Vision Committee for their efforts and cooperation.

February 2014

Shihokuchuo City Mayor, Shinohara Minoru

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Chapter 1 Formulating the Vision

1. Background and importance of the Vision **(Reasons for promoting internationalization)**

In our modern world, with a human population exceeding 7 billion and amidst the rapid economic advancement of developing nations, there are many international issues that confront us, including population, borders, poverty, energy, and human conflict.

A rapidly aging population and declining birthrate in our own country, coupled with the trend toward globalization in the fields of information, finance, logistics, and services, makes internationalization an important strategy for Japan.

To support the promotion of internationalization in Shikokuchuo, the city's General Affairs Department issued "Guidelines for the Development of Regional International Exchange Promotion Policy" in 1989, "Guidelines for the Development of Local International Cooperation Promotion Policy" in 1995, and a "Regional Multicultural Plan" in 2006.

On a national level, partial revisions of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act and the Residential Basic Book Act in July 2012 have improved the convenience of the residency management system and administrative services for foreign residents.

In our own city, various constituencies have worked to develop international exchange through partnership agreements with our Chinese sister city Xuenchang and through exchange programs with New Zealand schools from before Shikokuchuo's incorporation. However, Shikokuchuo's plan for proceeding with internationalization and creating a borderless, multicultural society has remained undefined until now.

The city's International Exchange Vision has been developed within this context and according to the principles for international exchange set out in the 2007 Shikokuchuo City General Plan and First Shikokuchuo City Second-Term Master Plan.

Against this background, it is hoped the citizens, International Friendship Association, regional communities, private groups, corporations, regional media, and related institutions and governmental organs of Shikokuchuo will, through international exchange, international cooperation, cultural diversification of our society, and economic exchange, collaborate as residents and stakeholders in Shikokuchuo to support and promote the internationalization of our region.

Chapter 2 About the Vision

1. Goals of the Vision (What the Vision was created to accomplish)

- (1) Awareness of the necessity of international exchange, international cooperation, cultural diversification, economic exchange, etc. to citizens
- (2) Determination, together with the citizenry, of policies and promotional measures for the next decade to achieve the above goal
- (3) Creation of a sustainable promotional system in collaboration with the citizenry

2. The Vision / city image (The kind of city we are working to build)

**A city imagined together, by all citizens as one
Shikokuchuo City**

3. Structural position and time period of the Vision

(Within what context and over what period the Vision will be applied)

The Vision is positioned within the regulatory context of the “Basic Regulations for Shikokuchuo Local Government” and the upper-level “Shikokuchuo General Plan,” and aims for consistency with national policies and related city plans. The Vision also maintains the potential for modification to meet the requirements of changing social situations.

The International Vision’s effective operational period is 2014 - 2023 (10 years)

4. Development process of the Vision (How the Vision was created)

For the development of the current Vision, the Shikokuchuo Internationalization Committee was established, comprised of 18 individuals drawn from international exchange-related organizations such as the Shikokuchuo International Friendship Association as well as from the citizenry. A survey and public hearing investigating citizens’ international-related experiences and opinions were also conducted. In addition, within the city government a City Hall Working Team was established to draft measures and projects to achieve the Vision’s goals.

Based on this draft, a consultation process was launched within the Shikokuchuo International Relations Vision Committee, created from members of the city government, academia, international exchange-related organizations, etc., and by which the current model of the Vision was finalized.

Chapter 3 Ways and Means

1. Primary goals and measures of the Vision

(The specific aims by which the Vision will be accomplished)

Goal 1: ~A city connected with the world~

Promotion of international exchange and cooperation in all areas

Primary measures:

- Cultivation of international awareness
- 10,000-person participation in international exchange

Goal 2: ~A borderless city with borderless hearts~

Promotion of a safe town full of cultural diversity

Primary measures:

- Augmentation of support for Japanese language and cultural study
- Promotion of disaster preparedness

Goal 3: ~A prosperous city and internationalized economy~

Strengthening of support functions related to international corporate expansion

Primary measures:

- Strengthening of cooperation with overseas development aid agencies and corporations

