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## The 38th WorldSkills Competition

The 38th WorldSkills Competition was held in Helsinki from 26-29 May 2005 and was an outstanding success.

Over four days of competition, over 650 young people drawn from 39 member countries/regions tested themselves against tough international standards in 39 key trades and technologies. The ultimate prizes were gold, silver and bronze medals. In addition there were 700 experts and associated delegates and thousands of industry, government and vocational education and training VIPs. Overall, there were just under 120,000 visitors.



A spectacular opening ceremony was held in the Helsinki Ice Hall on the 25 May. An equally spectacular closing ceremony at the Ice Hall finished the event on 1 June where the world's best young technicians and tradespeople received their awards and everyone's participation and success was celebrated. At the end of the ceremony, Japan was presented with the hosting responsibilities for the WorldSkills Competition in 2007.

In association with the WorldSkills Competition, the Global Skills Village was organized this year for the first time. Its purpose is to work as an international meeting point for those who operate with vocational education and training, vocational skills competitions and professional know-how. Because the WorldSkills Competition gathers international groups of people interested in vocational skills, such as teachers, industrial companies, labour market organisations, and other representatives from working life, the Global Skills Village offered a forum for presenting and exchanging experiences and thoughts between the WorldSkills members and other parties.



You could visit 17 member countries/regions over the four days just by visiting their exhibition booths. In addition Finnish and European organizations such as the Finnish Board of Education and the European Commission had exhibition booths. Alongside the International Village there was a seminar program over the four days. For more information please visit [www.globalskillsvillage.com](http://www.globalskillsvillage.com).

The third WorldSkills Leaders' Forum was held in Helsinki within the context of the broader Global Skills Village. The Forum provides a very valuable mechanism to review and discuss trends in the world of skills. The Helsinki Forum highlighted some penetrating insights into how the world economy is evolving and some exciting examples of how leading edge technology is revolutionizing how training is delivered. For more information please visit [www.worldskillsleadersforum.com](http://www.worldskillsleadersforum.com).

Congratulations go to Skills Finland who were the host organizers for the 38th WorldSkills Competition. Their meticulous planning and professionalism provided a world-class environment and experience for everyone.



## Charting a course from Helsinki

(A message from the President - Mr Tjerk Dusseldorp)



*Tjerk (Jack) Dusseldorp*

The strongest impression I was left with from the Helsinki experience was that our membership has never been closer in terms of like-mindedness about the exciting challenges and opportunities we face as a world wide movement and catalyst for skills development.

In the many formal and informal meetings, forums, discussions and "one-on-one" conversations in which I participated, there was as much focus on ways of advancing our mission as there was on issues concerning the conduct of the competition. From our members and potential new members alike, I detected an unprecedented hunger for knowledge about advancing skills.

Based on the feedback received from our successful 2005 Leaders Forum in Helsinki, we are focusing next year's forum in Melbourne on the emerging solutions to meeting the changing skills needs of the global economy.

With its theme, "Transforming the way young people acquire the technical, social and learning skills needed in the 21st century", the 2006 WorldSkills Leaders Forum will highlight world best policy and practice.

Much of the credit for our advances in Helsinki belongs to our Finnish colleagues for providing such a flawless platform for our activities which, apart from the Competition, consisted of the Global Skills Village, Leaders Forum and associated seminars and presentations.

I think our declared goal in 2000 to place the members at the heart of WorldSkills decision making processes is now clearly evident and supported by the very positive reflections of those delegates who participated in our strategic review process.

The review highlighted priority actions to be taken such as:

- increasing the number of members
- further developing WorldSkills web portal to meet the interactive communication and information needs of our various target audiences
- facilitating greater commitment from our members to utilise and promote the WorldSkills brand
- continuing to develop and refine the relationship between the WorldSkills organization and host members of future WorldSkills events for the benefit of all our key stakeholders
- exploring a new corporate/organization partnership model to grow the capacity of WorldSkills

- rationalising and developing the range of competition categories to reflect the changing needs of the global economy
- examining and refining the competition to improve its spectator and media appeal
- further developing the Global Skills Village and Leaders Forum

For the first time in Helsinki, we conducted a forum of the people who lead and manage our member organizations, and it's now clear that WorldSkills will greatly benefit from formally recognising and supporting their role within the overall WorldSkills movement.

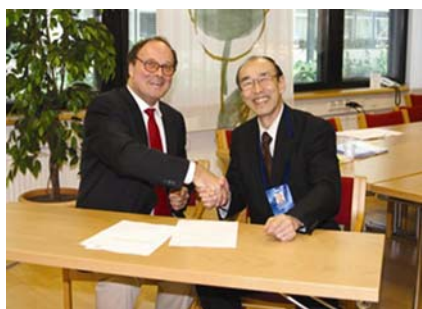
In the past when the question was asked, "What is WorldSkills?" the most likely answer was, "It's like the Olympic Games, except instead of sporting events, the competitions are in some 40 key skills and technologies ranging from carpentry to web design".

