Fukuoka City Startup Special Zone — Japan's First Global Startup Deregulation Zone

City Innovation Library · Good practice · Japan

Quality score: 86/100

Evidence strength: Strong

Summary

Japan's first startup deregulation zone (2014) and first city to introduce a Startup Visa (2015). Public incubator FGN helped 98 companies raise ¥42.2B by 2024; 1,406 startups registered; 82% five-year survival rate; 7.3% founding rate — outpacing Tokyo and Osaka.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured results	3/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	2/3
Scalability	2/3
Sustainability / continuity	3/3
Innovation	3/3
Inclusiveness / equity	2/3
Multi-stakeholder collaboration	3/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-06-26

Fukuoka City Government — accessed 2026-06-26

Fukuoka City National Strategic Special Zone (official) — accessed 2026-06-26

StartupBlink — Fukuoka Startup Ecosystem Report — accessed 2026-06-26

World Economic Forum — Japan championing regional startup economy — accessed 2026-06-26

MIT REAP — Fukuoka City cohort — accessed 2026-06-26

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