

Original Cotton Cloth and bags Produced by Public Vocational Training Center

“We decided to introduce the GOCCOPRO 100 because disabled people can also easily produce screen-printed goods with their own design ideas, and they feel great satisfaction and excitement while working on the whole process of screen-printing.”

Kyoto Yamashina Vocational Training Center

**Public Social Welfare Center
Kyoto, Japan**

We are running a vocational training center for the disabled people, based on Japan’s Services and Supports for Persons with Disabilities Act. Our objective is to provide disabled people with an opportunity to lead less difficult and meaningful lives.

At present, twenty disabled people are working at our center. They are taking up various kinds of jobs, such as paper printing, cleaning, creating designer products, and other easy tasks. We have been particularly focusing on paper printing jobs, such as printing business cards, greeting cards (inclusive of Japanese New Year’s Greeting cards), and association magazines. We are doing the whole process of printing, from input of words, designing, editing, and actually printing to post-processing. We can cope up with a large printing job.

The recent trend of our business shows that sales of paper printing are declining continuously due to the spread of ink-jet printers and digital technologies. We thought that we must do something new to keep our center running. Then, we came up with the idea of expanding the scope of printing by starting textile printing. In fact, our disabled employees have been quite good at making graphical art designs. Therefore, we thought that we could capitalize on their graphical designing skills for textile printing. The barrier we faced in textile screen-printing was the high cost of the traditional type of screen. It costs 70 Euros in case we outsource it to a third-party screen making company. While we were looking for a way in which we can make a screen in low cost and in-house, we came



across the GOCCOPRO 100.

We decided to introduce the GOCCOPRO 100 to our center because :

- (1) anyone can digitally make a screen directly from the PC with a touch of the key.
- (2) anyone can remake a screen very easily.
- (3) there is no need of a dark room and a washout facility.

Considering the above-mentioned points, we arrived at a conclusion that our center staff, as well as our disabled employees will be able to operate the GOCCOPRO 100 easily.

At present we are producing original “Tenugui”, Japanese traditional long plain-woven cotton cloth (mainly used for decoration nowadays), original eco-friendly shopping bags, and original T-shirts by using the GOCCOPRO 100, and we are selling them at local markets and specialty shops.



Especially the originally designed and screen printed “Tenugui” and long plain-woven cloths made of special cotton named “Ise Cotton” are very popular among Japanese women in their forties and fifties. There is a good match between the “Ise Cotton” and a digital image screen generated by the GOCCOPRO 100. This good match might be one of the reasons that screen-printed “Tenugui” is so well accepted. “Tenugui” produced by the GOCCOPRO 100 digital screen-printing shows a far better finish than the one produced by transfer printing or ink-jet printing.

We are planning to use the GOCCOPRO 100 for a screen-printing workshop.

The biggest advantage of the GOCCOPRO 100 is that disabled employees can go through the whole process of screen printing with help of the center staff. They get a feeling of satisfaction and excitement while going through the whole process of making a screen out of their own graphical art designs, squeegeeing, heat-pressing, and creating their own products. Sometimes they directly sell their own products to the customers. They feel quite happy and get motivated to work harder when customers pick up the products created by them and appreciate them with a smile.

The hard work will help disabled people to improve their screen-printing skills. For example, their idea of screen printing the same design four times made “Tenugui” more elegant and attractive. They expanded the scope of their work by introducing a new approach such as creating a photo image in a

design. The unique production of their work has spread by word of mouth. Now the center receives orders for its original goods from customers, and receives orders for non-original novelty goods as well from associations and companies. This has increased our sales. Nowadays, most of the orders from customers are small lot orders, such as 10 to 100 pieces each. If we outsource the job of screen making to a third -party sub-contractor, it does not pay much. However, if we use the GOCCOPRO 100 for a short -run job, we can still make a handsome profit because the cost of screen making using the GOCCOPRO 100 is low enough. Direct screen making from the PC is surely a big advantage. The speedy process of the GOCCOPRO 100’s screen making goes a long way in shortening the delivery time.

The year 2013 marked the 20th anniversary of our vocational training center. We organized the anniversary gathering, where the GOCCOPRO 100 played an important role. We used the GOCCOPRO 100 to make cotton tote bags with our designing ideas, and distributed them as anniversary gifts to the gathering attendees, and they were pleased to receive these bags. We are planning to increase the production of textile goods having Japanese traditional designs. We are also planning to organize a workshop for people who have keen interest in screen-printing using the GOCCOPRO 100. We would also like to use the GOCCOPRO 100 extensively for various applications and events.



Decision making factors:

1. Investment in facilities like dark room or washout booth is not needed.
2. Starting screen printing business with a small investment is possible.
3. Direct screen-making from the PC is possible. Customers’ digital data can be used directly.
4. We can go through the whole process of digital screen making.



*****Corporate Profile*****

Kyoto Yamashina Vocational Training Center

URL: <http://normanet.ne.jp/~y-jusan/>

Kyoto Yamashina Vocational Training Center for people with disabilities

Kyoto Yamashina Vocational Training Center was established in 1993. It has been providing employment opportunities and job training to the disabled people who have a strong desire to work, but have difficulties in being employed. At present, 20 disabled people are working at our center. They are taking up the jobs of paper printing, cleaning, creating designer products, and other easy tasks. The center introduced the GOCCOPRO 100 in 2013.