In the future people will more accurately say: "WorldSkills is a growing global movement of agencies and committed individuals focused on developing and promoting high performance among young people in key skills and technologies that are vital to economic and social success."

I believe WorldSkills is on track to becoming a networked learning organization of educational and industrial partners leading the global skills agenda.

*Tjerk Dusseldorp  
President - WorldSkills  
1 July 2005*

## MOU between WorldSkills and the Japan 2007 Competition



*Mr Jack Dusseldorp, WorldSkills President, and Mr Yukinori Wakabayashi, Executive Director of JOCISF 2007*

The key objectives of the partnership between WorldSkills and the Japan Organising Committee for 2007 were formally agreed to in Helsinki in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that was signed by Mr Jack Dusseldorp, WorldSkills President, and Mr Yukinori Wakabayashi, Executive Director of JOCISF\* 2007.

Commenting on the importance of the 10 point agreement Mr Dusseldorp said, "This MOU embodies our mutual desire to work as equal partners,

colleagues and friends to ensure the Shizuoka WorldSkills event in November 2007 raises the bar for skills recognition and development in Japan and also in our member countries and across the world. It's a blueprint for an even greater success than we've experienced here in Helsinki as it raises the expectations we have of each other to achieve higher standards in fulfilling our mission."

*\*JOCISF = Japan Organising Committee for International Skills Festival for all*



## WorldSkills Leaders Forum - Exploration of leading edge skills training issues



I am pleased to provide some highlights of the third WorldSkills Leaders' Forum that was held in Helsinki in May 2005, within the context of the broader Global Skills Village. After a modest beginning in Seoul in 2001, the Forum is rapidly evolving into a very valuable mechanism to review and discuss trends in the world of skills. The Helsinki Forum highlighted some penetrating insights into how the world economy is evolving and some exciting examples of how leading edge technology is revolutionizing how training is delivered.

Since details of all the speakers and their presentations at the Forum are on the web site at [www.worldskillsleadersforum.com](http://www.worldskillsleadersforum.com) this note touches only a few key highlights. Readers are encouraged to get the full flavour of the Forum by [viewing the actual presentations](#).

Chris Humphries, set the stage by outlining some startling developments in the world economy. John Williamson, speaking from an industrial perspective showed how developing countries are embracing "leapfrog IT technologies" to move ahead quickly, and challenged the audience to not to be passive bystanders but to "Drive the Change" and therefore create opportunities. The perspective of one of the best training agencies in the world was provided by Antonio Carlos Maranhara de Aguiar from Brazil's SENAI.



Dr Muriel Dunbar from the European Training Foundation explained a very enlightened approach whereby the EU is creating a "Ring of Friends" in its perimeter countries by helping them develop their training capabilities. Sylvia Allen, whose company (Cisco Systems) is among those physically building the global communications network, demonstrated vividly how the internet is revolutionizing the entire field of learning. She also explained how the Cisco Networking Academy now has 10,000 locations in 150 countries teaching people technical skills to global standards through internet-enabled learning.

Annette Nijs stimulated the audience with her presentation on the challenges of global competition. Finally, Paddy Morgan as the last speaker blew the doors off conventional thinking about training approaches with his presentation "Training Without Walls". He presented the results of a very practical "real-life" project that applied advanced computer-based methods to deliver complex modular training at a lower cost. With the support of several company sponsors and forward looking educational institutions, this new approach features maximum flexibility to meet the needs of trainees by recognizing prior learning, personal learning styles, and work life balance. It shifts teachers role from being the "Sage on the Stage" to the "Guide on the Side" who acts as mentor and coach for a process of deep and active training using tools such as simulations, on-line course material and testing, and practical workshops.

This presentation is a good example of how the WorldSkills Leaders Forum is becoming a leader in setting the global agenda for skills training. With the support of its sponsor partners, WorldSkills will make this exciting new concept the focus of the next WorldSkills Leaders Forum in conjunction with the General Assembly meetings in Melbourne, Australia in May 2006.

This is one you won't want to miss, so look for details in the weeks ahead on the web and via emails.

*Laurent Thibault,*  
 WorldSkills Vice-President, Special Affairs and Treasurer



## Medal Winners back from Helsinki



*Young craftsmen from South Tyrol obtain dream score of 11 medals.*

On June 2nd, the 20 members of the South Tyrol team landed at Bozen airport to be met by a gigantic welcome party of almost a thousand people. The party was to welcome the team home and celebrate the 11 medal winners from the 38th WorldSkills Championship.

Head of Government Luis Durnwalder rearranged his schedule in order to be present at the welcoming ceremony organized for the team of South Tyrol because he insisted on delivering his welcoming words in person. The results were sensational: a total of 11 medals, 5 of which gold, 1 silver and 5 bronze medals.

The 1000 strong crowd which included family members, friends and fans from all parts of South Tyrol were a surprise to the young craftsmen who were arriving at Bozen airport together with their coaches and other representatives.

