



Dramatically Enhance Productivity at Manufacturing Site

—Acquiring Common Language and Handing Down Wisdom

Isao IDOTA, Executive Director, MNKK
(Monozukuri Nihongo Kentei Kyokai)

-What is MOK, Japanese-style Manufacturing Online Certification, and Its Aim?

The root of “manufacturing site” is the same in any country or region worldwide. How to accomplish the level of quality, cost and delivery time that are required by customers. What is needed for this is the common language at a manufacturing site. You must learn a language and hand down the wisdom of manufacturing.

Major target of MOK is the local people or student working or wishing to work in a Japanese overseas company whose Japanese proficiency is above N3 of JLPT. MOK is the comprehensive service, with the intention to enhance the person’s ability of Japanese communication required at work and the knowledge of Japanese style manufacturing, consisting of e-learning and online certification tests. Adopting many videos, it is made easier to remember what should be learned. When studied up to a certain level, a certification test is to be taken. The test fee is JPY 2,400 per person per test. It is so designed that a certificate is issued to the examinee, with the acquired test score printed on it. Register for attending lectures, then view video lectures and take a certification test after learning. Check the test result and study again by viewing lectures. Then take the test again. By repeating such learning cycles, it is designed to enhance one’s Japanese communication capability.

-Are there any levels in certification tests?

There are two courses, namely Fundamental and Advanced.

The criterion for Fundamental Course is to acquire the sufficient capability of communication at a manufacturing site and to possess the capability of safety control in addition to understanding the content of work. In the case of Advanced Course, it is to acquire the knowledge required for the management related to manufacturing. Its target is those with more than 5 years of employment at the company and up to those in the management level.

They are in the level, not only capable to work in a manufacturing site, but also capable to supervise the junior staff, to make a proposal to improve the work environment or additionally to involve with management. Since 2019, English version has started in addition to Japanese version. So far, when Japanese and English version combined, the total cumulative number of examinees is more than 8,000.

The actual number of Japanese companies utilizing MOK is more than 250, including Toyota Motor Corporation, Honda Motor Co., Ltd., Mitsubishi Motors Corporation, Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Company, Limited, Ajinomoto Co., Inc., and Brother Industries, LTD. The nationalities are more than 20 countries/regions, including Taiwan (China), China, Vietnam, Indonesia, Turkey and Egypt.

When the year 2021 advances, MOK has become highly evaluated because of the fact that, under COVID19 pandemics, it is possible to attend lectures, take certification tests and obtain test results by using smartphone alone. Thus, many inquiries have been made globally.

-What is your future aspiration?

Manufacturing requires technology, knowhow and experience. After having engaged myself in international technology transfer project over the last 40 years and more, I strongly feel high evaluation and great expectation towards Japanese manufacturing capability. Japan’s superiority is widely acknowledged in the international community, including the emerging countries like Asia and Africa region. I would like to have a part in overseas human resource development in the field of manufacturing through further improving MOK in order to respond to such expectations.

(いどた・いさお) 科学技術映像の配信事業を始め、国内のものづくり中小企業の製品・技術の動画共有サイトの構築により、中小企業の国内外の販路開拓、ものづくり文化の移転に貢献するため、ものづくりオンライン検定事業などを展開している。一般社団法人日本技術者連盟 専務理事、一般社団法人ものづくり日本語検定協会 理事。