

Decision of Institutional Certified Evaluation and Accreditation

The National Institute of Technology, Kurume 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 the National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education (NIAD-QE). It fulfills all requirements defined as Priority Evaluation Items in Viewpoint 1-1.

The best practices identified by the review committee include the following:

- 1) The College participates in the Consortium of Higher Education in Kurume, which consists of five higher education institutions in Kurume City, to utilize external education and research resources. It engages in interactions with other higher education institutions in extracurricular activities as well as academic exchanges, such as joint studies by faculty members. These initiatives have produced successful outcomes that include students involved in joint research with Kurume University developing smartphone apps in 2019.
- 2) The "Machine Element Design Experiment," which is held in the fifth year of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, focuses on hand-wound winch handles and wind rotors. Based on the analysis result using Computer-Aided Engineering (CAE), the performance of a 3D-printed model is tested and compared with the analysis. Finally, the model is optimized. Accordingly, the College is making educational efforts to cultivate the comprehensive strength that is essential for design.
- 3) The employment rate (the number of students employed divided by the number of students seeking post-graduation employment) for the associate and diploma courses is extremely high, with graduates employed in the manufacturing and other industries suitable for engineers the College hopes to produce. The rate of students advancing to higher education (the number of students advancing to higher education divided by the number of students wishing to do so) for the regular and advanced courses is also extremely high, with graduates advancing to the diploma courses at the colleges of technology, faculties of engineering, or graduate schools related to their associate and diploma courses.

Areas for improvement identified by the review committee include the following:

- 1) It cannot be said that the criteria and items for conducting regular self-assessment of the College's overall situation are sufficient. Besides, the responsibility chain for regularly collecting and accumulating basic data and materials for conducting self-assessment has been insufficiently clarified. Therefore, it cannot be said that the implementation of self-assessment is sufficient (Viewpoint 1-1-(1), 1-1-(2))
- 2) The College's internal quality assurance system is not articulated (Viewpoint 1-1-(4)).

The College's response to the coronavirus pandemic:

NIAD-QE asked the College to report its response to the coronavirus pandemic, as the spread of infections has affected educational activities in unprecedented ways since the beginning of the 2020 school year. Consequently, it

was confirmed that the College is dealing with the situation as mentioned in the appendix.

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