Decision of Institutional Certified Evaluation and Accreditation

The National Institute of Technology, Akita College, complies with the Standards for the Establishment of Colleges of Technology and other relevant laws and regulations, and meets the Standards for Evaluation and Accreditation of Colleges of Technology set by NIAD-UE.

Good practices identified by the review committee include:

- Monozukuri (manufacturing) education (involving workshop practice in each course) in the associate course first-year subjects as part of the initiatives to foster creativity. These classes are designed to enhance creativity, not simply allowing students to make what they want but providing given assignments and opportunities to contemplate their assignments in terms of product drawings, product structure, or efficient work processes. The experiments/practices in each course each year are also designed to enhance creativity. For example, the Mechanical Engineering third-year "Mechanical Design and Technology" class engages the students in the group design and manufacture of mechanical devices (robots) that satisfy the given assignment/theme, fostering creativity through friendly competition;
- The "Exercise of Creative Engineering" class for the first- and second-year students of each diploma course designed to enhance creativity for solving problems. The class requires students to engage in given technical problems or other assignments and produce solutions from various approaches within a limited duration of time. The students cooperate in groups, using their knowledge in particular fields to engage in the assignments and develop through friendly competition, enhancing their creativity for solving problems. For example, the Production Systems Engineering second-year "Exercise of Proposal-type Creative Engineering" class instructs students in the second term on what to produce based on their daily lives or research activities in groups of threes or fours. The students are required to draft and submit for approval a manufacturing plan that fulfils as many conditions as possible (e.g., making something unprecedented, creating functions not achieved before, using different methods than before) and conforms to the restrictions of funding and delivery date. The class is a comprehensive summary of creative education that prompts students to feel the sense of accomplishment of creating something out of nothing, as they devise methods through discussion and communication with group members and experience the difficulties of making something come true; and
- An extremely high employment rate (the number of students employed divided by the number of students seeking employment after graduation) for both the associate and diploma courses, with

students employed in the manufacturing industry, construction industry, ICT industry, and other employment befitting of the engineers the college hopes to produce; and an extremely high rate of students advancing to higher education (the number of students advancing to higher education divided by the number of students wishing to advance to higher education) for both the associate and diploma courses, with students advancing to the diploma courses at colleges of technology or engineering faculties or academic units at universities that are related to the students' associate/diploma courses.

Areas for improvement identified by the review committee include:

- The lack of written clarification of the basic policy for the selection of entrants (part of the admissions policy), although the criteria for student eligibility (another part of the admissions policy) is clarified in written form, and the reasoning of the basic policy for the selection of entrants is shared by the faculty staff; and
- The lack of clarity regarding the evaluation standards for the self-assessment/evaluation of the overall condition of school activities, although the evaluation items and cycle are established.

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