

The 2nd
Fukuoka Global Venture Awards
Application Guidelines
(for non-Japanese applicants)
Fukuoka Global Venture Awards Executive Committee

1 Outline

Objectives

The Fukuoka Global Venture Awards is an English business plan contest for Japanese companies expanding internationally and foreign venture firms aiming to establish a presence in Japan.

Through this competition, Fukuoka City hopes to provide an opportunity for domestic and foreign companies to interact with each other, and to discover and support numerous venture firms that will likely achieve global success.

Mentoring,* including suggestions on global expansion and feedback on submitted business plans, will be provided before the final screening for the purpose of supporting the globalization efforts of domestic venture companies. Moreover, the city strives to raise the awareness of domestic companies on startups, create new business opportunities, and establish and maintain a global network of venture businesses by bringing domestic companies and foreign venture firms together.

*Mentoring means that a mentor with extensive business experience and expertise offers psychological support and practical advice to promote active growth of the mentee.

In this event, multiple mentors experienced in business plan contests and business startup support will provide objective, comprehensive advice on the proposed business plans in the form of a presentation workshop. This applies to applicants who pass the initial screening.

Contest Details

- (1) An English business plan contest for domestic and foreign entrepreneurs
- (2) Pointers on presentation techniques and feedback on submitted business plans by mentors from MIT Venture Forum of Japan**
- (3) Networking between contest finalists (presenters) and local businesses

** MIT Venture Forum of Japan, formerly MIT Enterprise Forum of Japan, was established as a non-profit organization to support entrepreneurs by Japanese graduates of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1999. As a subcommittee of the MIT Association of Japan, the largest MIT alumni society outside the United States, it provides training and practical support for entrepreneurs through its worldwide network.

Awards Ceremony Program

Date	Friday, October 2, 2015
	From 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Presentations and final screening
	From 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Keynote speech
	From 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Awards ceremony and reception
Venue	ACROS Fukuoka (1-1-1 Tenjin, Chuo Ward, Fukuoka City)
Awards	Top award (prize: ¥500,000)... 1 Award for excellence (prize: ¥200,000)... 1 EOY Kyushu Block Finalists 2 (For Japanese finalists only) Sponsor award... several
	※ In the event that the screening committee determines none of the entries to be satisfactory, no winner will be declared.

(Additional Prizes)

- Free management advice by MIT Venture Forum and Ernst & Young ShinNihon LLC over a certain period of time
- Support for business matching (for a company selected from the finalists)

2 Application Details

Application Requirements

1. Corporations, organizations and individuals operating a business in Japan
2. Corporations, organizations and individuals operating a business abroad

- Note that an application may be rejected for the following reasons.
- An applicant operating a business in Japan has failed to pay tax.

- An applicant intends to participate in the contest for political or religious purposes.
- An applicant has contact with a criminal organization defined by the laws of Japan.
- An applicant operates an adult entertainment business defined by the laws of Japan.
- An applicant operates a business contrary to public order and morality.
- An applicant has made a false statement during the application process.

Language

English will be the language of communication.

For some sections, applicants will be able to select Japanese or English.

- The choice of language will in no way affect the screening results.
 - Application documents may be submitted in English or Japanese.
 - Participants at the Fukuoka Global Venture Awards must present their business plans in English.
 - Presentation materials must be prepared in English.
 - Applicants requesting the question and answer session in Japanese must indicate so in the application form. A translator will be provided.
 - At the reception after the contest, translators will be provided to support the participants lacking confidence in their English skills.

Business Plan Requirements

1. Applicants who fall under application requirement 1 must include an overseas business expansion plan in their proposal.
2. Applicants who fall under application requirement 2 must have the clear intention to enter the Japanese market.

Points to Cover in the Business Plan

1. Title of the business (to be released for each finalist)
2. Business outline (to be released for each finalist)
3. Marketing strategies
4. Strengths of the business including core competence and proprietary technology
5. Competitive edge and novelty
6. Management structure

Documents Required for Application

The following four documents containing the “points to cover in the business plan” must be submitted.

There is no specific format for 1, 2 and 3 below, but files must be created in a PDF, PPT, PPTX, XLS, XLSX, DOC or DOCX format.

1. Business plan summary A4, single-sided, 1 page
2. Business plan A4, single-sided, 10 pages
3. Support documents A4, single-sided, 10 pages
4. Application form (Downloadable from <http://fukuoka-global.ventures>)

Application Period

From Wednesday, May 13 to Tuesday, June 30, 2015

Application Submission

Via e-mail to info@fukuoka-global.ventures.

Applications must be received in electronic form only.

Application Deadline

3:00 p.m. on Monday, June 30, 2015 (JST GMT+9)

Notes regarding Application

1. Application documents will not be returned to the applicants. Documents can be revised during the application period.
2. To confirm the eligibility of the applicants based on the application documents, an investigation agency will investigate individual applicants and their company or organization.
3. For applicants who pass the initial screening (finalists), their names and business plan outlines will be made public (designated sections only).
4. Applicants are considered to have agreed to release their business plans to the screening committee for the initial and final screening.
5. Presentation documents and materials should be prepared bearing in mind that the final screening will be conducted in front of an audience.
6. Finalists may release plan details and additional information only to the screening

committee during the final screening.

7. Except for sections agreed to be released, information provided by applicants will not be disclosed to a third party.
8. Public presentation of a business plan or business may increase the risk of appropriation or infringement. The executive committee accepts no liability for any such acts under any circumstances.
9. Applicants are responsible for securing the proprietorship of any non-patented technology or know-how presented in their business plan.
10. Applicants will bear all costs incurred for material preparation and personnel required for their application.
11. Transportation and accommodation costs for the finalists to travel to Fukuoka for the Fukuoka Global Venture Awards will be covered by the executive committee.
12. Personal and other information provided by applicants will be used only for the executive committee's research activities pertaining to its operation, as well as for hosting the Fukuoka Global Venture Awards and ensuring the success of the proposed business plans. Information provided will not be used for any other purposes.

3 Screening

All submitted papers are screened as the initial selection and the result notification will be sent by August 3, 2015 by mail.

Final Screening Criteria

1. Innovative idea
The proposed service or product is based on innovative technology or business model.
2. Sustainability
The proposed plan will develop into a sustainable business, or the proposed business has growth potential.
3. Global benefits
The proposed business has the potential to contribute to Japan, Asia and the world. (Foreign companies will be evaluated for their viability in the Japanese market.)
4. Entrepreneurship
The applicant has both quality and potential as an entrepreneur.

Screening Committee

Seven Japanese and foreign experts, including the president of Cyber University, Hiroshi Kawahara.

Applications and Inquiries

Inquiries should be made by e-mail. Inquiries by telephone may not be answered.

Applications and inquiries

E-mail address: entry@fukuoka-global.ventures

Fukuoka Global Venture Awards Executive Committee

When your application documents exceed 5MB, please submit each document separately to ensure we receive them.

4 Schedule

August 3, 2015	Notification of the initial screening results
Tuesday, October 1, 2015	Arrival of the non-Japanese finalists at an accommodation facility in Fukuoka City
Friday, October 2, 2015	Holding of the final screening, keynote speech, awards ceremony and reception
Venue: ACROS Fukuoka (1-1-1 Tenjin, Chuo Ward, Fukuoka City)	