



 75 YEARS

WorldSkills Annual Report 2025



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President's Message

*Seventy-five years of skills,
and a world that needs to
value them more than ever*



This year, WorldSkills marks 75 years since Spain and Portugal first brought young apprentices together to compete in Madrid. What began as a small, practical response to post-war rebuilding has grown into a movement spanning 90 Members. That is worth pausing on. Seventy-five years is long enough to see ideas tested, discarded, and proven right more than once.

It is also long enough to recognize that the world we serve today looks unsettlingly familiar to the one our founders faced in 1950. Labour markets are being reshaped faster than most education systems can respond to. Geopolitics remains volatile, and the technologies entering workplaces, from automation to AI, are changing not just how people work but which skills will matter in 10 years' time. None of this is new to WorldSkills. It is the reason WorldSkills exists.

What has changed is the scale of what is asked of skills development. Governments are under pressure to deliver growth with fewer resources. Young people are entering a labour market that offers less certainty than the one their parents knew. And industries that once had years to adapt to new technology now have months. In this environment, the case for investing in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) is not a matter of ideology. It is a matter of preparedness.

I do not think the answer to this uncertainty is to hold tighter to what has worked before. It is to keep listening, particularly to the people closest to the change: the young Competitors, Experts, and Members who encounter these shifts in their workshops and classrooms before anyone else does. This year, that instinct shaped Vision 2035, our roadmap for the decade ahead, built from the contributions of Members and Partners across every region of the movement.

I am grateful for that generosity of input, and it is what gives me confidence that WorldSkills is ready not just for the next 10 years, but for what comes after that.

We do not mark this anniversary to look backwards. We mark it because 75 years of practice has taught WorldSkills something durable about how skills change lives and economies, at a moment when the rest of the world is only beginning to relearn that lesson.

Francis Hourant
President of WorldSkills





Interview with our CEO

David Hoey, CEO of WorldSkills International, reflects on this memorable year.

As CEO, how has it felt to lead WorldSkills through such a landmark year?

A milestone year like this forces us all to look at the bigger picture, and imagine what is possible beyond what we already know. Remembering that our global movement began with just 24 apprentices in Madrid in 1950 is genuinely humbling and awe-inspiring. At the same time, our work this year on Vision 2035 has brought with it a great sense of possibility. The next 10 years are full of opportunity for WorldSkills, and we need to move forward with ambition and with courage.

As Members look back over the last 75 years, what should they be most proud of?

Members should be proud of the scale of our impact. Just look at what our community has built together! From our modest beginnings in 1950, we now have 90 Member countries and regions, with an additional 30 Members starting within our regional organizations. Each one of them believes in skills excellence and is committed to improving their Technical and Vocational Education and Training. They are using the standards that underpin our international WorldSkills Competition to improve the quality of their own national skill systems and to attract more students to them. This means that for every Competitor we see step onto the global stage for skills, there are thousands more young people behind them who are benefiting from WorldSkills presence within their country or region. Our impact is spreading further than ever before. We are shifting mindsets and lifting investment in skills, and this has all been driven by the commitment of our Members and Global Partners.

What lessons does the community need to carry forward for the next 10, or even 75 years?

Just like our Competitors and Experts, we must never stop learning. Every Competitor who steps onto the competition floor knows that good enough is not the standard; excellence is. They train and refine and push past what they already know how to do, because reaching for excellence means never assuming you have arrived. That is the best lesson we can remember as an organization: we must continue to learn and grow. Our movement has expanded over 75 years, and every voice within it, whether from a founding Member or one that joined this year, adds its own value and insight. As a community, we must be prepared to take a fresh look at old challenges. We need to welcome the ideas of our newest Members and actively listen to the youngest voices. We must be ready to evolve, just as the Competitors and Experts we serve are always evolving.



Vision 2035

A strategic roadmap for the coming decade

From the outset, WorldSkills International and the WorldSkills Board were clear that Vision 2035 should not be produced in isolation. If it was to be effective, then it needed to reflect the voices and lived experience of everyone working on the frontline of skills development around the world.

In 2025, the WorldSkills community came together to co-design a strategic roadmap for the decade ahead by bringing together the contributions and insights of every Member and Global Partner.

The journey to Vision 2035 began at the start of the year with a series of Strategic Development Committee Opt-In meetings held online between February and June. These sessions opened the conversation to the whole community, inviting them to share their perspectives on the greatest challenges ahead and put forward the platforms and resources the organization has to meet them.

Then, in July, the discussions moved to two face-to-face workshops. The first was hosted by SkillsAustria in Vienna from 1 to 3 July. The second was hosted by WorldSkills Hong Kong from 23 to 25 July. The meetings brought 44 Members and 11 Global Partners together in the same room and centred around 10 topics, from brand development and impact measurement to the future of skills competitions and governance.

The process was led by David Hoey, CEO of WorldSkills International. He used the in-person session to reflect on the responsibilities of the movement. He said, "The decisions we make today lay down the blueprint for tomorrow. As our world becomes increasingly uncertain and as technology advances at speed, we need to look for innovative ways to help young people thrive and economies grow. What is clear from these meetings is that skills are a powerful and unifying force."

WorldSkills General Assembly 2025 in Dubrovnik in October offered the perfect moment to then bring together all these insights and ideas and present the first draft Vision 2035. Members and Partners had several opportunities to debate its direction and offer further feedback. By the end of the week, Members approved the draft Vision and gave WorldSkills International their mandate to continue with the next round of iterations.

The development of Vision 2035 continues into 2026 and the goal is to have it ratified at WorldSkills General Assembly 2026 in Shanghai. For now though, it represents a clear statement of collective ambition and a commitment to the future, elevating the value of skills as the building blocks of sustainable human development.





WorldSkills Shanghai 2026



Excitement builds for the 48th WorldSkills Competition

The journey to WorldSkills Shanghai 2026 officially began when WorldSkills China received the WorldSkills flag at the Closing Ceremony of WorldSkills Lyon 2024. During 2025, the Competition Organizer has been building anticipation for the 48th WorldSkills Competition with a host of events, milestones, and announcements.

The biggest news of the year was revealed on 15 July, on World Youth Skills Day, when China's megastar actor and singer Xiao Zhan was named Promotion Ambassador for the event. He said he "was honoured to take part in the promotional efforts for WorldSkills Shanghai 2026." His appointment marked the beginning of a wave of promotional campaigns under the theme "Youth Powering WorldSkills", designed to inspire a new generation of young talent.

Samsung also confirmed it will be Overall Event Presenter for the seventh consecutive Competition. The announcement continues an 18-year partnership with WorldSkills International.

At the signing ceremony in Shanghai in April, WorldSkills President Francis Hourant said, "Your commitment makes our international Competitions possible."

The Competition Organizer and WorldSkills International used the year to announce seven new skills which will debut in Shanghai. These skills have been selected to reflect the changing needs of the global labour market. They are: Dental Prosthetics, Digital Media Interactive Design, Intelligent Security Technology, Rail Vehicle Technology, Retail Sales, Software Testing, and Unmanned Aerial Systems.

China marked the one-year countdown to WorldSkills Shanghai 2026 in September with a grand ceremony at the city's Friendship Hall. At the special milestone, four National Strategic Sponsors were unveiled along with 10 Dream Ambassadors who will champion the value of skilled careers in the lead-up to the Competition. The ceremony also kicked off a country-wide volunteer recruitment, calling for people of all ages to lend their time and skills to help the whole event run smoothly.

Preparations at the venues also progressed well. The 48th WorldSkills Competition will be held at the National Exhibition and Convention Center (NECC) and, in November, a delegation from WorldSkills International was able to tour the exhibition space during the China International Import Expo. The visit gave the team a powerful preview of what lies ahead. David Hoey, CEO of WorldSkills International, reflected, "It is now our turn to transform the NECC into the global stage for skills."

Members and Global Partners watched these developments unfold with excitement and confidence, and are now preparing their national teams to travel to China for what promises to be a memorable and spectacular event. As China's Minister of Human Resources and Social Security, Wang Xiaoping, said at WorldSkills General Assembly 2025 in Dubrovnik, "WorldSkills Shanghai 2026 is like a ship sailing the vast ocean of skills. Let us use the power of skills to change the world, light the way forward for young people, and write a new chapter for the skills movement."

WorldSkills Conference 2026

Shaping a Skills-Driven Future

WorldSkills Conference 2026 will be an integral part of WorldSkills Shanghai 2026, running 23-25 September at the National Exhibition and Convention Center (NECC) Shanghai. Building on the success of the 2024 edition in Lyon, the Conference is the premier global gathering for changemakers in TVET.

The WorldSkills Conference exists alongside the WorldSkills Competition, the global stage for skills. As the global skills community gathers to celebrate today's best young skilled talent, policymakers, industry leaders, and educators convene alongside them to understand how TVET must evolve to meet the demands of a rapidly changing world.

Throughout 2025, organizers gathered participant, partner, and Member feedback to shape the 2026 edition. Through Strategic Development Committee Opt-In meetings and WorldSkills General Assembly 2025 in Dubrovnik, Members and Global Partners identified key priorities that have led to an enhanced ministerial engagement, a three-day programme of activities, opportunities to visit local TVET innovations, and the launch of an interactive marketplace for global TVET projects.

WorldSkills is privileged to convene the world's most influential organizations in TVET through the WorldSkills Conference Coalition. Combined with the expertise of WorldSkills Members

and Global Partners, this powerful network ensures the Conference is relevant to the entire global skills community. The Conference Coalition comprises the ILO, OECD, World Bank, UNIDO, UNESCO, UNESCO-UNEVOC, the African Union, Germany's Federal Ministry of Education and Research, and the Global Apprenticeship Network, each bringing deep institutional knowledge of how skills systems are built, funded, and reformed at scale.

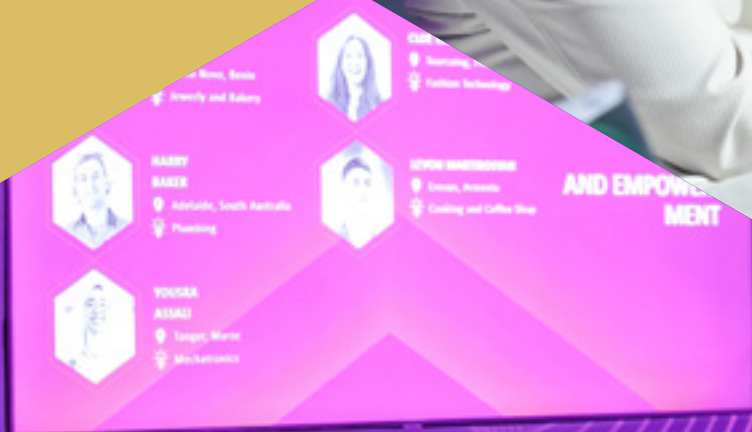
WorldSkills Conference 2026 also carries strong ministerial engagement from the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security (MOHRSS) and WorldSkills China as it is an important opportunity to further global skills development alongside the 48th WorldSkills Competition.

Expanding the Conference to three days will create greater opportunity for discussion, knowledge exchange, and strategic development. Key themes include the impact of AI and technology on learning, inclusion and equity in access to skills, and international collaboration shaping the post-2030 agenda. Delegates will benefit from expanded networking, best practice sharing, live access to the WorldSkills Competition, field trips to innovative Chinese businesses and TVET schools, and a private reception and guided tour of the WorldSkills Museum.

Visit www.worldskillsconference.com for more information.

