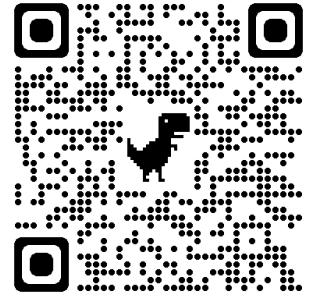


AI imaging to enhance athletic performance



<https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/news/videos/20240318165043378/>

Now every athlete, professional or amateur, wants to show off the perfect sporting form. Now in Japan companies are using AI captured images to help people hone their technique both on the ski slope and in the swimming pool.

This ski resort in Japan's Nagano prefecture is known for its annual dumpings of powder snow. In recent years it has been struggling with a decline in the number of customers. The number of visitors is about a quarter of the peak, so this winter the resort is offering guests something new.

Something to remember your day on the slopes. Just hold your smartphone up the sign. And with that signal, an AI generated imaging system identifies the skier and prepares to follow them down the course. The camera captures high quality 4k images as it zooms in on the skiers every turn. The video can be viewed for free.

This is actually helpful. I thought I was skiing better than this, but seeing this video, I guess I'm not so good at.

For a fee, you can download the video or pay a bit more and an instructor will watch your run and offer advice on how to improve. On a busy day, this service gets used around 60 times.

Instead of just offering skiing, we added value to it. More and more we have to provide services that fit the needs of customers.

This swimming school in Tokyo is also using AI generated imagining to take video of its young students in action. It has 11 video cameras installed around the pool. AI detects a swimmer in a particular lane and automatically edits a video with the best angles, including from underwater. Coaches can use the footage to review their students' swim tests.

Swimmers outside the lane are blurred out to assure privacy.

Children nowadays are used to seeing videos. If they see this and then get advice on how to use their hands to push the water, I think they will understand it better.

We turned to AI because we wanted a way to automatically shoot a video with the best camera angles and then edit it. The children and their parents like it and it also helps the coaches.

There's always a learning curve when taking up a sport, but new technologies may be making it easier to reach the goal of becoming an expert.

Source: (NHK World News)

Now discuss the questions with a partner.

1. Can you think of any other ways to use AI imaging?
2. What is a reasonable price for downloading the video? Would you pay for it?
3. Can you think of any reasons people might not want to use AI imaging?
4. Recently, we have talked a lot about AI, which AI topic was most interesting for you? Why?
5. What are some activities that you think have a steep learning curve?