

Introduction of Our School

School name:	National Institute of Technology, Wakayama College (独立行政法人 国立高等専門学校機構 和歌山工業高等専門学校)
School address:	77 Noshima, Nada, Gobo, Wakayama, Japan (和歌山県御坊市名田町野島 77)
School URL:	http://www.wakayama-nct.ac.jp/
PR message:	Wakayama College of Technology walks with local communities (地域とともに歩む和歌山高専。)

“National Institute of Technology, Wakayama College” locates in Gobo city, Wakayama, Japan (Fig1). Our college, a fusion of a high school and a university, has a continuous curriculum of 5 or 7 years for junior high school graduates. We have four specialized departments, and we learn technical subjects and are engaged in researches. We have a lot of experiments and practice training courses. The reason is that we are studying to become engineers after graduation. Students have two options for their career after graduation, one is to get a job, and the other is to enter a university or graduate school. In fact, employment rate of our graduates has been 100%.

Our college locates by the Pacific Ocean and it is also surrounded by mountains. These mountains lead to Kumano Kodo (Fig2). Kumano Kodo is a mountain path that trainee monks have walked from all over Japan for worship travel. It was registered as the world cultural heritage in 2004 because of the beauty created by the ancients and nature. We have a variety of activities focusing on the regional contribution and regional environment in order to inherit the landscape of Kumano Kodo into the future generations. Major four examples of our college activities are introduced in the following sentences.

Firstly, “Kinokuni Robot Festival” is held every year in Gobo city where our college locates, and our college is one of the organizers (Fig3). This festival is a project in order to introduce “the passion for manufacturing” and “correct knowledge about robot” to students from primary school to high school. Our college including the Robot Contest club members cooperate in this festival.

Secondly, in our college, there is a student volunteer group called “Ameba”. They act not only for a nature conservation like the seashore cleaning and tree planting, but also for welfare services. Their activities were recognized socially, and they received an appreciation letter from Wakayama prefectural governor last year.

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Thirdly, our college makes a strong effort for a robot education. Students study robotics not only in our courses but also in our club activities. One of the most major activity groups is the Robot Contest club. They participate in the National College Robot Contest every year. In the contests, the robots developed by the students compete the given tasks. The given task of the contest has been getting harder and harder every year, so the students need to improve their techniques and know-how about robot. In such a situation, our college team has ever won the vice-championship three times. Furthermore, our college students have been awarded various prizes every year.

Finally, we also think that it is important to teach an attractiveness of robots to children who will make the future. We have carried out the public classes and science lectures focusing robots (Fig4). Participants can have experiences of a real robot programming, and we hope them see real robots in our school. By carrying out such projects, we introduce a leading edge of science and technologies that we are studying.

As described in this document, a lot of front-line researches have been carried out in our college with a conscious of local communities. Students are learning techniques in order to become robot and/or mechanical engineers. Based on these efforts, we aim to be a robot engineer.



Fig.1 National Institute of Technology, Wakayama College

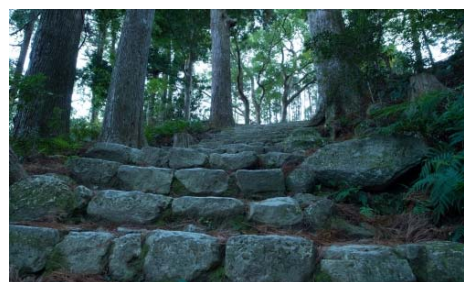


Fig.2 Kumano Kodo



Fig.3 Kinokuni Robot Festival



Fig.4 Public class