

FACT SHEET: WORLDSKILLS

Founded in 1950, WorldSkills is a global organization that promotes vocational, technological and service oriented education and training. We promote skilled careers in 76 Member countries and regions, all working with youth, educators, governments, and industries to help prepare the workforce and talent of today for the jobs of the future. WorldSkills brings youth, industries, and educators together to give youth the chance to compete, experience, and learn how to become the best in their skill of choice. From the traditional trades to multi-skilled technology careers in the industry and service sectors, supported by partners, industries, governments, volunteers, and educational institutions, WorldSkills is making a direct impact on raising the level of skills throughout the world.

WorldSkills is not just a Competition though, it is a movement. By working within the six areas of Research, Promoting Skills, Career Building, Education and Training, International Cooperation and Development, and Skills Competitions, WorldSkills is the global hub for skills excellence and development with ongoing activities nationally, regionally and globally. The WorldSkills Foundation contributes with projects and initiatives that demonstrate the capacity for innovation and collaboration with partners, in order to leverage and build self-sustaining activities.



**No. of skills
represented:
51**

**No. of Member
countries/
regions: 76**
(representing more
than 70% of the
world's population)

**35 new
Member
countries/
regions since
2005**

www.worldskills.org

WORLD SKILLS TIMELINE:



- 1950** FIRST INTERNATIONAL SKILLS COMPETITION
- 1953** 6 MEMBER COUNTRIES AND REGIONS FROM EUROPE
- 1961** 1ST ASIAN COUNTRY JOINS — JAPAN
- 1970** FIRST TIME COMPETITION HELD OUTSIDE EUROPE
- 1973** 1ST NORTH AMERICAN COUNTRY JOINS — UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
- 1980** 17 MEMBER COUNTRIES AND REGIONS
- 1981** 1ST SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRY JOINS — BRAZIL
- 1981** 1ST OCEANIA COUNTRY JOINS — AUSTRALIA
- 1990** 22 MEMBER COUNTRIES AND REGIONS
- 1990** 1ST AFRICAN COUNTRY JOINS — SOUTH AFRICA
- 1995** 1ST ASEAN REGIONAL SKILLS COMPETITION — MALAYSIA
- 1997** 1ST MIDDLE EAST COUNTRY JOINS — UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
- 1998** 1ST EUROPEAN REGIONAL SKILLS COMPETITION — NETHERLANDS
- 2000** ORGANIZATION REBRANDED AS WORLD SKILLS
- 2000** 36 MEMBER COUNTRIES AND REGIONS
- 2001** FIRST WORLD SKILLS LEADERS FORUM HELD IN SEOUL, KOREA
- 2003** FIRST GLOBAL INDUSTRY PARTNERS SUPPORT THE CONTINUOUS WORK OF ORGANIZATION
- 2005** FULL TIME SECRETARIAT TO PROFESSIONALLY MANAGE THE ORGANIZATION
- 2005** FIRST CONFERENCE PROGRAMME HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH WORLD SKILLS COMPETITION
- 2005** 42 MEMBER COUNTRIES AND REGIONS
- 2006** FIRST WORLD SKILLS YOUTH FORUM HELD IN MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA
- 2007** 47 MEMBER COUNTRIES AND REGIONS
- 2008** FIRST WORLD SKILLS AMBASSADOR — MARCOS PONTES
- 2008** 1ST GCC REGIONAL SKILLS COMPETITION — UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
- 2009** 52 MEMBER COUNTRIES AND REGIONS
- 2010** 1ST AMERICAS REGIONAL SKILLS COMPETITION — BRAZIL
- 2011** WORLD SKILLS FOUNDATION CREATED
- 2011** 58 MEMBER COUNTRIES AND REGIONS
- 2012** FIRST INNOVATION LAB HELD IN SINGAPORE
- 2014** 72 MEMBER COUNTRIES AND REGIONS
- 2015** FIRST WORLD SKILLS COMPETITION TO BE HOSTED IN SOUTH AMERICA
- 2017** FIRST WORLD SKILLS COMPETITION TO BE HOSTED IN THE MIDDLE EAST