“TVET is a tool for social cohesion, peace, and sustainability. We need a Conference that puts TVET where it belongs: at the top of the global agenda”

Borhene Chakroun, Director of the Policies and Lifelong Learning Systems Division, UNESCO



WorldSkills Lyon 2024 Impact

*Proving where there is a skill,
there is a way.*



In September 2024, Lyon, France became the world capital of skills for six unforgettable days. But the value of the 47th WorldSkills Competition has lasted far beyond the Closing Ceremony, as confirmed by the WorldSkills Lyon 2024 Impact Report, published in June 2025.

From the moment President Emmanuel Macron designated WorldSkills Lyon 2024 a “Grande Cause Nationale,” he elevated the Competition alongside the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games and sent a signal to the world about the power of skills. This report now captures the legacy of a Competition that inspired 140,000 visitors, united more than 66 competing countries and regions because we had close to 100 countries visit the event.

The report is structured around the three guiding pillars of Inspiration, Innovation, and Sustainability.

It outlines the decisions made and the actions taken that led to WorldSkills Lyon 2024 having ripple effects beyond the city, across France, and throughout the world.

In the report, Max Roche, President of WorldSkills Lyon 2024 Organizing Committee reflects that “WorldSkills Lyon 2024 is not just an event. It is a powerful message in favour of young people, the future of skills and the transmission of knowledge. Building the future by supporting the talents of young people: that is the meaning we wanted to give to this edition, and as evidenced by this impact report.”

As the global skills community looks ahead to WorldSkills Shanghai 2026, the legacy of Lyon lights the way. Full details of the impact of the event, including the report, can be found at www.worldskills.org/wsc2024

Highlights of the report include:

INSPIRATION

1,333

young people competed to be the best in the world in 62 skills

More than 61,000

students from 656 schools reshaped their perceptions of skills

INNOVATION

46

Try-a-Skill allowed visitors to explore skilled professions

Over 1,200

delegates attended WorldSkills Conference 2024

SUSTAINABILITY

91%

of event waste was reused or recycled after the Closing Ceremony

24

actions were put in place to promote inclusion and diversity. Read the full report at www.worldskills.org/about/#final-reports.





WorldSkills Aichi 2028



Japan's fourth WorldSkills Competition begins to take shape

The journey to the 49th WorldSkills Competition advanced this year with the official formation of the WorldSkills Aichi 2028 Organizing Committee and the development of operational plans fully underway. It will mark the fourth time Japan has hosted the event.

WorldSkills Japan hosted the Competition in Tokyo in 1970 and it was the first Competition to be held outside Europe.

It marked the beginning of Asia's sustained involvement in the global skills movement. WorldSkills Japan continued to build the movement over subsequent decades. In Osaka in 1985, the 500-point marking system was introduced and paved the way for the WorldSkills Scale which is used today. WorldSkills Shizuoka 2007 gave the global community One School One Country and ongoing close relationship with the International Abilympics Federation (IAF). This cultural

exchange programme has become one of the most impactful features of every WorldSkills Competition since.

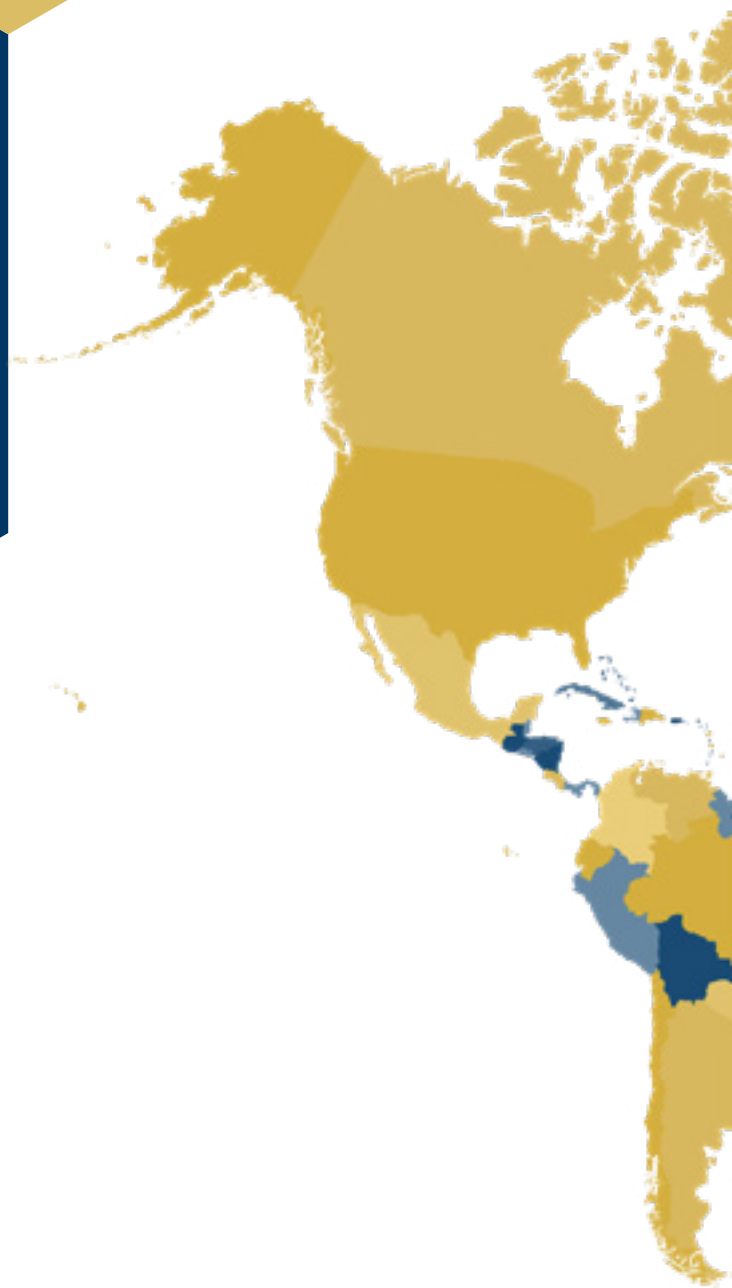
Each new Competition brings new opportunities and considerations. For its next Competition, WorldSkills Japan recognizes that WorldSkills Aichi 2028 must reflect the skills and innovations to support a rapidly transforming labour market. With 300,000 visitors expected to the event, the host also wants to ensure the 49th WorldSkills Competition inspires a new generation of skilled talent and proves how valuable skills are for the future.

Planning in 2025 focused on building the operational and strategic foundations that would bring its ambitious vision to life. As laid out in its bid-winning presentation at WorldSkills General Assembly 2024, WorldSkills Aichi 2028 will take place

from 15 to 20 November 2028 at the Aichi Sky Expo. The event will take place in the heartland of the country's manufacturing sector, giving visitors a chance to witness the advancements that Japanese industry is making in AI, automation, and digitization of its industries. Aichi also offers excellent links with international transport hubs, making it accessible for Members to participate.

Back in 1970, Mr Ken'ichiro Komai, Chairman of the Organizing Committee, said to visitors, "We believe this Competition will constitute a momentum for hope and that our movement for promoting vocational skills will continue to make great strides in its progress with every passing year." Five decades later, the sentiment is still true, and the global skills community has every reason to look forward to WorldSkills Aichi 2028 with excitement and anticipation.

WorldSkills Community



Reflecting on the past, looking to the future

At the heart of WorldSkills is its community of Members, Partners, Experts, Competitors, and supporters across the globe. The movement is nothing without these advocates for skills, which is why in 2025, the community played a central role in both marking the past through the 75th anniversary celebrations and mapping the future in the development of Vision 2035.

The WorldSkills movement began in 1950 in the aftermath of World War II when unemployment was high and technical skills were desperately needed to restore countries and economies. Solving these

challenges drew like-minded countries together who realized that international collaboration was the best way for them to find the solutions to upskill youth.

At the time, there were just two founding Members, Portugal and Spain. Seven decades later, there are 90 Members from every continent in the world. This truly global community continues to channel its energies and expertise into addressing the shifting needs of the labour market, tackling skills gaps in industry, and supporting economic recovery and growth.

WorldSkills Commemorative Edition 1950-2025

Honouring the founders, inspiring the future

More than seven decades ago, Portugal and Spain united around a shared belief that skills could rebuild countries and restore economies. In 1950, the two countries hosted the very first skills competition, bringing together 24 young apprentices at the prestigious Virgen de la Paloma Trade Union College in Madrid. The modest contest, held across just six skill competitions, gave rise to one of the world's most powerful movements in TVET.

Seventy-five years later, in this special anniversary year for WorldSkills, these two founding Members marked the milestone with WorldSkills Commemorative Edition 1950-2025 in Lisbon. From 4 to 8 November, young professionals gathered at the Marquês de Pombal Industrial School to compete in person in six skill competitions: Additive Manufacturing, Cabinetmaking, CNC Turning, CNC Milling, Electrical Installations, and Industrial Mechanics. A further five skills were open to online participation in CAM (Computer-Aided Manufacturing),

CNC Woodwork, Electrotechnical Project, Industrial Design Technology, and Mechanical Engineering CAD.

The anniversary celebrations brought together government officials, Experts, Sponsors, Competitors, and Delegates alongside members of the broader TVET community for talks reflecting on the power of skills to transform lives and economies, and an exhibition celebrating 75 years of WorldSkills history.

WorldSkills Champions Trust Representative for Middle East & North Africa (MENA), Narmeen Almarzooqi, and President of WorldSkills, Francis Hourant joined the celebrations. Mr Hourant reflected, "Today, the world faces uncertainty, economic, social, and environmental. But within our community, we see something profoundly hopeful, young people using their skills not to compete against each other, but to build together."

Hosting the three-day event in Lisbon was also symbolic. WorldSkills Portugal is

the only Member to have participated in every WorldSkills Competition, a record that reflects a national commitment to skills embedded in education and training policy for generations. WorldSkills Spain has hosted the Competition more than any other country, 11 times in total. For both founding Members, their role is not merely historical. They have played a central role in shaping TVET systems and advancing the global skills movement.

WorldSkills Commemorative Edition 1950-2025 demonstrated that the spirit that brought Spain and Portugal together to launch this movement continues to live on. Ana Elisa Santos, Official Delegate for WorldSkills Portugal, captured this sense of enduring responsibility, saying, "Skills are the foundation of development. It was true 75 years ago at the first WorldSkills Competition, and it still holds true today. We embrace our pioneering role within the WorldSkills community and align closely to the mission, vision, and values that drive the skills movement."





WorldSkills Regional Competitions

Many regions. One global movement.

WorldSkills ASEAN Manila 2025

Under the banner “ASEAN: Skilled for the Future”, the 14th WorldSkills ASEAN Competition set new records for the region. From 26 to 28 August, more than 300 Competitors from nine ASEAN Member States took part, with Timor-Leste competing for the first time as an observer.

Competitors tested their abilities in emerging skills such as Cyber Security, the Internet of Things, Autonomous Mobile Robotics, Fashion Technology, and 3D Digital Game Art. Meanwhile, over 20,000 visitors were able to explore skills exhibitions and even benefit from live career guidance.

President of the Philippines Ferdinand Marcos Jr underlined the significance of the event, “In convening the finest of ASEAN’s skilled youth, this occasion honours labour as a vessel of dignity and recognizes talent as a resource worthy of attention and investment.”

EuroSkills Herning 2025

From 9 to 13 September, 585 Competitors gathered at Messecenter for the largest ever educational event to be held in Denmark. Guided by the theme “Skilled for a Greener Future”, EuroSkills Herning 2025 showed how technical expertise can address the challenges of tomorrow while shaping greener, more resilient communities today.

