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French nationals in Nantes
The French National Competition, which took place in Nantes on 20-22 January, was a great success. 600 competitors, selected from 5000 youngsters from all over France, competed in 48 skills over three days. The event attracted 100,000 visitors, who crowded round the stands to observe the work of the competitors. Visitors could visit the “salon d’orientation”, to get further information on a specific skill. The French team who will represent France in the WorldSkills Competition was formed at the Closing Ceremony at Airbus in Saint Mazaire.

Marie-Thérèse Geffroy, President of COFOM (Comité Français des Olympiades des Métiers) says: "We thank this success to the 22 regions of France, to all sponsor partners of the “Olympiades” and to all the experts and juries. This enthusiasm is needed to convince those who are not convinced yet of the genuine dynamic contribution to vocational education. So let's all meet in May in Helsinki and have a look at skills for young people who want to go for it!"

Pictured is the French team who will represent France in the upcoming WorldSkills Competition

Global Skills Village (26-29 May 2005) - a few booths left!
Book now and share your experiences in the Global Skills Village. This event which will run alongside the Competition, gives you a wonderful opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences and to present your organisation. The Global Skills Village offers international seminars with speakers from all over the world, a great variety of themes around vocational education and an emphasis on experience exchange and cooperation. The following topics are already included in the programme:

• Future Challenges of and Good Practices in Vocational Teacher Education
• Globalization of the Skills Agenda
• Presentations on National Vocational Competitions Cooperation between schools (VET) and enterprises
• The European Union and Skills Competitions - links between the objectives of Copenhagen Process and WorldSkills Competitions
• Presentations on Vocational Education and Training (VET) Systems in Different Countries
• International Cooperation and Mobility in VET
• Development of Vocational Occupational Health and Safety Skills
• Environmental Aspects in VET
• Marketing and Promotion of Skills

Click here and fill in the application form to reserve a booth and/or make your contribution to this fantastic event. Act soon as we only have a few booths left! For further information, please contact Kati Lundgren at kati.lundgren@skillsfinland.com (for programme contributions) or Maria Atzmon at maria.atzmon@skillsfinland.com (for booth reservations).
FinnSkills Competition in Turku

The Finnish national competition, FinnSkills took place on 19-21 January. This huge event also attracted around 100 foreign competitors. Some of the competitors were already selected in their countries to compete in Helsinki in May 2005, so this event was an excellent chance for them to test machines and equipment. The Turku event was also an opportunity to do a ‘test run’ the upcoming WorldSkills Competition. WorldSkills representatives attended the competition very actively where the main focus was on testing the Competition Information System (CIS). The Chairman of the Technical Committee Liam Corcoran, the Secretary General David Hoey and the Marking Systems Advisor Peter Neate were very pleased to see the progress and results so far. It was clear that the Finnish CIS-team from Hämeenlinna Polytechnics had been developing the CIS according to plan. In addition, WorldSkills and Skills Finland also discussed issues on accreditation, internal communication during the competition, security, Global Skills Village, WorldSkills Leaders Forum and the Competition schedule.

Media accreditation for Helsinki has started

The pressroom is located in the centre of the competition venue. The media will have 20 workstations with internet connections at their disposal. Alongside the pressroom there is a press conference room with over 100 seats and a separate interview room. The accredited media will have free entry to the competition venue as well as to the Opening and Closing Ceremony. Entry to each particular skill competition site requires prior approval of the chief expert for that skill. In order to ensure a fast accreditation procedure, media representatives are asked to send their digital colour photo in advance to accreditation@skillsfinland.com. The preferred image size is 270 x 350 pixels and the file should be named <firstname_surname.tiff>. For further questions, please contact Markku Lahtinen markku.lahtinen@skillsfinland.com.

Theme music of WorldSkills 2005 Helsinki

The Competition for the theme music of the WorldSkills Competition in May, was arranged by Skills Finland, the Conservatoire Association of Finland and the Helsinki Pop & Jazz Conservatory. 11 participants competed and five of them were qualified for the finals. The jury was faced with a difficult decision because all finalists were extremely good. However, the jury finally succeeded in making a tough decision. The winner of the theme music for the WorldSkills 2005 Competition is composer Vili Ollila with his piece “Sound Vision”. Vili Ollila studies at the Helsinki Pop & Jazz Conservatory at Arabianranta. He is one of the brightest Finnish music talents of his generation. This composition was chosen for its freshness and originality. It also suits the competition image very well. Three versions of the theme music are now available. Sound Vision’s premiere was at the Closing Ceremony of the FinnSkills Competition in Turku, where the Team representing Finland in May at the WorldSkills Competition was introduced.