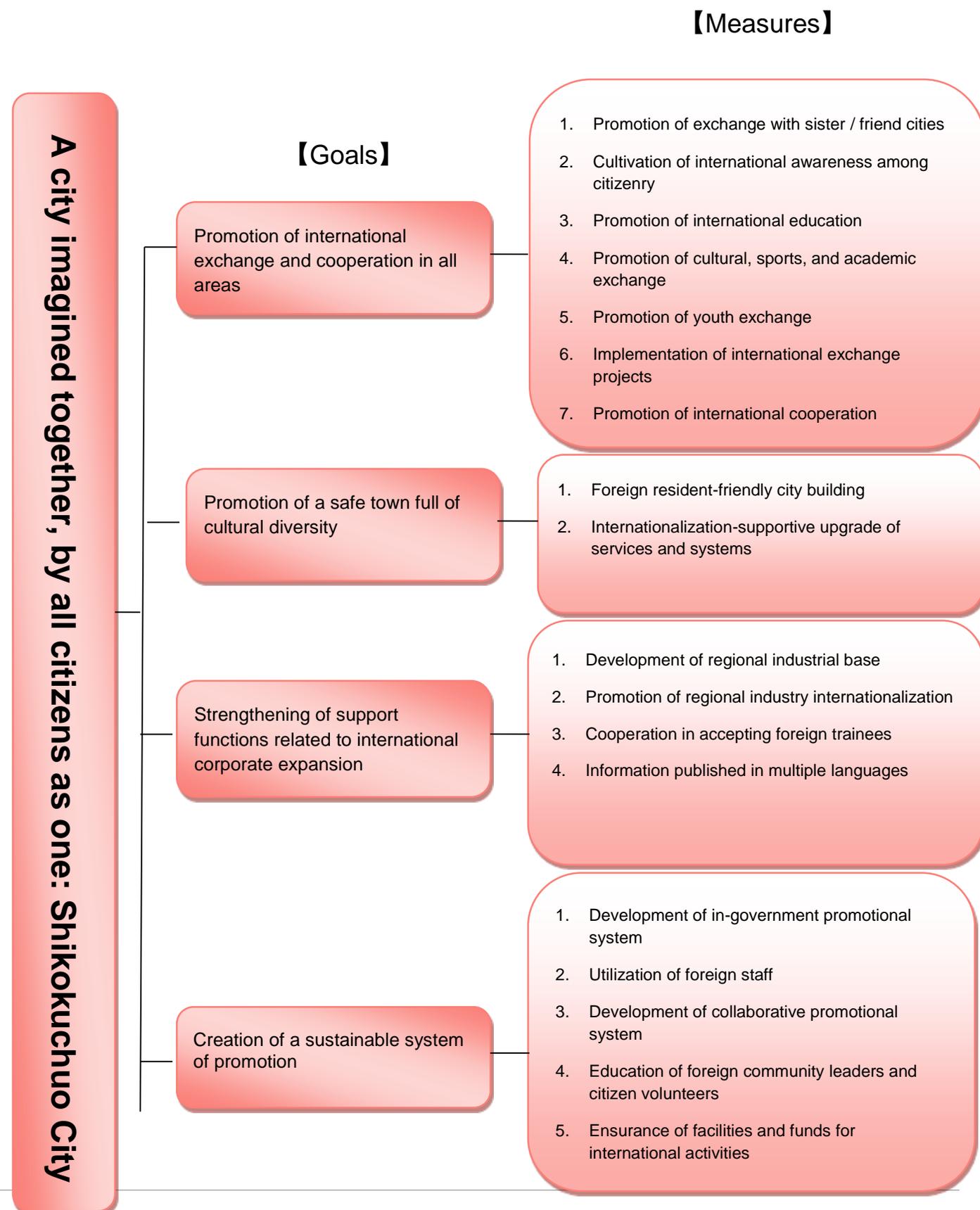
Goal 4: ~A city built together, for each other~

Creation of a sustainable system of promotion

Primary measures:

- Private international exchange networking
- Strengthening and enhancement of promotional material

2. Chart of goals and measures



3. Actors of the Vision and their roles

(What actions are expected from which constituents)

International Friendship Association: A citizen-centered group promoting internationalization in cooperation with the government and various agencies.