Thirty-two countries participated in 38 skill competitions. More than 100,000 visitors also had the opportunity to take part in Try-a-Skill and explore over 100 exhibitions. A particular highlight was the Greener Future Park, which showcased practical solutions skilled professionals are already using to help shape a more sustainable future.

Education ministers and stakeholders also signalled their commitment to skills by signing the Herning Declaration, calling for stronger cooperation in TVET across EU member states.

WorldSkills Americas Santiago 2025

From 3 to 8 November, Chile welcomed delegations from 13 countries who gathered for the largest international skills competition in Latin America and the Caribbean. The event also drew observer delegations from China, Croatia, and France.

More than 150 Competitors tested their abilities, competing in critical skills sectors for the region’s economy, such as Construction and Building Technology, Information and Communication Technology, Manufacturing and Engineering Technology, Social and Personal Services, and Transportation and Logistics. Alongside the regional competition, the WorldSkills Americas Conference examined the “Re-evolution of Technical Education and Training: Technology of the future, today in the Americas.”

WorldSkills Asia Taipei 2025

In November, the third WorldSkills Asia Competition brought the skills community together under the motto “Hands On, Future On”. The competition brought together 19 WorldSkills Asia Members and 11 guest countries and regions, showing the growing reach and diversity of the regional movement. More than 300 Competitors demonstrated their talent in skills spanning from traditional trades to emerging technologies.

Held alongside the Competition, an International TVET Conference brought together leaders from across the region to discuss the future of work and the role of skills in driving sustainable economic growth. WorldSkills Asia Founder and President Dr Mubarak Al Shamsi said of the event, “Each skill competition area became a stage where your hard work met your talents, and the results have been nothing short of inspiring.”

WorldSkills

General Assembly 2025

Visionary thinking, key votes, and valuable people

From 12 to 17 October 2025, more than 350 Members and Global Partners gathered in Dubrovnik, Croatia, for the annual meeting, warmly welcomed by hosts WorldSkills Croatia. The WorldSkills General Assembly is the annual forum where Members and Global Partners come together to shape the strategic direction of the movement, strengthen partnerships, and collectively advance the WorldSkills mission.

In this significant milestone year, the event opened with the premiere of a new film charting 75 years of the growth of the WorldSkills movement, from its post-World War II origins in 1950 right up to the 47th WorldSkills Competition in Lyon. The agenda went on to cover updates, discussions, and votes on critical areas of strategic progress, operational innovation, brand development, and governance.

A key focus was the further development of Vision 2035, which sets out WorldSkills ambitions for the next decade. One of the defining pieces of work throughout 2025 had been the initial development of Vision 2035 through dedicated committee work, and in Dubrovnik Members and

Global Partners had the opportunity to hear the latest proposal and add their feedback. By the end of the week, Members approved the draft Vision 2035 and gave WorldSkills International the mandate to continue with the next phase of development.

New members of the WorldSkills Board were voted in. Patrik Svensson of Sweden was elected Board member for Competitions, Donald Tong of Hong Kong, China as Board member for Strategic Development, and Alexander Erdmann of Germany was re-elected as Treasurer. Outgoing Board members Michael Fung and San-Quei Lin received standing ovations for their long and passionate commitment to skills.

The WorldSkills community also welcomed Neusoft as Global Premium Partners and celebrated Festo's decision to become a Global Premium Partner after more than 30 years' support for WorldSkills. FXB, LIXIL, and Zhonghui were also recognized as Global Industry Partners. Collectively their insights and global footprints will make the skills movement stronger.





During the week, Members voted for WorldSkills Mongolia to host General Assembly 2027, which will be held at Ulaanbaatar's Shangri-La Conference Centre from 11 to 16 October 2027. Side meetings allowed the community to make important progress on areas like WorldSkills Conference 2026; Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion; OECD PISA-VET; and the WorldSkills Global Research Council.

Critical groundwork was also laid for WorldSkills Shanghai 2026, with China's Minister of Human Resources and Social Security, Wang Xiaoping, issuing a warm invitation to the next Competition. She said, "Let us use the power of skills to change the world, light the way forward for young people, and write a new chapter for the skills movement."

The General Assembly provided the perfect platform for WorldSkills

Croatia Conference 2025, "Skills (R) Evolution: Empowering the future with Skills Development." Thought leaders from across TVET shared the stage with youth to inspire action across the global skills community. Croatia's Minister of Science, Education, and Youth, Dr Radovan Fuchs, issued a rally cry to the audience saying, "By working together, governments, employers, educators, and international partners, we can make skills the true global currency of the world. Excellence in skills is excellence in life."

The Conference included the final of BeChangeMaker 2025, which was won by Glovatrix, a smart glove that translates sign language into speech, and ended with WorldSkills and UNIDO signing a Joint Declaration that deepened their collaboration on skills development worldwide.

Beyond the conference halls, a Skills Promotion event brought 600 students and educators face to face with the WorldSkills Champions Trust. Jingyi Lu, gold Medallist at WorldSkills Lyon 2024, told the young audience, "Skills give you more than a job. They give you pride, purpose, and the power to change your life."

At the end of the General Assembly, WorldSkills Croatia received a warm round of applause for their hospitality and organization. President Francis Hourant closed with a call to action to everyone gathered, saying, "Skills give people dignity, purpose, and the power to create change. WorldSkills was founded on this very idea 75 years ago, and today it is more vital than ever. Each of us carries a responsibility. Let us not waste it."



WorldSkills Members

Expanding impact into countries and regions

The WorldSkills network of 90 Member countries and regions, each serve the unique needs of their local labour and education markets while connecting to a shared set of global standards and values. It is this network that makes WorldSkills truly powerful – bringing together national TVET leaders, policymakers, educators, and industry to form a global community united by a common belief in the transformative power of skills.

Members are the champions of skills development in their communities, driving excellence, heightening the priority for skills development, and inspiring young people to pursue skilled careers. In 2025, WorldSkills Members used their national platforms to advocate for excellence. These examples offer a glimpse of the ambition and impact Members are delivering around the world.

In June, WorldSkills Rwanda held the Rwanda Skills Forum 2025 in Kigali. It was an ambitious combination of three flagship events in one: the WorldSkills Rwanda National Skills Competition, TVET Expo 2025, and Global Skills Connect 2025. While 94 young Competitors shared their talents in 13 skill competitions, over 150 exhibitors showcased practical solutions to close skills gaps across construction, agriculture, ICT, manufacturing, and hospitality.

During the event, Minister of Education Joseph Nsengimana reflected, “In Rwanda, we have placed TVET at the centre of our development agenda.

We are investing in TVET Centres of Excellence, modern institutions equipped with cutting-edge technology and tailored to meet the evolving needs of our economy.”

At the Forum, outstanding performers received laptops and access to digital learning platforms from industry partners keen to invest in the next generation. In addition, several Competitors left with job offers. As one of the first six Members of WorldSkills Africa, the Forum was a powerful demonstration of Rwanda’s commitment to industrial growth and being a regional leader in skills development.

Later, in July, the Dominican Republic’s National Institute of Technical and Vocational Training (INFOTEP) welcomed a delegation from WorldSkills Barbados to Santo Domingo and Higüey. The delegation included Technical Delegate Dario Walcott and renowned Caribbean chef and WorldSkills Expert Peter Edey, who delivered masterclasses in Caribbean gastronomy and launched training sessions for 35 INFOTEP instructors.

The visit also included technical consultation on skills camps, capacity building, and quality assurance to raise training standards ahead of WorldSkills Dominican Republic national competitions. The delegation from Barbados was also able to explore INFOTEP’s broader innovations in education and training, including the Huawei ITC Academy, the new Language Academy, and various technologies and skills training centres.

Across the Pacific, WorldSkills Australia spent the year building on the strong political relationships it established at WorldSkills Lyon 2024, when key national and state policymakers got to see first-hand the quality of skills training and the global thought leadership within the WorldSkills community.

This multi-year investment in stakeholder engagement helped WorldSkills Australia secure the attendance of 35 ministers at its National Skills Week celebrations at Parliament House in Canberra in September. The team created opportunities for ministers to learn more about national skills development, meet Competitors and Experts, and hear directly from young people. The 2026 Team Australia Training Squad even got to meet Prime Minister Anthony Albanese in person.

As Brigitte Collins, General Manager of WorldSkills Australia, reflected, “We have seen the benefits of aligning WorldSkills events with ministerial calendars and geographies. By strategically planning ahead, we have been able to demonstrate the value of skills to those decision makers at the highest level. The payback is really worth it.”





75
YEARS



The Global Stage for Skills

Shining a spotlight on 75 years

The year 2025 marked an exciting milestone for WorldSkills. It celebrated 75 years since Spain and Portugal hosted the first skills competition and how, from these small sparks of collaboration in 1950, there has grown the world's most powerful skills movement.

To honour the anniversary, WorldSkills launched a year-long campaign under the banner "The Global Stage for Skills" that highlighted all the people, moments, and ideas that have made WorldSkills history and that are shaping its future.

Shawna Bourke, Director of Marketing and Communications at WorldSkills International, unveiled the campaign saying, "WorldSkills has built an incredible legacy of championing skills development and excellence. The #GlobalStageForSkills allows us to celebrate our impact over the last seven decades and demonstrate how skills are transforming lives and economies, so we can inspire the next generation of skilled professionals to take their place on the global stage."

The campaign officially launched in March with a powerful film bringing to life the many parts that make up the WorldSkills

movement. While the skill competitions are WorldSkills biggest and most recognized platforms at local, regional, national, and international levels, the impact as a global stage for skills extends far beyond the skills workshops. The film shows how the organization is transforming people's lives from the ground up and bringing industry and educators closer together.

Throughout the year, WorldSkills used the "A Spotlight On..." series of stories to honour key figures from its past and present. People like Francisco Albert Vidal, who was one of the founding architects of the WorldSkills movement, Frederick Hill, who was key to the Competition's expansion, Jenny Shackleton, who designed the WorldSkills Occupational Standards, and Andre Vermeulen, who pioneered rigorous health and safety techniques as the Competition scaled. It also recognized the powerful part the world's media play in elevating skills.

A "Beyond the Podium" series explored life after competition for Champions like Adele Di Bella from Australia, who built a hospitality business in Sydney after winning a Medallion for Excellence in

Pâtisserie and Confectionery at WorldSkills São Paulo 2015. It also profiled Fiona Currie, a Restaurant Service Champion who credits WorldSkills not only with her career but with friendships that have taken her around the world.

The campaign culminated at WorldSkills General Assembly 2025 in Dubrovnik with the premiere of a special anniversary film that traced the journey from a modest post-war contest to a global movement. It told the story not just through milestones but through the stories of Competitors, Experts, Partners, and volunteers who have been changed by the WorldSkills movement in ways that endure long after any single competition.

In this significant anniversary year, the Global Stage for Skills campaign helped remind the community why WorldSkills exists and its purpose going forward. As WorldSkills President Francis Hourant said at the General Assembly, "Skills give people dignity, purpose, and the power to create change. WorldSkills was founded on this very idea 75 years ago, and today it is more vital than ever."



WorldSkills Champions Trust

Putting the voice of youth on the global stage for skills

The WorldSkills Champions Trust 2025-2026 wasted no time making their mark in their first year. Eleven exceptional Champions began their term in January, the start of a busy two years as youth representatives for skills.

Competition was fierce to join the fifth WorldSkills Champions Trust, which has become a critical part of the skills movement since the programme began in 2015. A record-breaking 157 former Competitors applied, an incredible 97% increase from 2023.

Each representative of the WorldSkills Champions Trust represents a different skill sector and comes from a different Member country or region. For 2025 to 2026, seven new representatives joined four returning members. This diverse group is united by their desire to inspire the next generation and their belief that young people must have a seat at the table to shape the future of skills.

