

Group13: Introduction of Our School

School name: National Institute of Technology, Wakayama College
(国立和歌山工業高等専門学校)

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PR message: College of Technology besides the Pacific's wave.

“National Institute of Technology, Wakayama College” is in Gobo city, Wakayama prefecture. It's located in the countryside. It takes about five and half hours from Tokyo by train and bus. Since it faces the Pacific Ocean, the students are able to study in the rich natural environment.

Our college provides a consistent engineering education program of five years for graduates of junior high schools. The students in the first year start studying the specialized knowledge and techniques of engineering. The employment rate and the university-entry rate of our college graduates are 100% every year. In addition, after graduation of the five years program, it's also possible to continue studies in advanced engineering faculty, where advanced education program of two years is provided. Because the advanced courses accept about 8 students for each course, classes, experiments, and seminars are carried out “face to face” with the professors. This means that students of our college have more opportunities to be instructed about studies and career plans from the professors and staffs in comparison with other universities.

Most of the students enjoy not only study courses but also club activities. Among them, “ROBOCON” is the most active club. They aim to win the “Technical College Robot Contest” that is held every year, and all the national institutes of technology in Japan participate it. The theme and the rule of the contest is different every year. Therefore, development of new robots is required every year based on the competition's theme. So far, our college had won the second place three times in the national convention. (Figure2 shows the robot that won the Technology Award)

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Our college has a well-equipped training factory that was renovated last year. Unlike the ordinary high schools and universities, we are able to study the way how to use the conventional machine tools like automatic lathes and machining centers in practice course from the first year. In the fifth year, all the students engage in research projects. In the research projects, students can apply the knowledge and techniques that they learned in the lower years to the practical purposes. There is also a variety of opportunities to participate in conferences and competitions that are held outside the college. For instance, our laboratory students participate in a research project "Innovative Japan". It's organized of 16 colleges, and they compete on the achievements of each research. By doing such activities, it is expected that we acquire all of "knowledge, technology, and experience" simultaneously, and we are able to master the practical skills.

Our college continues researches and studies. This will overcome the disadvantage of the distance from the cities, and enables us to advance our college without delay. Even though our college is located far away from the cities, it's is blessed with advanced facilities and rich nature.



Figure1 Our campus

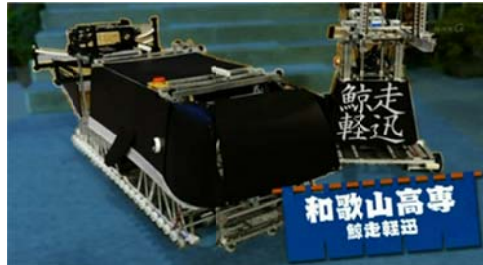


Figure2 Robot for contest



Figure3 Training factory



Figure4 Research competition