

HISTORY OF WORLDSKILLS

WHAT IS WORLDSKILLS?

As an international movement, WorldSkills is the global voice of workplace skills promotion. We use **SKILLS COMPETITIONS, RESEARCH, PROMOTING SKILLS, EDUCATION AND TRAINING, CAREER BUILDING, AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT** to bring together industry, government, and education organizations to drive an international **SKILLS AGENDA** designed to create economic stability for all people and freedom of choice for all youth.

The continued growth of WorldSkills attests to the fact that traditional trade skills along with the newer technology multi-skilled vocations make an essential contribution to the economic and social well-being of people everywhere. As a free standing, non-political organization, WorldSkills provides a cost effective means for global government, education and industry cooperation in achieving higher standards and status for vocational education and training on a worldwide basis.

**"Fill youth with enthusiasm through special action!
Convince young people's parents, trainers and company chiefs that a promising future is possible only through good vocational training."**

*Francisco Albert-Vidal,
IVTO President 1984-1992*

OUR HERITAGE

In 1946 there was a great need for skilled workers in Spain. José Antonio Elola Olaso, who was General Director of OJE (Spanish Youth Organization), had an insight: it was necessary to convince youth, as well as their parents, teachers and prospective employers, that their future depended on an effective vocational training system.

Mr Olaso chose Francisco Albert-Vidal to further develop this idea together with Antonio Almagro Diaz and Faustino Ramos Diaz. The solution that they came up with was to promote vocational training systems through a competition. This would enable youth to be inspired, adults would discuss competition results and visitors would be able to see a great variety of trades being demonstrated. Thus the idea of the WorldSkills Competition was born and became a reality in 1950 with the first Iberian Competition and an organization called the International Vocational Training Organization (IVTO) was developed.

In 1953, more European countries took part in the Competition. In 1954, the first organizing council – composed by official and technical representatives of the participating countries – was established to set the rules for international competitions. Over 65 years later, this model is still in place with Official and Technical Delegates from 77 countries and regions in WorldSkills.

WorldSkills is not just a Competition though, it is a movement. 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.

GLOBAL INDUSTRY PARTNERS OF WORLDSKILLS INTERNATIONAL



GLOBAL SUPPORTER OF WORLDSKILLS INTERNATIONAL



HISTORY OF WORLDSKILLS

HISTORY OF WORLDSKILLS COMPETITIONS

WorldSkills has come to symbolize the pinnacle of excellence in vocational education, training, and skills development. Every two years, over 1,000 young skilled people, accompanied by their teachers and trainers, gather from around the world to compete before the public in their various skills and test themselves against demanding international standards. They represent the best of their peers drawn from regional and national skill competitions currently held in many WorldSkills Member countries and regions. The experience and results of all the competitions provide valuable feedback both to the individuals and the systems and enterprises in which they are being trained. For some it means recognition for outstanding achievement, while for others it provides the motivation and knowledge to aspire to higher standards. For the onlookers it is a revealing experience to see highly competent and skilled young people in action.

From 24 Competitors and 2 countries in 1950, the WorldSkills Competition is set to reach more than 1,200 Competitors from over 75 countries and regions in 2017. The 44th WorldSkills Competition in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates 14-19 October 2017 will be the biggest Competition to date.

As WorldSkills moves into the future, it continues to reach new milestones and gain new footholds in the world as a viable and crucial organization for launching the global economy through excellence in skilled careers.

WORLDSKILLS VISION

IMPROVING OUR WORLD WITH THE POWER OF SKILLS.

COMPETITIONS

1950: Madrid, Spain	1979: Cork, Ireland
1951: Madrid, Spain	1981: Atlanta, United States of America
1953: Madrid, Spain	1983: Linz, Austria
1955: Madrid, Spain	1985: Osaka, Japan
1956: Madrid, Spain	1988: Sydney, Australia
1957: Madrid, Spain	1989: Birmingham, United Kingdom
1958: Brussels, Belgium	1991: Amsterdam, Netherlands
1959: Modena, Italy	1993: Taipei, Chinese Taipei
1960: Barcelona, Spain	1995: Lyon, France
1961: Duisburg, Germany	1997: St Gallen, Switzerland
1962: Gijón, Spain	1999: Montreal, Canada
1963: Dublin, Ireland	2001: Seoul, Korea
1964: Lisbon, Portugal	2003: St Gallen, Switzerland
1966: Glasgow, United Kingdom	2005: Helsinki, Finland
1966: Utrecht, Netherlands	2007: Shizuoka, Japan
1967: Madrid, Spain	2009: Calgary, Canada
1968: Bern, Switzerland	2011: London, United Kingdom
1969: Brussels, Belgium	2013: Leipzig, Germany
1970: Tokyo, Japan	2015: São Paulo, Brazil
1971: Gijón, Spain	2017: Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
1973: Munich, Germany	2019: Kazan, Russia
1975: Madrid, Spain	
1977: Utrecht, Netherlands	
1978: Busan, Korea	

"WorldSkills has achieved a new level of increased awareness and reach in the past few years. With 76 Member countries and regions, the WorldSkills brand and message is penetrating every corner of the globe. Its rich history and high standards will enable WorldSkills to become a global voice on skills excellence and vocational education issues. With over 65 years of expertise and knowledge the WorldSkills movement is getting stronger with every year that passes by, learning from the past whilst looking to the future. And as we look to that future we see it filled with the promise of a highly skilled and motivated global workforce."

— Simon Bartley, President of WorldSkills