The cohort came together for the first time in May at the WorldSkills Champions Trust Training Camp in Lisbon, Portugal. They spent the week getting to know each other, sharing the challenges youth face around the world, and honing their storytelling and public speaking skills.

"One of the biggest takeaways from this week was definitely meeting everybody, hearing everyone's unique stories, and being inspired by them,"

said Leyla Valiyeva, WorldSkills Champions Trust representative for Middle East & North Africa. "I am really excited for what the next two years have in store for us. I truly hope our voices will help make a change in the world."

Throughout the year, these eleven young people had opportunities to ensure that the voice of youth is part of key discussions about the future of skills. This year the cohort has spoken at many events hosted by UNIDO, UNESCO-UNIVOC, the German Federal Ministry for Education, and the Learning and Knowledge Development Facility, in addition to WorldSkills Member events, Conferences, and the WorldSkills regional competitions.

A key event in their schedule was WorldSkills General Assembly 2025, where they actively participated in discussions and shared their professional insights and lived experiences. Nurit Davidowicz, WorldSkills Champions Trust representative for Europe, sat on a panel at WorldSkills Croatia Conference 2025 and shared, "I often ask myself, in a world like this full of crises, why do I even do it? But I know, with my mechatronic skills, I am making factories more efficient, so they use less energy. So, employers need to show that their work creates social impact for the future."

At a Skills Promotion event in Dubrovnik, the cohort inspired 600 students, parents, and educators from 11 Croatian schools with their stories. Mihle Mvelakubi, WorldSkills Champions Trust representative for Africa, shared his story of perseverance and determination. He said, "Don't just aim to do well, aim to inspire others too! Keep working hard, stay brave, and show the world what you're made of. You've got skills, passion, and the power to make a difference in this world. Let's go out there and make things happen."

After building impressive momentum this year, the WorldSkills Champions Trust are set to make an even greater impact on the road to WorldSkills Shanghai 2026.

WorldSkills Champions Trust representatives

Narmeen Almarzooqi

UAE, IT Software Solutions for Business
Representative for Middle East & North Africa

Rachel Crawford (returning)

Australia, Bakery
Representative for Oceania & ASEAN

Nurit Davidowicz

Austria, Industry 4.0
Representative for Europe

Sonya Hill (returning)

Jamaica, Mobile Robotics
Representative for the Americas

Diego López

Costa Rica, IT Network Systems Administration
Representative for the Americas

Jingyi Lu

China, Chemical Laboratory Technology
Representative for Asia

Abraham Mundengo

Zambia, Information Network Cabling
Representative for Africa

Mihle Mvelakubi (returning)

South Africa, Bricklaying
Representative for Africa

Aapo Paunonen

Finland, CNC Milling
Representative for Europe

Shweta Ratanpura (returning)

India, Graphic Design Technology
Representative for Asia

Leyla Valiyeva

Azerbaijan, Cooking
Representative for Middle East & North Africa

International Days

Joining world celebrations and conversations

International Women's Day and World Youth Skills Day gave WorldSkills two powerful platforms in 2025 to demonstrate how skills can transform lives, challenge barriers, and drive social progress.

On 8 March, under the global theme "Accelerate Action," WorldSkills marked International Women's Day by sharing the stories of women who have broken boundaries using their skills. In this significant 75th anniversary year, WorldSkills looked back to the 1960s, when women first competed in the WorldSkills Competition in skills like Tailoring, Engineering Drawing, and Sheet Metal Work.

WorldSkills shone a spotlight on Encarnación Molina, WorldSkills first-ever female gold Medallist in 1967. Her success in Hairdressing allowed her to join the School of Industrial Mastery where she developed the course curricula and later co-authored a universal dictionary of hairdressing. And it celebrated Silvia Felix, who in 1968 won gold for Cabinetmaking in Bern, Switzerland, aged 19, securing first place in a skill that was traditionally reserved for men.

WorldSkills also used the international day to show how women continue to blaze a trail. Yuhe Jiang was born into a farming family in Nanyang, China and overcame significant barriers to win gold

in Chemistry Laboratory Technology at WorldSkills Competition Special Edition 2022. She returned home to become China's youngest professor at 22, and went on to mentor Jingyi Lu, who won gold at WorldSkills Lyon 2024 and is part of the WorldSkills Champions Trust.

International Women's Day showed how many women have had to overcome deep-rooted biases, defy family expectations, face skepticism from colleagues and teachers, and often work harder than their male counterparts to reach the global stage for skills.

On 15 July, WorldSkills celebrated another major milestone. This year was the 10th anniversary of World Youth Skills Day, a day when the world recognizes the importance of investing in youth skills development. WorldSkills had been building up to this important celebration with a countdown campaign by the WorldSkills Champions Trust representatives inviting young people around the world to "pass the mic" and combine their voices on the global stage for skills.

UNESCO marked the anniversary with a hybrid event called "Youth Empowerment through AI and Digital Skills" which was held simultaneously at the Learning Planet Institute in Paris and UN Headquarters in New York. The decision to focus on AI reflected the rapid digitization taking place in

global industries and the urgent need for AI to be effectively integrated into TVET curricula.

WorldSkills was represented at the dual event by Board member Ray English, WorldSkills Champions Trust representatives Nurit Davidowicz and Shweta Ratanpura, and Audrey Norris from SkillsUSA. Their voices were there to represent the needs of young people across the WorldSkills community. In one panel, Ms Norris said, "As long as we understand that AI is not a substitute but a supplement to our learning and our continued growth, and as long as educational institutions provide the platform for critical thinking and ethical awareness, then my generation will be ready for anything."

WorldSkills also used the celebration day to announce that megastar actor and singer Xiao Zhan would be WorldSkills Shanghai 2026 Promotion Ambassador. It was a moment that was met with excitement by young people around the world with hundreds of millions of social media views and online engagement.

In 2025, WorldSkills continued to show the importance of marking international days as a moment to remember the important people that have built this incredible skills movement as much as give a voice to those who will shape its future.



WorldSkills Archive and WorldSkills Museum

*Preserving the
past, inspiring
the future*

In a year of 75th anniversary celebrations, the WorldSkills Archive and the WorldSkills Museum took on more meaningful roles, as they helped bridge the stories of skills past, present, and future.

For those wishing to learn more about WorldSkills history, the WorldSkills Archive is a rich online resource that spans more than seven decades. It collects, preserves, and provides access to the historical records of WorldSkills International and is a great source of inspiration, not only for Museum exhibitions but for WorldSkills documentaries, articles, and reports.

Launched in September 2024, the Archive has grown from 1,844 original items to over 3,000. It includes historic photos, interviews, film footage, Competition memorabilia, and rare objects. But its real value of is that it is accessible to everyone, from Members, researchers, journalists, and the public alike.

The significance of the Archive was recognized at WorldSkills General Assembly 2025 in October when delegates were invited to step back in time and take part in a WorldSkills History Challenge spanning 75 years of the organization. Participants had to delve into the Archive to find the answers to the questions.





Behind the scenes, the team continues to process a collection of non-catalogued items more than twice the size of what is already available. Nuria Portland, who led the Archive's creation, said, "It's not only about the story of one person. It's the shared history of everyone who has been part of WorldSkills. The Archive fosters that connection and also promotes transparency. You can read meeting minutes from decades ago, see how decisions were made, how the organization has evolved."

In November, the WorldSkills Museum celebrated its second anniversary. In just two years, the world's only museum dedicated to skills has welcomed 750,000 visitors through its doors and expects this to grow rapidly in the lead-up to WorldSkills Shanghai 2026.

To mark the Museum's second anniversary a new temporary exhibition was launched called "Artificial Intelligence – A Skill That Unlocks a New World." Running to February 2026, it explores AI as an

emerging skill that enhances learning, creativity, and professional excellence

"The WorldSkills Museum has become both a rich source of memories to understand our past and a valuable guide as we navigate a future of AI and technological innovation," explained Mark Callaghan, Director of Event Operations and WorldSkills Museum Project Director.

Visit www.WorldSkillsArchive.com and www.WorldSkillsMuseum.com.

Skills Development in Africa



Accelerating progress in the region

WorldSkills Africa took big strides forward this year and showed some exciting progress since its formalization. The regional platform launched at the African Union's Heads of State and Government Assembly in Addis Ababa in February 2024 and in just over a year, WorldSkills Africa was able to announce its first six Members. These were Ethiopia, Malawi, Namibia, Rwanda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. By October, four more countries had joined: Algeria, Eswatini, South Africa, and Tanzania.

Building on one of its commitments at launch, 2025 saw WorldSkills Africa and WorldSkills International host a Capacity Building Programme. Developed in partnership with the German Development Cooperation and supported by the African Union Development Agency, the programme worked with country Experts to co-design and test a competition-based training model rooted in the needs of African TVET.

The programme focused on two skills, Hairdressing and Plumbing, chosen to reflect diverse learning environments and to ensure strong gender representation among the participants. Each skill area was led by a Chief Expert.

Online learning covered WorldSkills Occupational Standards, transversal skills, and assessment practice. Then, in May, the Experts had a chance to put their learning into practice at a three-day hands-on workshop in Lusaka, Zambia. A second in-person gathering followed in September, where participants completed a competition-style project, assessed one another's work, and deepened their understanding of the full training and assessment cycle.

At the end of the programme, every participant reported a significantly improved understanding of the Assessment Framework, and 92% said their technical skills had greatly or significantly improved. All 13 Experts said

they would recommend the programme and reported the peer learning opportunities as useful or very useful.

Sanchia Sissing, a Hairdressing Expert from WorldSkills Namibia, encouraged other African nations to consider running the programme, saying, "Grab the opportunity with both hands and be open to learning as much as you can because, in the end, the information gained will boost your knowledge, understanding, and confidence as a trainer."

WorldSkills International continues to work with Official and Technical Delegates from each participating country to consider how the framework can be embedded more broadly into national TVET systems. Grace Lung, Senior Manager of Partnership Programmes at WorldSkills International, celebrated the programme's success, saying, "We have created a unique, replicable model that has far-reaching value – not just for WorldSkills Africa Members but across the WorldSkills community, and beyond."

CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME 2025

The ten inaugural Members of WorldSkills Africa

The 10 inaugural Members of WorldSkills Africa span the continent, bringing distinct perspectives and experience in skills:

Algeria is the first country from northern Africa to join. It has hosted four national skills competitions, its most recent in November 2025.

Eswatini held its first national skills competition in February 2025, with plans to build a dedicated secretariat that builds WorldSkills movement nationally and to grow its TVET programme.

Ethiopia joined WorldSkills International in 2024 and runs an established regional competition programme as it implements its new National TVET Strategy.

Malawi joined WorldSkills Africa to strengthen its national skills agenda and improve the relevance and impact of vocational training.

Namibia has been a Member of WorldSkills International since 2011 and was host of WorldSkills Africa Swakopmund 2022, which was the first large-scale regional competition on the continent.

Rwanda hosted the first pilot competition in Kigali in 2018 and joins WorldSkills Africa to help build a skilled, adaptable, and competitive workforce.

South Africa is the longest-standing WorldSkills Member, bringing rich experience to the regional platform. It fielded 23 Competitors across 22 skills at WorldSkills Lyon 2024.

Tanzania joins WorldSkills Africa to collaborate with other countries and use international benchmarking to raise its national standards.

Zambia has been a Member of WorldSkills International since 2014 and is committed to raising the ambition of its youth through TVET. Zambia was the host of WorldSkills Africa Capacity Building Programme 2025 in-person workshops.

Zimbabwe believes its membership will help achieve its strategic goals of industrialization, youth empowerment, and building a knowledge-driven economy.