Government (related sections): Collaborating with various groups to advance internationalization plans and measures as well as adjust and maintain an environment for internationalization activities.

Educational institutions: Aiding in the international education of citizenry, as well as supporting constituents and foreign children and students.

(Elementary, junior high, and high schools; universities; Board of Education)

Unions and companies employing foreign workers: Respecting the rights of and maintaining safe working and living environments for foreign workers, as well as participating in international exchange enterprises.

Citizens (Japanese and foreign): Accepting cultural diversification and striving for mutual understanding, as well as contributing to regional internationalization.

Private groups: Promoting regional internationalization by taking advantage of the expertise and information of various groups in collaboration with a variety of stakeholders.

Regional communities: Promoting multiculturalism together with the government and associations, as well as maintaining an environment conducive to activities by both Japanese and foreign residents.

Public relations agencies: Supporting government and organizational promotion of internationalization through strong human resource networks and provision of information.

Corporations: Internationalizing regional industry and supporting regional society in their various business activities.

Regional media: Supporting regional internationalization by providing information about internationalization activities.

4. Methods for achieving goals and their relevant actors

(What efforts are needed by what agencies)

Goal 1: Promotion of international exchange and cooperation in all areas

Policy: Exchange with sister cities, which the government and citizens have helped to develop and in which they are active, is conducted by Shikokuchuo's international associations. The government will continue to support the associations' and citizen groups' efforts at establishing a broad spectrum of exchange. In addition, we will actively strive to cultivate international awareness at all times.

Method	Efforts / Measures	Actors
Promotion of sister and friendship city exchange	Cooperation with and support for international exchange activity groups	Gov't, educational institutions, citizens, private groups, corporations, regional media
	Exchange and visits between students, educators, and workers	Educational institutions, gov't, int'l associations
	Educational, cultural, and sports exchange activities	Educational institutions, gov't, private groups, int'l associations
	Economic exchange	Int'l associations, corporations, private groups, gov't
	Exchange and partnerships with a variety of foreign cities	Private groups, int'l associations, gov't
Cultivation of residents' international awareness	International understanding seminars and activities	Int'l associations, public relations agencies
	Home stays and visits	Int'l associations, citizens, educational institutions, private groups
	Publicity for international understanding	Int'l associations, private groups, gov't, media
Promotion of international education	Enhancement of foreign language education	Educational institutions, int'l associations
	Enhancement of international understanding education	Educational institutions, int'l associations
Promotion of cultural, sports, and academic exchange	Production of and support for art exhibitions, concerts, plays, sports events, etc.	Private groups, int'l associations, gov't
	Enticements for international conferences	Gov't, public relations agencies, private groups, int'l associations
Promotion of youth exchange	Support and acceptance for international youth exchanges and visits	Int'l associations, educational institutions, citizens
International exchange projects	Production and enticement for international symposiums and seminars	Int'l associations, gov't, public relations agencies
Promotion of international cooperation	Technical cooperation with developing countries through JICA, etc.	Gov't, corporations, private groups, citizens
	Cooperation with and utilization of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers	Citizens, gov't, int'l associations
	International cooperation through fundraising	Citizens, int'l associations, gov't

Goal 2: Promotion of a safe town full of cultural diversity

Policy: We will collaborate with citizens to build a foreign resident-friendly city with internationally-oriented services and systems, based on the unique aspects of our city, the understanding of our citizens, and the circumstances and needs of foreign residents.

