

Embargo until 00.01am on Monday 10th October

GLOBAL SKILLS CHIEF HAIL NEW 'ERA OF SKILLS' FOR ECONOMY

Leaders of the global skills movement have set out a vision for a new era of skills to drive global economic growth.

Speaking as WorldSkills London 2011 closed at a glittering Ceremony at The O2, organisers said the event had showed how skills can deliver innovation, economic growth and engage young people.

Chris Humphries, Chair of WorldSkills London 2011, said:

"The young people who have competed in WorldSkills are the very best in the world and we know these Competitors will go on to establish multi-national businesses, develop new products and services and continue to lead their industries – just as their predecessors have done.

"Skills shape our world and we have seen that businesses, politicians as well as teachers and young people realise this. We will only see growth return to our economies through an era of skills and entrepreneurship and that's why we're so delighted that 200,000 visitors have been inspired by new job and career opportunities at WorldSkills London with hundreds of thousands more having a go at new skills around the UK.

"The global response to the Competition online and in the world's media shows that it's not just the young people of the UK that are desperate to explore skills.

"Hundreds of employers have committed to investing in Apprenticeships and training for the future this week and the UK government has announced extra investment in skills and growth at the conference programme. Meanwhile, political leaders from around the UK, Europe and the world have come to London to show their support for skills."

WorldSkills London 2011 has been the biggest event ever to be held at ExCeL London, attracting 200,000 young people in four days and has seen the largest ever number of people travel on London's Docklands Light Railway in a single day.

As the London organising committee passes on the baton to Leipzig to stage the event in 2013, current UK delegate to WorldSkills International, Simon Bartley takes up the role of global President.

Simon Bartley said:

"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."



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And Humphries added:

"I've been delighted to work with Simon as we've put together the London event and congratulate him on being elected by his peers to the Presidency of WorldSkills International."

WorldSkills London 2011 took place from 5-8th October at ExCeL London. Almost 1,000 young people from more than 50 Member countries and regions competed in 46 skill areas including Mobile Robotics, Landscape Gardening, Mechatronics, Cooking, Automobile Technology.

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Notes to Editors

Media enquiries

For further information, or to arrange an interview, please call 07507 548 893 or email kdew@worldskillslondon2011.com

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 51 member countries/regions to compete in 46 skill areas from seven sectors:

- Health, Public Services and Care
- Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care
- Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies
- Construction, Planning and the Built Environment
- Information and Communications Technology
- Retail and Commercial Enterprise
- Arts, Media and Publishing

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 is working to make sure the event acts 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. To find out more, visit: worldskillslondon2011.com

WorldSkills London 2011 is funded jointly by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and industry partners. The European Social Fund provided technical assistance funds to support a



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programme of activity to assist young people from disadvantaged areas to attend WorldSkills London 2011, supported the volunteer and exhibitor programme and funded 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.

About WorldSkills London 2011 sponsors

Sponsors include City & Guilds, Samsung, UK Skills, Cisco, Honda, Mori Seiki, Snap-on, Autodesk, Geberit, Kunzmann, Learndirect, Lincoln Electric, L'Oreal Professionnel, Mitutoyo, XMA, 3M, Acer, BAE Systems, BT, Fluke Corporation, HBSC, Irwin Tools, Kennametal, Logicalis, Melville, Nova Verta, O2, Plumbase, Ryman and Travis Perkins. Each skill competition will be supported by a presenting sponsor, as well as a host of official suppliers who will provide world-class machinery, equipment, supplies, and technical support to facilitate the competition.

Presenting sponsors for WorldSkills London 2011 include Adande, Allens, Amada, Bentley, British Gypsum, Car-O-Liner, Cookson Precious Metals, Crown paints, Debenhams, Dermalogica, Festo, Festool, Fluke Networks, Heidelberg, HRP, Husqvarna, Jigsaw Systems, KNK, Lowe Refrigeration Worldwide, Marshalls, MBDA Missile Systems, MCS Technical Products, OF Bell, Royal Air Force, Royal College of Nursing, Seetec, Siemens, Stone Federation, The Tile Association and Westcoast. Official suppliers include: 3Dconnexion, Air Products, Airwave Solutions, Albion Stone, Altium, AMT, Aqualisa, Arburg, Arup, Atlas Copco, Bagpress, bBrown, Blackrock, BOC, Boettcher, BPEC, Bulldog Tools, Callebaut, Calor Gas, Capital Crispin Veneer, The Carlton Group, Tom Chandley Ovens, Cheftools, Churchill China, CITB – Construction Skills, Clico, Cooktek, Cooper Atkins, Copper Development Board, Continental Chef Supplies, CPS, Craft Guild of Chefs, Danfoss, Deventer Limited, DeWalt, Easydry, Elliott, Ellisons, Elmfield Training, Emir, Essential Nails, Felder, Fernox, Flowflex, Fujikura, Gerber Technology, Godrich, Gourmet Classic Wine, Guetermann, H&S Aviation, Hanson, Holts Academy, Ideal Standard, IDM Computer Solutions, Institute for Learning, Intel, International Timber, Jemtech, John Sheppard, Kennett & Lindsell, La-Co, Lapp Group, Lincat, Linde, LPKF, Magic Vac, Major International, Makita, Maletti, Marburg, Marshalltown, Mastercam, MBS Wholesales, Meddings Machine Tools, Michael's Bridal Fabrics, Mills Limited, Mitsubishi Air Conditioning, Morelli, Morgan Rushworth, MP Software, Nikken, Northamber, Numatic International, Oliver Harvey, Oranka Fruit Juices, Outokumpo, Peglar Yorkshire, PivotPoint, Polypipe, ProDec, Quality Plastics, Rare Basic, Renishaw, Reynolds, Rivacold, RJH Morrisflex, RK International Machine Tools Ltd, Robot Coupe, Rothenberger, Royal Mosa, Saint-Gobain, Sata Spray Guns, Satellite-Brown, Scheinder Electric, Schwarz for Chef, Sherwin Williams, Silverlining, Sinapse Print Simulators, SNIPEF, Spax, Springboard, Stanley, Tarmac, Tecumesh, Thame Workholding, The Harris Group, Thermomax, Town & Country Fine Food, Treston, Troika, Wago, Wlsh, Weber, Westminster Kingsway College, Whitehill Spindle Toolings, The Worshipful Company of Plumbers, X-Rite Pantone, Yorkshire Copper Tube



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About Team UK

Team UK – managed by the National Apprenticeship Service - is made up of 43 competitors aged 18-25 who are currently in training to represent the UK at WorldSkills London 2011. To find out more visit www.worldskillsteamuk.org

Team UK is supported by Edge, the independent education foundation, the Premier Supporter of Squad and Team UK and Brathay Trust, the Premier Training and Development Partner of Squad and Team UK.

WorldSkills International

WorldSkills International's (WSI) mission is to promote, through the cooperative action of 58 Members, a worldwide awareness of the essential contribution that skills and high standards of competence make to the achievement of economic success and individual fulfillment. It also 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. 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. To find out more, visit: www.worldskills.org



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