WorldSkills Experts Faculty

Sharing expertise to shape skills development

By bringing together current and former Experts from around the world, the WorldSkills Experts Faculty creates a global community that shares experiences, exchange expertise, and translates international best practices into practical resources for Experts and Members. As the Faculty continues to grow, it now has 8 representatives, 184 members, and 241 associate members.

In March, it welcomed Beatha Shinana from Namibia and Robin Gillet from France as the Faculty's two new representatives. Beatha served as an Expert at WorldSkills Lyon 2024, WorldSkills Competition 2022 Special Edition, and WorldSkills Africa Swakopmund 2022.

She is drawn to "diverse cultures and approaches to skills development" which she hopes to use to elevate the standard of skills training and education.

Robin competed at WorldSkills Leipzig 2013 and has held many Expert and Chief Expert roles, most recently having served as Workshop Sector Manager for Creative Arts and Fashion at WorldSkills Lyon 2024. He is keen to develop visual communication tools to improve the clarity of training materials and resources for Experts worldwide.

In July, one of Mr Gillet's first roles was to join an exploration of sustainability as part of the Faculty's quarterly webinar series. The discussion "Sustainability in practice" featured examples from Fashion Technology and Car Painting, examining how green practices are shaping training, competition, and industry.

A second webinar in November broadened the scope to green practices across TVET systems, drawing on examples from Brazil, the United Kingdom, and UNESCO-UNEVOC.

Across the year, the WorldSkills Experts Faculty promoted its new programme of online and face-to-face training, which provide essential information on WorldSkills fundamentals and specific skill competitions. At WorldSkills General Assembly 2025, representative Devin Flor also used the event to profile the Experts Journey Map, a visual guide to navigating a WorldSkills Expert's role.

The WorldSkills Experts Faculty is open to anyone who has served as an Expert at a WorldSkills Competition. More information can be found at www.worldskills.org/what/projects/experts-faculty.



WorldSkills Digital Badges



Skills credentials that travel

Since launching in 2022, the WorldSkills Digital Badge programme has provided the WorldSkills community with a verified, portable credential to evidence their skills and achievements.

The skills developed by participants of WorldSkills hold tremendous value, reflecting a deep commitment to excellence that sets individuals apart in their fields. Digital Badges give the WorldSkills community a powerful way to showcase that commitment to the world, translating years of dedication and competition into a credential that is visible, credible, and universally understood.

Digital Badges are available to participants of WorldSkills Lyon 2024, WorldSkills Competition 2022 Special Edition, WorldSkills Kazan 2019, and WorldSkills Abu Dhabi 2017 – including Champions, Experts, Skill Competition Managers, Team Leaders, Official Delegates, Technical Delegates, Technical Delegate Assistants, and representatives of the WorldSkills Champions Trust and WorldSkills Experts Faculty.

Each Badge carries verified metadata that can be recognized by recruiters, employers, and institutions worldwide. Badges can be added to LinkedIn profiles, job applications, and email signatures, giving holders a trusted and transferable record of their WorldSkills experience.

For more information or support activating a Badge, contact the IT support team at it.support@worldskills.org.





BeChangeMaker 2025

Nurturing innovation and entrepreneurship

Since 2017, BeChangeMaker has been finding and supporting young people with innovative business ideas to solve global social and environmental challenges. Powered by WorldSkills and the HP Foundation, BeChangeMaker is supported by [UNESCO-UNEVOC](#), [UNIDO](#), [PEN Worldwide](#), [Yunus Environment Hub World](#) and the [World YMCA](#), helping young people develop innovative business ideas that address social and environmental challenges.

Now in its ninth year, the programme's fame has grown and 2025 was a record-breaking year. The programme received an astounding 1,100 applications from 117 countries. Thirty teams were chosen to take part, with 15 progressing to the second round. After four months of intensive training, five finalists won the chance to travel to Croatia and deliver their pitches in front of over 200 delegates gathered at WorldSkills General Assembly 2025.

One of those final teams was Glovatrix, co-founded by Aishwarya Karnataki and Rudra Ghodke, who delivered a memorable presentation. As Ms Karnataki stepped onto the stage, her microphone appeared to cut out. After several seconds of silence, she said, "Was that uncomfortable? Just 10 seconds of silence and you felt left out? Now imagine what 466 million deaf people in this world feel every day." The room was

hooked and by the end of the live final, Glovatrix was declared the winner of BeChangeMaker 2025.

Glovatrix addresses the daily communication barriers faced by deaf people. The team's AI-powered smart glove translates sign language into speech and speech into text, in real time. At the time of the pitch, one Indian hotel chain had already purchased 1,000 gloves and made a commitment to hire 1,000 deaf employees to use them. Aishwarya said, "We are feeling so thrilled to have won. We have already made a great network of contacts and organizations that support skills for those with disabilities."

Another finalist, ReGen from Nepal, had developed crisis-ready kits for climate-vulnerable communities that blend emotional healing with climate learning. PaperPods from Indonesia pitched their plantable paper from office waste, crafted by retired women artisans. Together with Glovatrix, these top three teams each received an additional EUR 2,000 to build on their concepts, with all five finalists receiving EUR 1,000 in post-programme coaching support. All the 30 teams join a growing list of alumni who are proof of what can happen when innovative ideas receive early support.

Connecting this community more closely together led WorldSkills and

the HP Foundation to join forces with UNESCO-UNEVOC this year and host the first-ever BeChangeMaker Youth Festival in April. Under the theme "Igniting Change, Empowering Action," the virtual event reunited more than 300 past participants for two days of networking, masterclasses, and inspiration. The festival was also open to anyone interested in social entrepreneurship.

Speakers included former participants from BeChangeMaker 2023 and 2024, Doorcas Africa, Sekofia, and I Hear You. They shared their learnings from launching new ventures, and what it takes to achieve success as young entrepreneurs. "The combination of innovative technology and a deep understanding of the people you serve can create lasting, meaningful change," said Abayomi Odole, CEO of Doorcas Africa.

BeChangeMaker 2025 finalists

Glovatrix (winner)

India

ReGen (runner up)

Nepal

PaperPods (runner up)

Indonesia

AstMask

Denmark

Youth Re:Linked

Canada

Impact Measurement and Management

WorldSkills Competition delivers EUR 100 million of social value

The WorldSkills movement has always been about helping individuals use their experience from competitions and training as a springboard, to build successful careers and contribute to their local communities and economies. However, without a clear methodology, it has been difficult for WorldSkills to measure the impact of its work.

The introduction of the Impact Measurement and Management Framework in 2024 changed that, giving Members and Partners a common framework, language, and strategy to measure and manage the impact of skills competitions at every level.

WorldSkills International used it for the first time at WorldSkills Lyon 2024 and, in April this year, launched its first-ever impact analysis of a WorldSkills Competition, drawing on hundreds of survey responses from Champions, Experts, Members, Global Partners, and Event Sponsors.

Significantly, the analysis found that WorldSkills Lyon 2024 generated just over EUR 100 million of social value globally, providing the first evidence-based estimate of the wider social value created through the Competition.

Delving into the analysis more deeply, the Impact Survey found that an impressive 86% of Champions left WorldSkills Lyon 2024 feeling more confident in their skills, 88% experienced

a surge in personal accomplishment, and 67% saw a moderate or significant improvement in their career prospects within six months after the Competition.

The impact extended across the whole community.

Among Experts, 85% gained access to innovative training methods, and 74% were able to use their WorldSkills experience and improved technical knowledge to make positive changes in their institutions or companies. For Members, 80% raised awareness of TVET among government funders and 80% also were able to identify potential partnerships as a result. Every Partner and Sponsor who responded to the survey confirmed the Competition helped them showcase their products and expertise, with seven in 10 saying the Competition helped them increase their global reach.

Grace Lung, Senior Manager for Partnership Programmes, reflected, "It is increasingly important for us to show our social return on investment. After such a successful start, our hope is that the structured approach of the Impact Measurement and Management Framework and rigorous data it provides us, will shape future programmes and prove the impact of investing in TVET globally."

Visit www.worldskills.org/impact for the full report.

COMPETITORS

SENSE OF ACHIEVEMENT AND INCREASED CONFIDENCE IN THEIR SKILLS



86%

rated their **confidence in their skill** after the Competition as more or much more confident.

74%

felt recognized or very recognized for their **skill development achievements**.

88%

had an increased **sense of personal accomplishment** increased or greatly increased for their skill development achievements.



INSPIRED TO BECOME AN ADVOCATE FOR SKILLS



77%

are willing to participate in community or industry events as a **skilled representative** or speaker.

SENSE OF BELONGING TO A COMMUNITY OF LIKE-MINDED PEERS

75%

felt a strong or very strong **connection and sense of belonging** to a community of like-minded peers.



87%

felt **valued** or very valued and **accepted** within the WorldSkills community.

81%

received a high level of **emotional and professional support** from fellow Competitors.



IMPROVED CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

86%

made at **least one professional contact** or industry connection.

89%

agreed that their **new connections** are or will be **helpful for their career**.

EXPERTS

ACCESS TO BEST PRACTICE IN NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND TRAINING METHODS

79%

gained access to information about **new technologies**.



85%

gained access to best practices in **new training methods**.

IMPROVED UNDERSTANDING OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND TRAINING METHODS

66%

Among respondents who initially reported lower level of **knowledge for new training methods** before the Competition, 66% indicated higher level of knowledge afterward.

58%

Similarly, of those who reported lower level of **knowledge for new technologies** before the Competition, 58% reported higher level of knowledge afterward.



INCREASED NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

98%

made at **least one professional contact** during the Competition and 35% made more than 10 connections.

SENSE OF BELONGING TO A COMMUNITY OF TVET EDUCATORS TO EXCHANGE EXPERTISE

71%

felt a **strong sense of belonging** to the WorldSkills community.

MEMBERS

LEARNING FROM PEERS

7 in 8

said their staff **gained new knowledge or insights** to a moderate or great extent.

NEW CONTACTS AND NETWORKS IN TVET

3 in 4

made **new contacts or networks** in the TVET sector during networking events at the Competition.

POTENTIAL PARTNERSHIPS FOR SKILLS AND TECHNOLOGY EXCHANGE

4 in 5

reported **identifying potential partnerships** for skills and technology during the Competition.



POSITIVE IMPACT ON NATIONAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL STAFF

Nearly all

(38 out of 40) reported that participating in the Competition had a moderate or significant **positive impact on their staff's skills, knowledge, and motivation**.



OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE AWARENESS AND SUPPORT WITH GOVERNMENT FUNDERS

8 in 10

stated that their participation in the Competition helped **raise awareness from government funders**

6 in 10

reported that their participation in the Competition helped **gain support from government funders**.

GLOBAL PARTNERS AND EVENT SPONSORS



REACH OF SKILLS ACTIVITY GLOBALLY

7 in 10

Increased the global reach of their skills-related activities.

INCREASED ACCESS TO NEW TALENT/SKILLED WORKERS FOR MEETING INDUSTRY NEEDS

Nearly half

identified **new talent or skilled workers** at the Competition.

ABILITY TO SHOWCASE PRODUCTS AND EXPERTISE

All

who had a booth or try-a-skill stand were able to **successfully showcase their products and expertise**.



ACCESS TO THE SKILLS ECOSYSTEM

2 in 3

said their **access to the skills ecosystem** improved due to networking events at the Competition.

INCREASED ABILITY TO INFLUENCE POLICYMAKERS BY FACILITATING COLLABORATION & DEBATE AMONG GOVERNMENTS, NGOS, EDUCATORS AND BUSINESSES.