Method	Efforts / Measures	Actors
Foreign resident-friendly city building	Foreign language information and displays (signage, maps, information boards)	Gov't, int'l associations
	Multi-lingual information displays (Info for emergencies, health, education, residency, traffic, electricity, gas, trash, events, etc.)	Gov't, related institutions, int'l associations, corporations
	Information for foreign residents made available during residence registration (Necessary information from each city department, available in multiple languages)	行政 Gov't
	Implementation of community orientation at the beginning of local residency	Gov't, unions and hiring organizations
	Establishment of a setting for exchange between foreign and local residents (Invitations to local events and exchange gatherings, etc.)	Local communities, unions and hiring organizations, int'l associations, gov't
	Establishment of consultation service for foreigners	Public relations agencies, gov't, int'l associations
	Augmentation of support for Japanese language education	Int'l association, unions and hiring organizations, gov't
	Residence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of information to assist with housing, elimination of housing discrimination 	Gov't, int'l associations, local communities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing orientation after relocation 	Gov't, local communities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion of internationally-related initiatives centered on residents' associations 	Local communities
	Educational Support Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for entering schools 	Educational institutions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support and exchange activities, etc. for Japanese language education 	Educational institutions, guardians, gov't, int'l associations, local communities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internationally-friendly information about educational systems 	Educational institutions, gov't, int'l associations
	Labor Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employment support in collaboration with Hello Work 	Gov't, public relations agencies
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvement of work environment in collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, etc. 	Gov't, public relations agencies
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information seminars, etc. about customs in countries of foreign workers for hiring corporations 	Unions and hiring organizations, gov't, int'l associations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Entrepreneurship support for foreign residents 	Gov't

Method	Efforts / Measures	Actors
Foreign resident-friendly city building	Health, Insurance, Welfare	
	• Information on multi-lingual hospitals and pharmacies	Gov't, health institutions
	• Medical questionnaires available in multiple languages	Gov't, health institutions
	• Dispatch of volunteer translators for health check-ups and counseling	Gov't, int'l associations
	• Support for maternal and child health and childcare	Gov't
	• Support for the elderly and handicapped	Gov't
	Disaster Prevention	Gov't, unions and hiring organizations, corporations, int'l associations, local communities
	• Disaster-related support	
	• Confirmation of foreign resident whereabouts during disaster situations	Gov't, unions and hiring organizations, corporations, int'l associations
	• Training, support, and coordination/collaboration with emergency volunteer interpreters	Int'l associations, gov't
	• Regional support agreements in the event of large-scale disasters	Gov't, int'l associations
	• Coordination with various media in multi-lingual transmission of information during disasters	Gov't, int'l associations, media
	Community Enlightenment	Gov't, int'l associations, educational institutions, regional media
	• Raising awareness of multiculturalism in the local community, etc.	
	• Creation of a multicultural hub	Gov't
	• Creation of exchange events with broad participation potential and appeal	Internationalization Promotion Committee
	Foreign Resident Independence and Social Participation	
	• Fostering of key person network and self-help organizations, etc.	Int'l associations, gov't
• Introduction of mechanism to reflect foreign resident opinions in local policy	Gov't	
• Foreign resident participation in community	Gov't, local communities	
• Recognition system for foreign resident contributions to the community	Int'l associations	
Establishment of internationally-friendly services and systems	Multi-lingual gov't and int'l association websites	Gov't, int'l associations

Goal 3: Strengthening of support functions related to international corporate expansion

Policy: Overseas corporate expansion requires extensive practical information about other countries' specific laws, regulations, tax systems, and business practices. To assist in these areas, we will attempt to utilize the government's network and cooperate with various overseas expansion aid agencies to optimally address the individual challenges each company faces in their expansion efforts.

Method	Efforts / Measures	Actors
Development of regional industrial base	Implementation of Shikokuchuo Industrial Development Vision	Gov't
Promotion of internationalization of regional industry	Foreign exhibitions and sales promotion support	Gov't, public relations agencies
Cooperation in accepting foreign technical trainees	Promotion of multicultural society	Gov't, unions and hiring organizations, int'l associations, corporations, local communities
Providing information in multiple languages	Multilingual tourist information	Gov't, private groups

Goal 4: Creation of a sustainable system of promotion

Policy: It is essential to the advancement of internationalization that policies implemented by the government, as well as international associations, private groups, citizens, corporations, regional communities, and related institutions all play a role, working in collaboration. In addition, it is important for the various actors in this internationalization to build sustainable human resource development.

