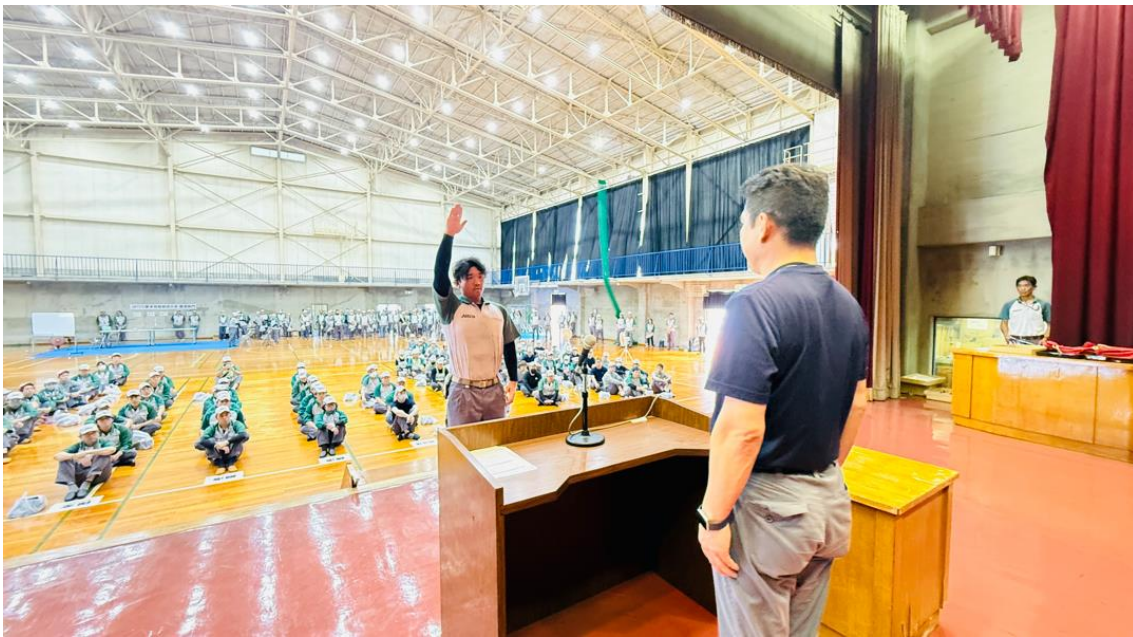


"Practice never fails" - Fundamental Skills Competition 2025

The JATCO Group's annual company-wide basic skills competition. This year's event was held in the Fuji Area 1, and after fierce competition, 30 medalists were selected. The venue was filled with tension and energy, and the sight of the athletes competing with such serious expressions on their faces was enough to leave even the reporters breathless. The heat was so intense that the temperature in Fuji City may or may not have risen by 2 degrees that day (just kidding).



Ohashi (participating in the assembly division) takes the athlete's oath at the opening ceremony

This year, we'll be focusing on "behind the scenes of the athletes' challenges." We followed the athletes closely as they practiced for the actual competition, covering their accumulated efforts and their interactions with their coaches.

Forging Section

In the forging division, Foreman Maezawa, who is also well known as My JATCO's substitute photographer, served as instructor for the six contestants. He generously shares the experience he has gained on the factory floor and gives careful advice to each employee.



Maezawa, the forman, gently instructs the participants, while Kayamori looks on with a serious look in his eyes. The participants in the forging division are silently devoting themselves to practice.

The rule is to perform a visual inspection of the rear hubs (3 pieces) and pulley slides (3 pieces). If a defective product is found, write down the work number and the name of the defect on the answer sheet, and temporarily place the good product on the "measurement surface plate." The target competition time is 6 minutes. Within this limited time, you need to remain focused and continue to make accurate decisions.

"When inspecting, be confident and speak loudly. This will also appeal to the judges."

"If you hold the magnifying glass like this, it won't fall off. Being able to handle the tools safely is also a point of grading."

Maezawa repeatedly emphasizes that not only practical skills but also posture and safety awareness are part of the competition. With these words engraved in their hearts, the players worked silently on their practice.

Among them, Kayamori, who has been with the company for seven years, has little contact with the work in her daily work, so she was initially anxious about the challenge. However, through repeated practice, she gradually got a feel for it and showed great concentration during the actual performance. She achieved an impressive third place finish.

As Asahina stood on the podium, her smile revealed a look of relief.

Casting Section

Next is the casting section. We followed Asahina, who is taking on the challenge for the third time this year. Last year, she unfortunately won the silver medal. With regret in her heart, he practiced hard this year, determined to "try again."



Yamada, the foreman, watches over Asahina as she practices. Can you find the stickers, about 2mm in diameter, that resemble defects?

The rule is to "visually inspect" the cylinder head. When you find a defect, write down the location and name of the defect on the check sheet (answer sheet).

The parts in question are different in size and appearance from those we normally handle, so precision is required despite being unfamiliar with the job.

What she regrets about the last tournament is that she "got too anxious." So this year, I practiced repeatedly with the motto of "stay calm and be careful." I repeatedly checked the check procedures and made steady efforts to make the inspection movements ingrained in my body.

The results were fully demonstrated in the actual competition, and the third time was the charm as they finally won! The moment he received the gold medal, a huge round of applause erupted from the audience.

At the award ceremony, Chief Mochizuki and foreman Yamada, who have always supported the team, looked proud, and the bond between coaches and players was palpable.



Asahina looks relaxed before the competition. Chief Mochizuki happily takes a photo of Asahina being interviewed after winning the championship.

The people who support us and the significance of the tournament

What impressed me during this interview was not only the efforts of the players,

but also the presence of the managers and instructors behind them. We come up with practice menus, work together, and sometimes even give strict encouragement - the accumulation of these efforts is leading to results.

The players all agree that they "couldn't have gotten this far on their own," and they never forget to express their gratitude to their teammates and superiors who supported them.

The efforts of the JEPS General Affairs Department, who provide this opportunity to take on challenges every year, are also a great source of strength. I once again realized that the significance of the Basic Skills Competition is that it not only allows participants to compete in skills, but also to recognize each other's techniques and deepen their sense of camaraderie.

This year's Basic Skills Competition once again provided many moving experiences and learning experiences.

The serious expressions on the athletes' faces, the gazes of the people supporting them, and the excitement that fills the venue. All these efforts are driving JATCO's technology into the future.

What kind of drama will unfold next year? I'm looking forward to it.