2 in 5

said their participation in networking events at the Competition **increased their ability to influence policies** through collaboration and debate.

WorldSkills Occupational Standards

Raising the benchmarks around skills excellence

The WorldSkills Occupational Standards are a great source of pride within the WorldSkills community and are often the first sought after asset that new Members seek to embed in their national TVET systems. For international partners, like OECD, they are a valuable reference and a key area of collaboration on projects such as PISA-VET.

The WorldSkills Occupational Standards reflect the global occupations or work roles that are represented in the WorldSkills Competition. They were developed in close collaboration with WorldSkills Experts and industry specialists. They are reviewed every two years in consultation with business and industry and give Members a globally credible set of benchmarks to work from.

In 2025, a number of longer-standing Members shared how they use the WorldSkills Occupational Standards to improve their TVET systems and create impact beyond the Competition arena. Skills Finland shared how they have made it a core responsibility of its Experts to take the knowledge they gain from the WorldSkills Occupational Standards through participation in a skill competition back into classrooms and companies across the country, embedding global competence at a grassroots level.

Teija Ripattila is the High-Performance Training Manager at Skills Finland and a lead member of the Skills Portfolio working group. She is a firm believer in their value, saying, “I have dedicated my entire career to the development of vocational education and believe that the WorldSkills Occupational Standards contribute to the advancement of both Finland and the world.”

WorldSkills Hong Kong shared how they have woven the WorldSkills Occupational Standards into a structured Workplace Learning and Assessment Framework which has been designed to lift the attainment levels of its students and align its seven Qualification Framework Levels more closely with global benchmarks and local industry needs.

As a result of this enhanced training, the team says 97% of apprentices in Hong Kong remain in their industry after training. Amy Liu of Hong Kong’s Vocational Training Council explains, “These standards give us confidence that we are adequately preparing young people not just for graduation, but most importantly for employment.”

Beyond their role in competition design, the WorldSkills Occupational Standards are increasingly positioned as a wider stakeholder resource, providing a shared assessment framework, global TVET benchmark and an evidence base for the research community. In a rapidly changing labour market, WorldSkills will continue to test and update the currency of the Occupational Standards to remain valid, relevant, and internationally credible, and work closely with the WorldSkills Global Research Council to build the evidence for how benchmarks like these, drive system-level change in TVET.



PISA-VET

Creating a shared global standard

This year saw WorldSkills continue to help the OECD advance their work on PISA-VET and make significant strides towards creating the world's first internationally standardized assessment of TVET. For decades, PISA, the OECD's Programme for International Student Assessment, has provided countries with rigorous comparative data to understand and improve their education systems. But no equivalent tool has ever existed for TVET. PISA-VET is set to change that.

Following the formal renewal of WorldSkills and OECD's partnership at WorldSkills Lyon 2024, the focus in 2025 was on further designing, testing, and refining assessment instruments across five occupational areas:

Automotive Technician, Business and Administration, Electrician, Healthcare Assistant, and Hotel Receptionist. Three more occupational assessments are in development for Electronics Technician, Industrial Robotics Technician, and Retail Sales.

OECD and WorldSkills are working alongside 14 countries, more than 140 experts, trade unions, private enterprises, and partners such as World Bank, Cedefop, International Labour Organization, and UNESCO. As well as sharing its extensive experience in assessing technical skills, WorldSkills is putting a call out to its Members to help evaluate the programme and provide feedback on its three core assessment areas: knowledge-based testing, digital workplace simulations, and practical skills demonstrations.

At WorldSkills General Assembly 2025, a dedicated working group session brought delegates together to review progress and chart the course ahead. Jason Weedon from OECD and Jenny Shackleton from WorldSkills chaired the discussion.

PISA-VET now moves towards its pilot phase, with a target for worldwide roll-out by 2029. For WorldSkills and its Members, this programme represents an exciting and unique opportunity to shape how skills excellence is measured and valued across the world.



International partnerships

Global platforms for collaboration and collective action.

WorldSkills brought the voice of the movement and that of skilled youth to prominent skills development events, championing skills as a critical driver of sustainable human development, among them the following highlights.

March

UNESCO's Global Education Coalition Annual Meeting (Paris, France)

WorldSkills President Francis Hourant joined a fireside chat alongside Frank Huang, CTO of Huawei, at the Global Education Coalition's fifth annual meeting at UNESCO headquarters. Moderated by Borhene Chakroun, Director for the Division of Policies and Lifelong Learning Systems at UNESCO, the conversation explored how partnerships can deliver technology-driven solutions for education and training.



April

Cedefop-OECD Symposium 2025 (Paris, France)

WorldSkills Champions Trust representative for Europe, Aapo Paunonen, took part in the joint Cedefop-OECD symposium, called "New fields for apprenticeship." It examined how traditional sectors like construction, energy, and food are revamping apprenticeships in response to digital and green transitions. In his session, Mr Paunonen said, "We need to do more to promote them as a first-choice option, an equally viable option to academic routes that leads to career fulfilment."



June

Learning and Knowledge Development Facility Forum 2025 (Gothenburg, Sweden)

WorldSkills Champion Megan Yeates, from Ireland, took part in a skills forum organized by UNIDO and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). Speaking at the “From Ground to Market: Creating Value in the Supply Chain”, they examined how mechanisms like skills development, supplier upgrading, digitalization, and green technology can improve efficiency and drive innovation in supply chains. Reflecting on the event, Ms Yeates said, “Through WorldSkills, I’ve seen how empowering young people can transform industries. Hopefully, I’ve sparked some new thinking about what’s possible when we invest in skills.”



EduTrends 2025 (Luxembourg City, Luxembourg)

WorldSkills President Francis Hourant led a workshop at EduTrends, Luxembourg’s key forum for education and training innovation. Organized by Luxembourg’s Ministry of National Education, Children and Youth, the discussion looked at how to use skills competitions as a pedagogical tool. It explored how competition-based learning builds confidence, raises career ambitions, and strengthens ties between schools and industry.



October

Global TVET Forum 2025 (Berlin, Germany)

WorldSkills is proud to support the initiative “Towards a Global TVET Agenda” led by UNESCO-UNEVOC, the Federal Ministry for Education, Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, the Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (Germany), the ILO, the OECD, and the European Training Foundation, with a goal to develop a shared international framework for skills. Laurence Gates, Chair of the WorldSkills Conference Coalition and CEO of WorldSkills Europe, and WorldSkills Champion Shae White joined the launch event. Ms White outlined that “Youth are the future, and you are making decisions that directly affect us. You need to absolutely involve and listen to what young people have to say.”



November

Global Industry Summit and UNIDO General Conference (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia)

WorldSkills Champions Trust representative for Africa, Abraham Mundengo, represented WorldSkills at UNIDO’s biennial General Conference bringing together 173 Member States to enable high-level dialogue and cooperation among governments, policymakers, industry leaders, experts, and innovators. Mr Mundengo spoke at the session, “Future Ready – Unlocking the Global Talent Pool”, which looked at the value of strategic investments in skills, innovation, and entrepreneurship.



Global Partner news

A growing community of industry leaders

This was a landmark year for the Global Partner community. In 2025, WorldSkills celebrated new agreements, renewed commitments, and on-the-ground support from its Global Partners, demonstrating why their involvement is essential to the sustainability and ambition of the WorldSkills movement.

Significantly, WorldSkills welcomed three Global Premium Partners who will work alongside long-term supporters, Samsung and Stanley Black & Decker. Festo elevated its relationship with WorldSkills to Global Premium Partner, after more than 30 years of support for the movement. Over the decades, Festo has helped to develop four skill competitions and played a central role in establishing WorldSkills Germany and delivering the winning bid to host WorldSkills Leipzig 2013.

Neusoft Ruixin Technology Group, a specialist in information technology and digital education, was formally welcomed at WorldSkills General Assembly 2025. Dr Jiren Liu, Founder and Honorary Chairman of Neusoft, formalized the agreement alongside WorldSkills President Francis Hourant. The partnership marks a growing commitment to digital skills development.

Pearson is the world's leading lifelong learning company and became a Global Premium Partner at the General Assembly.

Sharon Hague, CEO of Pearson UK, signed the agreement at WorldSkills General Assembly 2025 in front of more than 350 delegates. She said, "Boosting the profile and prestige of this sector is incredibly important. It plays a crucial role in driving both personal success for learners as well as economic growth at a global level."

Three new Global Industry Partners were also announced in 2025. They were: FXB, a specialist manufacturer of automobile training simulators; LIXIL, a pioneer of water and housing products whose GROHE brand has a long association with the WorldSkills Plumbing and Heating skill competition; and Zhonghui Group, a software development company.

The commitment of existing Partners remained as strong as ever this year with many of them taking part in the Vision 2035 Strategic Development Committee meetings. Their voices and insights ensured that the needs of industry were central to the roadmap as it evolved.

In April, Samsung confirmed they would be Overall Event Presenter for WorldSkills Shanghai 2026, which will be its seventh consecutive WorldSkills Competition in this flagship role. SATA, BASF Coatings, and INTAMSYS all agreed to continue as Global Industry Partners beyond Shanghai. VCOM launched a new

Global Training Centre in Tianjin and hosted an international exchange on Information Network Cabling. Meanwhile, IAPMO and GROHE completed a social impact plumbing project in Lyon as part of the legacy of WorldSkills Lyon 2024.

Alexander Amiri, Director of Sponsorship and Partnership at WorldSkills International, reflected, "Our Global Partners are a valuable part of our WorldSkills movement. Their investment, expertise, and passion for skills development make our community and our platforms all the stronger. We are proud to welcome new partners and to see the sustained commitment of those who have been with us for decades."

"Our Global Partners are a valuable part of our WorldSkills movement. Their investment, expertise, and passion for skills development make our community and our platforms all the stronger."

Alexander Amiri, Director of Sponsorship and Partnership at WorldSkills International



Global Premium Partners

STANLEY BLACK & DECKER

At Stanley Black & Decker, we are inspired by the determination of every young person who enters the trades. These careers are far more than a job; they are the lifeblood of our communities and the engine driving our industries forward. We are proud to support WorldSkills and all competitors as they showcase their talents on the world stage.

Christopher J. Nelson

President & Chief Executive Officer, Stanley Black & Decker



SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS

Samsung views technology and human talent as the core pillars for reinventing the future, helping people around the world live happier and healthier lives. As a longtime partner of WorldSkills, Samsung remains dedicated to supporting the organization's journey toward Vision 2035.

Chanshik Won

Secretary General of Samsung Skills and VP of Samsung Electronics



FESTO

Megatrends such as artificial intelligence, digitalization, and climate change are reshaping education and TVET. WorldSkills is turning these megatrends into opportunities, channeling cutting-edge industry innovation directly into technical vocational education and training (TVET). Developing skilled youth and workforce is central to the transition and to socio economic progress, because people convert policy, technology, and investment into reliable, efficient real world outcomes. Festo Didactic – Education for a world in motion.

Dr Oliver Niese

Chairman of the Management Board of Festo Didactic SE & Head of Digital Business at Festo SE & Co. KG



NEUSOFT

The year 2025 marks a significant milestone in our journey with WorldSkills. As the first Chinese enterprise to become a Global Premium Partner, we formalized this strategic alliance at the General Assembly in Croatia. This partnership reflects our shared commitment to advancing digital skills development and bridging the global skills gap. Leveraging our expertise in AI and software innovation, we are proud to provide technical support for four competition skills at WorldSkills Shanghai 2026. Together, we are empowering the next generation of talent to thrive in an increasingly digital future.

Dr Jiren Liu
Chairman, Neusoft



PEARSON GROUP

As a long-standing champion of technical and vocational education, Pearson is immensely proud to partner with WorldSkills.