Mascot for WorldSkills 2005 Helsinki: SKILLY!

The need for a mascot had been in the planning process since summer 2004. The mascot has been created by architect, Mrs. Tanja Karpasto and Mr. Esa Ylä-Anttila. Esa Ylä-Anttila had earlier won the mascot competition for the 10th IAAF World Championships Helsinki in Athletics. Skilly symbolises diligence, internationalism, youth, goodwill and cheerfulness. The general competition graphical image is primary blue thus the vivid yellow colour creates a good counter-balance to it. Skilly will absolutely oil the wheels of Competition spirit. Skilly has already been visible in out-door ads, posters, brochures and on licenced products. Skilly merchandise is available for sale at the Competition.
WorldSkills Leaders Forum (25-26 May 2005 in Helsinki) - an excellent opportunity to learn new strategies and methods

The WorldSkills Leaders Forum offers life experience of vocational skills for developing a TVET framework in a globalised world. This function gives you and your network an excellent opportunity to learn new strategies and methods from the five topics of this event, and to build partnerships and networks focusing on specific aspects of TVET.

Topics:
- Tackling the Challenges of Change and Global Competition
- Strategies for Bridging Technology and Skills Gaps
- Generating Wealth with Skills
- The Importance of Human Resources for Sustainable Development
- Transition from School to Work

Target groups:
- European Commission Representatives
- Government bodies and ministries from industrial and developing countries
- Non Government and Private Sector Representatives
- Labour Market Organisations (Chamber of Commerce Representatives)
- International institutions and training organisations
- Financial Institutions

Bring key people from your country to this event!
Interesting participants for this event are your Minister of Education and the Minister of Labour, Directors and General Managers of organisations which are related to Vocational Education and Training and people from the economy sector who are important for bridging Economy and Vocational Education and Training.

If you would like to recommend participants or key note speakers from your country/network for this event, please inform the Secretariat as soon as possible so your contacts can be included to the invitee list. Please include the contact details of your recommended participants (name, address details, phone number and email address, organisation, position).

For further information, please contact Sheila Ruigrok at sheila.ruigrok@worldskills.org

Marketing the WorldSkills brand
WorldSkills is currently developing new identity guidelines to further strengthen the global branding and marketing of WorldSkills. WorldSkills Calgary 2009 has already adopted these new identity guidelines – their logo is shown on the left.

Another aspect of this is the ‘standardisation’/branding of domain names for future events. You only have to remember www.worldskillsXXXX.com where XXXX is the year of the event and you will go to the appropriate website. WorldSkills Calgary 2009 has the official web address www.worldskills2009.com. Japan is currently developing its website and it will be www.worldskills2007.com. Many thanks to Canada and Japan for their support in this simple but important marketing/branding initiative. The development of the new identity guidelines was approved by the Executive Board in November and will be presented to the General Assembly in Helsinki 2005. One of our members has already started re-branding and has adopted the new guidelines for their member organisation. Stay tuned to find out who!

And many thanks to those member organisations who have added the WorldSkills logo to their homepage with an active link to www.worldskills.org. Still not done? If you need any help, please contact David Hoey at david.hoey@worldskills.org.

Events February/March 2005

28 Febr - 3 March Stuttgart, Germany Didactica 2005
3 - 5 March Rotterdam, The Netherlands Dutch National Competitions

Mexico applying for full membership
After a long time of correspondence and the support and efforts of many people, Mexico has now officially applied for full membership. The application will be ratified by the Executive Board before approval at the General Assembly in May 2005. Are you in contact with a non member country who is interested in joining WorldSkills then please let us know.

For information on how to become a WorldSkills member, please click here.
WSC2005 Competition preparation

We have created a page on our website (see link and image on the right) that is dedicated to information for delegates and experts to prepare for the 38th WorldSkills Competition in Helsinki - May 2005.

It is a summary page that links to the necessary information on WorldSkills website or Skills Finland’s website or other websites. It also lists email correspondence to delegates that relates to the competition.

http://www.worldskills.org/site/public/?pageid=257

Articles for next issue

The next issue will be published in March 2005. Please send your articles and photos to sheila.ruigrok@worldskills.org by 7 March 2005.