Method	Efforts / Measures	Actors
Upgrade of governmental promotional systems	Fostering of internationally-aware personnel	Gov't, educational institutions
	Establishment of City Hall Liaison Council	Gov't, educational institutions
Utilization of foreign personnel	Utilization of foreign personnel to promote international exchange	Gov't, educational institutions
	Utilization and training of foreign personnel for language education	Gov't, educational institutions
Upgrade of promotional systems through enhanced collaboration	Strengthening and enhancement of promotional material	Int'l associations
	Networking of private groups promoting international exchange, etc. (Establishing the Internationalization Promotion Committee)	Related groups, citizens
	Collaboration with a variety of groups	Gov't, int'l association, public relations agencies, private groups, local communities, citizens
Cultivation of foreign community leaders and citizen volunteers	Development and cultivation of foreign community leaders	Int'l associations, gov't
	Cultivation of Citizen Volunteers · Registration and utilization of volunteer translators	Int'l associations, gov't
	· Registration and mediation for home stay and home visit arrangement	Int'l associations, gov't
	· Utilization of local foreign residents	Int'l associations, educational institutions, local communities
Ensuring funding and facilities for international exchange activities	Establishment of facilities suitable for International Friendship Association activities	Gov't
	Establishment of International Exchange Fund · Ensuring sponsorship by corporations and individuals	Gov't, private groups, int'l associations

Chapter 4 System of Promotion

1. Promotional system chart (System flow)

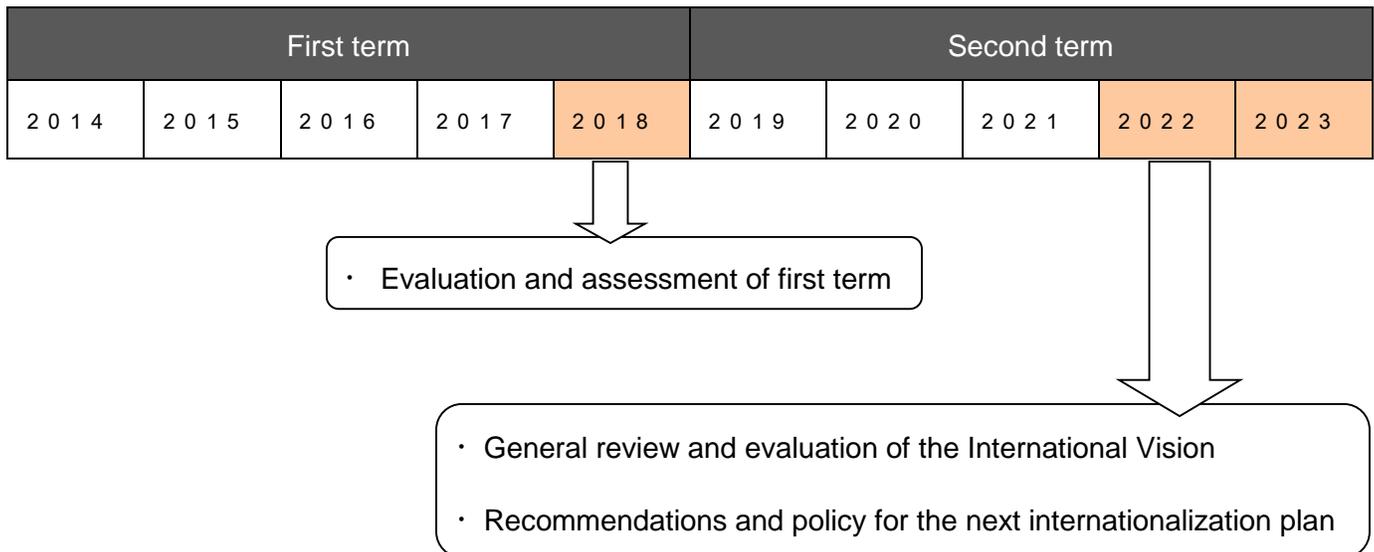


Chapter 5 Progress Management

1. Progress management policy (How progress will be managed)

The Vision's plan will be executed based on the annual recommendations of the City Hall Liaison Committee and the Internationalization Promotion Committee. Due to potential delays in the appearance of the Vision's effects, as well as possible changes in the city's financial situation, evaluations and assessments will be performed every five years to reflect mid-term developments and apply the obtained information to future implementation strategies. Furthermore, a general review and evaluation of Vision implementation will be conducted in the ninth year to inform recommendations for the next internationalization plan.

Progress Management Chart



Shikokuchuo City International Exchange Vision

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