We believe that skills have the power to change lives, opening doors for learners, strengthening communities, and helping economies grow. That is what makes this partnership so exciting. Together, Pearson and WorldSkills share an important belief: every person should have a clear, inspiring path from learning into a future they can feel confident about. By working together, we are helping to build that bridge from education to opportunity, supporting talented people as they take their next steps with energy and purpose.

Bringing together 1,500+ Competitors from 80+ countries, WorldSkills Shanghai 2026 offers a rare moment where the world agrees on what great skills look like. Pearson is thrilled to be part of it.

Sharon Hague
President, Pearson English Language Learning & CEO, Pearson UK



Global Industry Partners

3M

3M is proud to continue our collaboration with WorldSkills as we work together to help build a future-ready workforce. Together, we are creating meaningful opportunities for young people to explore STEM and skilled trades career paths, while helping bridge critical skills gaps around the world. By engaging educators, students, and communities, we can help prepare young people with the practical, technical, and collaborative capabilities needed for long-term success. We are honored to contribute to this shared vision and to help empower the next generation.

Michael Stroik

Vice President, 3M Community Impact



AMAZON WEB SERVICES

The rapid rise of Generative AI and Agentic AI has established cloud computing and artificial intelligence as the core engines of a new industrial revolution, fundamentally reshaping business models and talent requirements across every sector. Mastering digital skills has become essential for every professional seeking to stay competitive and seize the opportunities of our time.

As a pioneer and leader in cloud computing, Amazon Web Services continues to invest in talent development, helping millions of people around the world build the digital capabilities they need for the future. We believe that skills are the bridge between individual potential and the demands of a rapidly evolving world.

In 2026, the WorldSkills Competition comes to Shanghai, and we are truly excited to see this extraordinary stage arrive here. Amazon Web Services will continue partnering with WorldSkills International to advance technical education globally, empowering the next generation of young talent to showcase excellence in the digital age and write their own remarkable stories.

Zhichao Liang

Sr. Account Executive of Professional Services, Amazon Web Services



AMERICAN WELDING SOCIETY

The American Welding Society (AWS) and WorldSkills share a commitment to developing the next generation of skilled trade professionals across the globe. Our partnership provides AWS the opportunity to engage and collaborate with students, educators, and industry partners in an exciting, competitive platform. As we strive to make the world a safer place by bringing more highly qualified young people into skilled trades, AWS is proud to continue as a WorldSkills Global Industry Partner.

Monica Pfarr

Executive Director of the AWS Foundation, American Welding Society



AUTODESK

In 2025, our collaboration with WorldSkills continued to demonstrate the power of bringing education and industry together to prepare the next generation of skilled talent. By connecting Competitors, educators, and Experts with Autodesk technologies, we helped learners strengthen the digital skills increasingly required across design, engineering, and construction. We are proud of the impact our organizations achieved together this year and appreciate the dedication of the WorldSkills community in advancing excellence in skills development and creating opportunities for young people around the world.

Mary Hope McQuiston

Vice President, Autodesk Education Experiences



CAR-O-LINER

For the WorldSkills Community, 2025 was a year of reflection and preparation. As a Global Industry Partner, we were thrilled and delighted to contribute to this process in many ways, building upon the experience and learnings from WorldSkills Lyon 2024, joining numerous local and regional competitions and initiatives, training and supporting the next generation of Autobody Repair technicians, as they seek excellence, their ability to innovate and solve problems creates a better future for us all.

Roger Marti

Director of Marketing, Car-O-Liner Group



DHL

Looking back on an exciting year, one thing is clear: in a rapidly changing world, skills are more important than ever. They empower people to adapt, innovate and create solutions to tomorrow's challenges, while strengthening businesses and economies today.

At DHL, we believe progress starts with people. By connecting communities, creating opportunities and investing in talent, we strive to improve lives and build a more resilient future. This shared belief makes our partnership with WorldSkills especially meaningful. We are proud to continue as a WorldSkills Global Industry Partner and support the next generation of skilled professionals.

Patrick Dexheimer

Chief Operating Officer, DHL Global Event Logistics GmbH



DMG MORI

As a global leader in machine tool innovation, DMG MORI brings decades of expertise and advanced manufacturing technologies to support the WorldSkills Competitions in CNC Turning, CNC Milling, and Additive Manufacturing. Since 2007, we have partnered with WorldSkills by providing state-of-the-art machine tools, comprehensive technical support on site, and specialized training programs for Competitors and Experts. Together, DMG MORI and WorldSkills share a common mission: to inspire, develop, and promote the next generation of skilled professionals worldwide. These young talents play a vital role in strengthening manufacturing industries and driving technological progress in their respective countries.

Jan Möllenhof

Managing Director, DMG MORI Technium Europe GmbH



FANUC

As a global leader in factory automation, FANUC remains committed to developing young talent in robot programming. In 2025, our collaboration with WorldSkills reached new milestones, strengthening the link between industry and education and supporting future-ready skills. Now, we look forward to the upcoming WorldSkills Competition in Shanghai, a key moment to highlight the global impact of robotics careers. Looking further ahead, we are honoured to host the 49th WorldSkills Competition in Japan, FANUC's home country, reinforcing our shared commitment. Together with WorldSkills, we are helping to shape a world where young talent leads the future of automation and robotics.

Marco Ghirardello

President & CEO, FANUC Europe



FLUKE

The future of industry depends on the next generation of skilled professionals. Across the world, employers are facing growing demand for technical talent as industries become more connected, electrified, and technology-driven. That's why investing in young people is so important. Through our partnership with WorldSkills, we're helping equip the workforce of tomorrow with the hands-on experience, confidence, and practical skills needed to succeed. The work WorldSkills does is critical to creating opportunities for young people while helping ensure industries have the talent they need to innovate, grow, and meet the challenges of the future.

Parker Burke

President, Fluke Corporation



FXB

FXB CO., LTD. has been committed to the field of automotive education for over 20 years, specializing in training solutions across various automotive sectors. We are deeply honored to become a Global Partner of WorldSkills in 2025. FXB and WorldSkills share a common vision: to unlock the skills potential of young people and cultivate a new generation of highly skilled talent worldwide. On the dynamic stage of WorldSkills, we remain committed to supporting the development of automotive technology competition category and driving the deep integration of WorldSkills standards with cutting-edge technologies.

David Wang
CEO, FXB



IAPMO

2025 marked the 10-year anniversary of IAPMO's WorldSkills Global Industry Partnership, a significant milestone that underscores IAPMO's deep commitment to advancing the plumbing and mechanical industries worldwide. Together we are not only training and supporting the next generation of skilled professionals, but we're also demonstrating the essential role these trades play in protecting public health, advancing sustainability, and building stronger, more resilient communities. IAPMO continues to support WorldSkills in strengthening the role of industry, education, and government in developing a skilled workforce for the future.

David Viola
CEO, IAPMO



INTAMSYS

In 2025, INTAMSYS was proud to renew its Global Industry Partnership with WorldSkills, carrying forward the success of WorldSkills Lyon 2024 into the preparation for WorldSkills Shanghai 2026. Over the past year, our collaboration has moved beyond equipment supply to deeper technical preparation, training support, and competition-readiness for four 3D-printing-related skills: Mechanical Engineering CAD, Additive Manufacturing, Industrial Design Technology, and Unmanned Aircraft System. By bringing industrial-grade FFF 3D printing into these diverse competition environments, we are helping young professionals connect digital design, material understanding, process control, and real-world manufacturing validation. As WorldSkills comes to Shanghai, the home of INTAMSYS, we are proud to support this global stage with reliable technology, engineering expertise, and a shared commitment to developing the next generation of advanced manufacturing talent.

Charles Han
CEO, INTAMSYS



JIEAN HI-TECH

2025 marked a year of solid joint progress between Jiean Hi-tech and WorldSkills. We focused our joint efforts on developing digital vocational training solutions and supporting the technical setup and on-site service systems for skill competitions, laying robust, comprehensive preparations for WorldSkills Shanghai 2026. Cultivating outstanding young skilled talents is our core shared mission. We are deeply honored to contribute our mature simulation training technology to enrich and upgrade the global skills ecosystem. Looking ahead, we will continue to stand firmly alongside WorldSkills, and we eagerly anticipate showcasing extraordinary young craftsmanship at the landmark Shanghai competition with our trusted long-term partner.

Zhisheng Gao

General Manager, Jiean Hi-tech



JOHN BEAN

Building upon the experience and insights gained at WorldSkills Lyon 2024 and its groundbreaking, first-time calibrations of Advanced Driver Assistance Systems as part of the contest, we continue to support the major technological shifts vehicles are undergoing and dedicate efforts to embrace new talent and nurture skills more than ever. As Global Partner, we will continue to support this shift and reinforce our commitment to the WorldSkills family, taking the evolution of mobility-related skills to the next level on the global scene.

Mariana Montovaneli

Director of Marketing, John Bean



LINCOLN ELECTRIC

Over the past year, our partnership with WorldSkills International has continued to strengthen the global impact of welding skills development and workforce readiness. Together, we have advanced opportunities for young people to develop world-class skills, connect education with industry needs, and promote the value of careers in the skilled trades. As a Global Industry Partner since 2010 and a proud WorldSkills Shanghai 2026 Gold Sponsor, Lincoln Electric remains committed to supporting welding excellence, raising industry standards, and inspiring the next generation of talent. Together, we are helping to “Build a Better World”.

Jason Schmidt

Director of Education & Training, Lincoln Electric



LIXIL

Our partnership with WorldSkills is vital to empowering the next generation of skilled trade professionals worldwide. Installers are the essential foundation of our industry – their expertise directly impacts public health, safety, and sustainable water management every day. By equipping young talent with modern skills and global standards, we build rewarding careers while safeguarding communities. LIXIL is proud to champion these dedicated craftspeople and collaborate with policymakers, industry and others to advance TVET. Elevating the crucial role of the installer on the global stage ensures a safer, cleaner, and more sustainable future for everyone, everywhere.

Erin McCusker

Executive Officer, Executive Vice President, Chief Impact Officer, LIXIL Corporation



MASTERCAM

Mastercam is proud to partner with WorldSkills in advancing the next generation of manufacturing professionals. In 2025, our collaboration continued to demonstrate the power of investing in skills development on a global scale. Through WorldSkills Competitions and training initiatives, we are helping to inspire talent, elevate technical excellence, and close critical skills gaps across the industry. As we look ahead to WorldSkills Shanghai 2026, we remain committed to supporting this important mission and empowering future innovators in manufacturing.



Russ Bukowski

President, Mastercam

MITUTOYO

For Mitutoyo, it is important to create a platform to promote the development of young people and help their talents flourish. For many years, Mitutoyo has been the exclusive Global Partner of WorldSkills in the category of measuring, and shares with WorldSkills the vision of promoting vocational education and training for the younger generation around the world. Mitutoyo Shanghai is currently working to spread measurement knowledge in the form of E-Learning through WeChat. Mitutoyo will continue to work with WorldSkills to support young people.



Yukihiro Sakata

Chairman of Mitutoyo Measuring Instruments (Shanghai) Co., Ltd., Mitutoyo

SATA

In 2025, we proudly renewed our partnership with WorldSkills International for another six years, reinforcing our commitment to the WorldSkills movement and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET). A skilled workforce remains essential, even as AI and automation transform industries and job profiles. While roles may evolve, people with strong skills and the ability to adapt will continue to be in demand. We are inspired by the dedication of young talents who progress from local and regional competitions to the international stage. Looking ahead, we remain optimistic and committed to supporting skills excellence worldwide.



