

Embargo until 14.00 on Oct. 10, 2011

WORLD SKILLS INTERNATIONAL WELCOMES ITS NEWEST PRESIDENT

London, United Kingdom (Monday, 10th October, 2011) – On Monday, 10th October, 2011 the official handover of the leadership of WorldSkills International (WSI) took place. Tjerk Dusseldorp, who has served as President of WSI for 12 years, stepped down and Simon Bartley is stepping up to take his place.

Simon was elected President of WorldSkills International at the organisation's General Assembly in October 2010 and begins his four-year term on 10th October 2011, the day after the Closing Ceremonies for WSI's most celebrated biennial event – the WorldSkills Competition.

Previously, Simon has been Chief Executive of UK Skills and WorldSkills London 2011 as well as the UK's Official Delegate to both WorldSkills International and WorldSkills Europe (on both of which he was also a Board Member).

Prior to his involvement in UK Skills, Simon worked in the Building Services Sector as Chairman of his family business and he now works as an international skills consultant. Simon was educated at Durham University, where he earned a BSc in Engineering Science and Management and an MSc in Management Science. He is a Chartered Engineer, a Member of the Institution of Civil Engineers and a Fellow of City & Guilds. He is a Member of the UK Government's Skills Commission and the Apprentice Ambassadors' Network and sits on the Council of City & Guilds. Simon is a past Chair of the Confederation of British Industry's Small and Medium Sized Enterprise Council.

Involvement in WorldSkills International is in Simon's lineage. His father, David Bartley, was a member of the Board for UK Skills from 1987 until 1999 and was the UK's Official Delegate when Team UK competed at WorldSkills in Chinese Taipei in 1993. To take on the role of WorldSkills International President at such a special moment here in London gives Simon additional pride.

"To have been elected to the office of President of WorldSkills International at the end of a truly inspirational and successful WorldSkills London 2011 is an honour and a challenge. I will strive to make WorldSkills International the authoritative voice for skills around the world and to ensure that the Competition rises to ever greater heights." – Simon Bartley, President, WorldSkills International

Tjerk's over 30 years of dedication to WSI have served the organisation well and he is confident that Simon will drive its mission and goals forward.

"After 30 years of being part of the WorldSkills movement, it is with excitement and sadness that I step down as President. I have the upmost confidence that the new Board and new President, Simon Bartley, will take the vision of WorldSkills International forward. WorldSkills International is primed to reach new heights and is on track to reach its goal of 70 Members by 2020. I wish Simon all the best in his new role and look forward to seeing WorldSkills International's continued growth and expansion into every corner of the world." – Tjerk Dusseldorp, Former President, WorldSkills International

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The energy and enthusiasm created through the great success of WorldSkills London 2011 will certainly invigorate the WSI Board and with its new leadership WorldSkills International is eager to continue its work promoting the essential contributions of careers in the industrial trades, information technologies and services sectors of the global economy.

High resolution photos are available at <http://media.worldskills.org>.

For more information, please contact:

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BACKGROUNDER

WorldSkills International

WorldSkills International's (WSI) mission is to promote, through the cooperative action of 58 Members countries/regions, a worldwide awareness of the essential contribution that skills and high standards of competence make to the achievement of economic success and personal fulfilment. WSI provides a unique means of exchange and comparison of world-class competency standards in the industrial trades, information technologies and service sectors of the global economy. WSI works at all levels from grassroots to senior policy makers to affect change in training procedures, policy development and international standards. Through advocacy, education and Competitions, WorldSkills International is raising the level of competences throughout the world and bringing new awareness to these crucial sectors in the global economy. Without skills there is no economy.

www.worldskills.org

About WorldSkills London 2011

WorldSkills London 2011 is the world's greatest, international skills Competition where young people from across the globe compete to become the best of the best. At stake: the honour of being the greatest in the world at their chosen skill.

The Competition took place from 5-8 October 2011 at ExCeL London – bringing together 1,000 young people from more than 50 Member countries/regions to compete in 46 skill areas from seven sectors ranging from high technology to industrial and manufacturing skills to the service sector.

The UK hosted the WorldSkills Competition for the first time in 22 years and the scale of the event was enormous - ExCeL London has over 90,000m² of space, the equivalent of ten Wembley Stadium pitches. Every community and business in the UK thrives on skills, enterprise and inspiration. The WorldSkills London 2011 team worked to make sure the event acted as a catalyst to spark the ambitions not just of Competitors but of people across the country. Visitors to the event discovered how skills shape our world, got the chance to Have a Go at a wide range of skills activities, and had an opportunity to talk to a range of experts about future career options and opportunities.

WorldSkills London 2011 was funded jointly by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and industry partners. The European Social Fund provided technical assistance funds to support a programme of activity to assist young people from disadvantaged areas to attend WorldSkills London 2011, support the volunteer and exhibitor programme and fund event 'wrap around' activities. The European Social Fund in England is investing in jobs and skills – focusing on people who need support the most and helping them fulfill their potential.

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