

【Event Report】 SURUGA Production Platform, which supports the world’s manufacturing with “reliable, quick delivery” from Shizuoka, held an Open Factory event for junior high school students!

- As part of the "Career Education Program for Nurturing Junior High School Students with Local Companies" held on May 16 and hosted by Shizuoka University -

SURUGA Production Platform Co., Ltd. MISUMI Group (Headquarters: Shizuoka City, Shizuoka Prefecture; Representative Director and President: Takumi Toya; hereinafter referred to as "SURUGA Production Platform") held an "Open Factory" event in May at the request of Shizuoka University, inviting 21 students from Shizuoka Municipal Minami Junior High School to its SHIMIZU Plant. This was part of the "Career Education Program for Nurturing Junior High School Students with Local Companies" planned by Shizuoka University.

SURUGA Production Platform is a group company of MISUMI Group Inc. (Headquarters: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Representative Director and President: Ryusei Ono). The MISUMI Group and its group companies will continue to take initiatives to contribute to the IA (Industrial Automation) industry and local communities.



Students listen as a staff member explains the "die components" that are made in the factory.

■ **“Open Factory” Event: Background**

"Career Education Program for Nurturing Junior High School Students with Local Companies" is a program planned by Shizuoka University, providing public junior high school students in Shizuoka City with a three-day work experience at local companies and lectures at Shizuoka University. As one of the local companies supporting this initiative, SURUGA Production Platform hosted the students. This was the first time the program was held, and it was also the first time for SURUGA Production Platform that junior high school students visited its production site and experienced the manufacturing process firsthand.

Public junior high schools in Shizuoka City have been conducting work experience programs for students.

However, this program aims to help students learn how the world works, not just to give them a glimpse of a job, but to broaden their future career choices by interacting with adults who work in local companies, and to help students envision their own futures as they grow and play an active role in the local community.

■ Event Report

<About "manufacturing" by SURUGA Production Platform>

Takumi Toya, Representative Director and President of SURUGA Production Platform, gave an introduction about The MISUMI Group and SURUGA Production Platform. Mr. Toya stated, "The MISUMI Group's primary mission is to create time for our customers by reducing their labor hours and ensuring our "Reliable, Quick Delivery", in response to the social problems of labor and time shortages facing Japanese manufacturing. Our company, SURUGA Production Platform, which is responsible for manufacturing in the Group, has always tried to meet the challenge of advancing the manufacturing process." He concluded his speech by saying "Persistence pays off" as an encouragement to the students.



<Factory Tour and Manufacturing Experience>

The students changed into work clothes and entered the factory, where they received an explanation from the staff about the "die components" produced at the SHIMIZU factory. After going over the safety precautions, they moved on to hands-on learning. The students operated "ALASHI", the in-house developed intelligent automation system for custom products, and experienced first-hand the manufacturing of punches and the inspection of the precision of the products. They then went to the underground of the factory to see the earthquake-proof structure and learned about the BCP measures to prepare for the largest possible earthquake.

Each of the participating students was curious to see the inside of the factory they don't usually get to visit, listening attentively to the staff and operating the machines with serious expressions on their faces.



The ALASHI Stadium: an intelligent automation system incorporating the MISUMI Production System.



A staff member giving an instruction to a student on how to operate a machine.



Students inspecting the earthquake-resistant structure of the building.



Souvenirs:
Nameplates made with a 3D printer used to develop equipment at the factory, and punches made by students using ALASHI.

■ Event Overview

Date & Time: Thursday, May 16, 2024, 09:30 - 11:30

Venue: SHIMIZU Factory of SURUGA Production Platform,
505 Nanatsushinya, Shimizu-ku, Shizuoka City, Shizuoka Prefecture

Participants: 22 persons from Shizuoka Municipal Minami Junior High School, including 21 second-year students and one accompanying teacher

: Professor Eiji Ugata, Career Support Division, Student Support Center, Shizuoka University

Organizer: National University Corporation Shizuoka University

■ Comment by Shizuoka University Professor Who Planned the Event



Professor Eiji Ugata, Student Support Center, Shizuoka University

I usually work to help university students find jobs, and I felt that something should be done about the current situation where they enter the workforce without any information about jobs, and that they should be exposed to information about jobs from the age of junior/senior high school. When Shizuoka Municipal Minami Junior High School contacted me about the content of their work experience program, I made it more practical so that students could learn about "what kind of companies there are, what kind of businesses they have, and what kind of working styles they have." I think that opportunities like this can be a good way for students to think about their future careers and consider local employment as an option.

■ Comment by the President of SURUGA Production Platform



Takumi Toya, Representative Director and President, SURUGA Production Platform

This is the first time we have hosted local junior high school students at our company. We hope that by experiencing manufacturing with us today, the students learned that there is a company in their local area that supports manufacturing around the world, and also experienced the social impact of and enjoyment of manufacturing. We'd like to expand such initiatives in the future, contributing to the development of local communities and human resources.

■ Feedback from Participating Students

"I saw these machines for the first time. They looked complicated, but when I actually tried to work with them, I found that anyone could do it right away, which I thought was amazing. Coming here today got me interested in manufacturing. I didn't know we had such an amazing company in Shizuoka. It was a great experience."

"I was impressed by the smell of oil, and the factory at SURUGA Production Platform was bright and had a good atmosphere, unlike the image I'd had of factories before. I didn't know they put so much effort into preparing for earthquakes. It'll be good if I can do something with manufacturing in the future."

■ About SURUGA Production Platform <https://www.suruga-g.co.jp/index.html>

SURUGA Production Platform is developing its business based on "precision machining technology" that requires micron-level precision. The company is responsible for the manufacturing operations of the MISUMI Group (merged with MISUMI Group Inc. in April 2005) and operates the manufacturing businesses of stamping die components, including punches and dies, which have a leading market share in Japan, as well as die and mold components, factory automation components, and optical-related equipment. In the 2014 GOOD FACTORY Awards, the company received the "Monozukuri (Manufacturing) Process Innovation Award." SURUGA Production Platform currently has bases in Japan (Shizuoka, Ibaraki, Hyogo), Vietnam, South Korea, China, Thailand, and India.

■ About MISUMI

MISUMI sells mechanical components required on-site for factory automation, as well as tools, consumables, and other products to more than 318,000 companies (as of March 2024) worldwide. We wear two hats: a manufacturer with manufacturing functions and a distributor of other company's branded products.

With this unique business model, supported by a solid business foundation, MISUMI achieves "globally reliable on-time delivery" for greater customer convenience.

【For inquiries regarding this press release】

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