Jörn Stöver

Global Key Account Manager, SATA

SHINING 3D

From one skill to five, from equipment sponsor to Global Industry Partner — SHINING 3D's journey with WorldSkills reflects how leading technology is driving efficient development across more industries. Our 3D vision technology powers five skill categories bridging digital design, precision inspection, and medical-engineering integration. Each skill meets real-world demand — from industrial metrology to intelligent healthcare, from CAD engineering to advanced manufacturing. Together with WorldSkills, we are building an ecosystem where future skills are benchmarked globally, equipping the next generation to lead in an intelligent world.



Tao Li

CEO, SHINING 3D

SIEMENS

WorldSkills Shanghai 2026 showcases how Artificial Intelligence is transforming the future of skills. Building on Siemens' legacy of driving progress through electrification, we are now shaping the next era of industrial transformation through Industrial AI. As industries face growing talent shortages and rapid technological change, AI can personalize learning, accelerate skills development, and help people thrive in the jobs of tomorrow. I'm supporting our partnership with WorldSkills because our cooperation is rooted in a common vision: empowering individuals to realize their full potential by combining human expertise with cutting-edge technology.

Dion Smith

Global Executive Vice President, Partner Ecosystems, Siemens



STUDICA

At Studica, we are proud to support the development of the next generation of skilled innovators through robotics and autonomous systems education. As a Global Partner of WorldSkills and supplier for the Autonomous Mobile Robotics Competition, we provide the technology and training platforms that help students gain hands-on experience in Autonomous Mobile Robotics (AMR), Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs). By fostering practical engineering, programming, and problem-solving skills, we are helping prepare young professionals to succeed in an increasingly automated, connected, and technology-driven world.

Frank Nanfara

CEO and President, Studica



SURVENTIS

As the exclusive Refinish Coatings Global Industry Partner of WorldSkills and WorldSkills Shanghai 2026, Surventis (formerly BASF Coatings) continues its long-standing partnership to develop future automotive refinish talent and raise industry standards worldwide. Through Glasurit by Surventis, we help young professionals build the skills needed to succeed in a rapidly evolving industry shaped by performance, digitalization and sustainability. By combining craftsmanship with digital solutions such as Refinity, we support the next generation of painters in mastering core trade skills, embracing new technologies and creating lasting value for customers, body shops and the industry as a whole.

Jane Niemi

Global Head of Marketing, Refinish Coatings, Surventis



VCOM

As a Global Industry Partner of WorldSkills, Vcom is committed to transforming the achievements of skills competitions into lasting value for vocational education. Guided by WorldSkills Occupational Standards, we work to build a global platform for cross-border exchange, shared learning, and practical collaboration. By integrating competition experience into training curricula and supporting the joint development of internationally aligned occupational standards, we aim to help strengthen the quality, consistency, and relevance of skilled talent development worldwide. We are proud of the progress made together in 2025 and look forward to deepening this collaboration toward WorldSkills Shanghai 2026.

Cathy Wang

CEO, Vcom Education



ZHONGHUI GROUP

We are proud to stand alongside WorldSkills as a Global Industry Partner. Our partnership is more than sponsorship – it is a commitment to excellence. For over a decade, we have dedicated ourselves to software innovation and vocational education, nurturing young talents who turn lines of code into solutions, and algorithms into real-world impact. From WorldSkills Lyon 2024 to WorldSkills Americas Santiago 2025, from Doha GCC to WorldSkills ASEAN, we have supported ICT related competitions across continents, bringing our technical expertise to WorldSkills stages worldwide. Today, as new technologies reshape industries worldwide, we see in WorldSkills a shared vision: to equip the next generation not merely with technical proficiency, but with the wisdom to harness technology to unlock their full potential.

Howard Bian

President & CEO, Zhonghui Group



GLOBAL PREMIUM PARTNERS OF WORLDSKILLS INTERNATIONAL

SAMSUNG

StanleyBlack&Decker

FESTO

Neutech
东软睿新科技集团

Pearson

GLOBAL INDUSTRY PARTNERS OF WORLDSKILLS INTERNATIONAL

3M

aws

AWs
American Welding Society

AUTODESK

CAR-O-LINER®

DHL

DMG MORI

FANUC

FLUKE

FXB®

Glasurit

IAPMO

INTAMSYS

JIEAN HI-TECH

JohnBean

LINCOLN ELECTRIC

LIXIL

Mastercam

Mitutoyo

SATA
German Engineering

SHINING 3D

SIEMENS

Studica

Vcom

中慧集团
ZHONGHUI GROUP



In Memoriam...

Cees Beuk

A passionate advocate of skills

On 24 February, the WorldSkills community mourned the passing of Cees Beuk, who died aged 90. He leaves behind his wife, Katja Beuk-Haemjens Dekker; his children, Karen, Menno, and Monique Beuk; and his grandson, Bastiaan Beuk.

Mr Beuk was President of WorldSkills (then the International Vocational Training Organisation) from 1992 to 1999. Already an expert in educational assessment and exam development, Cees became involved with the movement in 1983 and was instrumental in shaping the standards of the WorldSkills Competition and expanding its reach.

Mr Beuk played a key role in standardizing and improving the Competition's scoring methodology.

His work led directly to the introduction of the 500-point scoring system in 1988. His methodology has contributed to a fairer and more consistent assessment process for the Competition and has left a lasting mark on the Organization.

WorldSkills also expanded under his presidency. Under his leadership, it ran its first regional skills competition in Europe, which took place in Groningen, Netherlands, in 1998. This helped lay the groundwork for other regional competitions and organizations that extend WorldSkills reach, relevance, and impact to this day.

Mr Beuk is remembered and honoured by the WorldSkills community as a dedicated and driven individual who made profound and lasting contributions to the global skills movement.

WorldSkills Board

New faces and fond farewells

The WorldSkills Board continued to support the strategic direction and governance of the Organization in 2025. They also represented the WorldSkills community at conferences, speaking engagements, and meeting industry leaders and global statespeople.

Francis Hourant, President of WorldSkills, summed up the Board's responsibility to the movement when speaking to Members at the Strategic Development Committee Opt-in meeting for Vision 2035 in Vienna. He said, "We must lift up our gaze and think beyond tomorrow or next year. We must think as a global community and we must listen, challenge, innovate, and dream together."

The year also saw the community welcome new people to the WorldSkills leadership and bid a fond farewell to outgoing, long-serving members. At WorldSkills

General Assembly 2025 in Dubrovnik, Alexander Erdmann was re-elected as Treasurer. Alexander first joined WorldSkills at WorldSkills Leipzig 2013 and has strengthened financial governance since joining the Board in 2023. His re-election brings continuity as WorldSkills begins implementing Vision 2035.

Donald Chi Keung Tong was elected as Board member – Strategic Development, bringing a strong record in public service in Hong Kong, China, across labour, infrastructure, and international relations. He has been CEO of the Vocational Training Council since 2022 and Official Delegate of WorldSkills Hong Kong since 2023. On being elected, he said, "I hope to promote cross-sector collaboration, so WorldSkills remains a platform for innovation in skills policy, employer engagement, and workforce resilience."

Patrik Svensson was elected as Board member – Competitions. Among other roles, Patrik Svensson has been Technical Delegate for Sweden and Chair of the Competitions Committee for WorldSkills Europe. A former officer in the Swedish Armed Forces, he credits his background in leadership and teamwork for his fair, transparent, and collaborative approach. With ambition for the Organization, he said, "I want to ensure we make each WorldSkills Competition better than the last one."

At the end of WorldSkills General Assembly 2025, Michael Fung, Board member – Competitions, and San-Quei Lin, Board member – Strategic Development, received Honorary Member awards and standing ovations as they reached the end of their respective terms on the WorldSkills Board.



Francis Hourant, *President and Chair of the Board*



Brigitte Collins, *Board member – Competitions*



Ray English, *Board member – Strategic Development*



Alexander Erdmann, *Treasurer*



Michael Fung, *Board member – Competitions*



Heng Guan Teck, *Board member – Strategic Development*

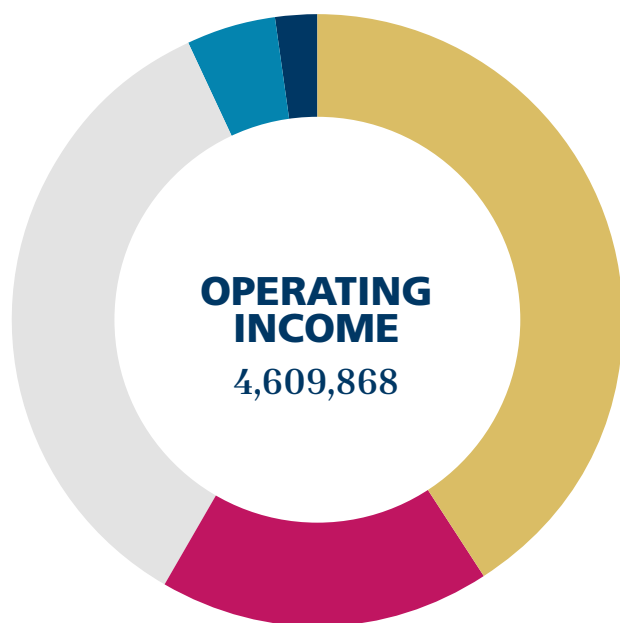


San-Quei Lin, *Board member – Strategic Development*

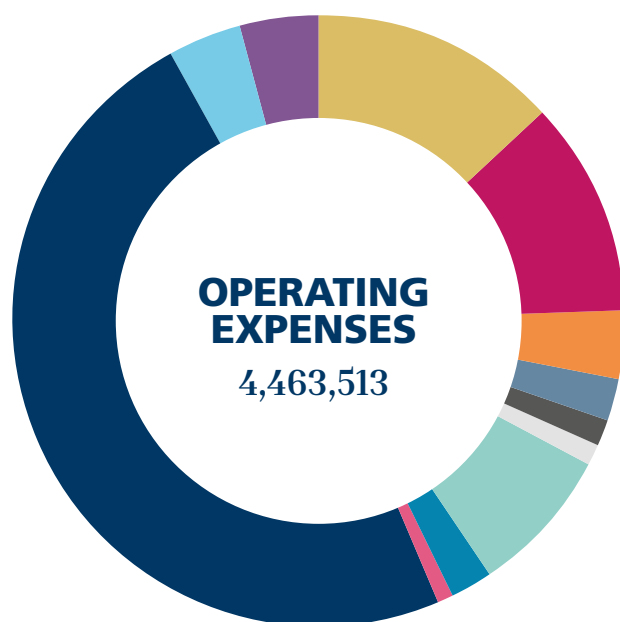


Alejandro Weinstein, *Board member – Strategic Development*

Financial report



● Membership	1,885,363
○ Admission fees	-
● WorldSkills Competition hosting fees, infrastructure, and operations management contributions	805,000
● Sponsorship	1,606,250
● Project income	220,513
● Interest and foreign exchange expense	92,742



● Organization	594,306
● Competition costs – general	507,027
● Marketing and Communication	157,078
● Champions engagement	93,503
● Sponsorship and Partnership	71,699
● WorldSkills Experts Faculty	44,006
● Projects	345,648
● WorldSkills Conference	107,427
● WorldSkills Archive and WorldSkills Museum	26,296
● Secretariat	2,166,119
● Information systems	167,396
● Office costs and professional fees	183,008

Notes: Figures provided here are taken from the WorldSkills International 2025 Audited Financial Statements. The 2025 Audited Financial Statements were audited by Schipper Accountants. The complete financial report is available on request from the WorldSkills Secretariat. All figures are in euro.



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