Amidst all the jubilation there was also expression of more serious thoughts and awe at the performance of such a small country. LVH President and WorldSkills Italy Official Delegate Herbert Fritz, who was accompanied by both Vice-Presidents Bruno Covi and Helmuth Innerbicher is proud of the result and sees it as a guarantee for the future of South Tyrol.

“This is the youth we build upon“ he said. For LVH Director Hanspeter Munter who, together with Vice-Director Thomas Pardeller and Project Leader Walter Pöhl was responsible for the event, the number of medals is a sheer sensation. Among the 38 participating countries South Tyrol had the highest average score after Korea.

With a total of 20 competitors (17 young men & 3 young ladies) it was the biggest South Tyrolean team ever. They participated in 18 skills in which they obtained 11 medals. They came fourth in one skill and obtained certificates in four skills. During the four competition days team leader Christian Haas succeeded in coaching each individual team member in an excellent way while keeping the team spirit at a constant high. Other team members were Josef (Pepi) Lanz, Technical Delegate to WorldSkills and responsible for technical matters, and his skilled experts (one for each skill) who were also jury members who judged the competitors work

The following political representatives from South Tyrol accompanied Member of Parliament Hanspeter Munter on a study trip to Helsinki during which they gathered a lot of interesting information: Werner Frick, Otto Saurer, Luisa Gneccchi, Martina Ladurner, Georg Pardeller, Thomas Widmann, Walter Baumgartner and Julia Unterberger. Bruno Covi, Primo Schönsberg and other representatives of the bilateral body that sponsored the big event also witnessed the South Tyrolean team’s performance during the competition.

*Contributed by:  
LVH-Public Relations  
South Tyrol*

## Team Sweden

When the Swedish team arrived home from the WorldSkills Competition in Helsinki they were met at the airport by their Minister of Education Ibrahim Bylan. He expressed how proud he and all Swedish Vocational Training were over their success. Mathias Svensson, the Metal Roofer competitor, was especially proud when he got a great hug of congratulations for his bronze medal. Sweden is very proud to be a member of WorldSkills and looks forward to continuing their involvement in the future development of the organisation and the Competition to increase interest in vocational training among young people throughout the world.

*Contributed by Youth Skills Sweden*



*Minister of Education Ibrahim Bylan with some of the Swedish team.*



## Promoting Skills Excellence through WorldSkills

A meeting of minds with a common spirit and goals to achieve skills excellence worldwide. This was how Dr Law Song Seng, Director and Chief Executive Officer, Institute of Technical Education (ITE), Singapore, and Singapore's Official Delegate to WorldSkills, described the meeting with WorldSkills delegates in Singapore. Seven members from WorldSkills, WorldSkills Canada and WorldSkills Japan met at the ITE Headquarters, from 13 to 15 April 2005, to discuss the direction and strategies for the WorldSkills Competitions (WSC) to be held in Japan (2007) and Canada (2009). They also took the opportunity to discuss how they could follow up on Singapore's offer to help WorldSkills in its marketing efforts in promoting technical and vocational skills.

WorldSkills, an international body with 39 member countries, including Singapore, aims to get youths worldwide interested in skilled trade careers. A core activity of this



**Retail Training Hub, ITE College East, Singapore:** (from left) Ms Sabrina Loi, Divisional Director/Corporate Affairs/ITE; Mr Seng-Hua Tan, Principal/ITE College East; Mr Guan-Teck Heng Deputy CEO (Academic)/ITE, & Singapore's Technical Delegate to WS; Mr Jeff Wilson, Managing Director, WS Calgary 2009 Organising Com; Mr David Hoey, Secretary General, WS; Mr David Shanks, Manager, Corporate Partnerships, WS Calgary 2009 Organising Com; Mr Jack (Tjerk) Dusseldorp, President, WS; Dr Song-Seng Law, Director & CEO/ITE, & Singapore's Official Delegate to WS; and Mr Guy Mallabone, Chair, Board of Directors, WS Calgary 2009 Organising Comm.

## Singapore's New Benchmark in Technical Education

Dr Law also briefed the delegates on Singapore's national education and training system, ITE's underlying education philosophy, pedagogic model and future direction. This was followed by a tour of ITE's first mega-size Regional Campus, a comprehensive post-secondary college for technical education at ITE College East. Mr Dusseldorp commented: "It's excellent that 90% of Singaporean secondary leavers proceed to post-secondary education. And the learning facilities are world-class!"

Mr Dusseldorp and Mr Hoey expressed their appreciation to ITE for hosting the WorldSkills meeting in Singapore, sharing 'a motivating glimpse of ITE's world-best practices, and also offering to help improve WorldSkills' marketing capacity in a



practical and creative way'. Added Mr Guy Mallabone, Chairman, Board of Directors, WorldSkills Calgary 2009 Organising Committee: "We're impressed with the new College's architecture and programmes. It's a great achievement. And now that we're

body is the WSC, the largest skills competition in the world. Held biennially in one of its member countries, the competition attracts young people worldwide and sets world-class standards in over 40 skills categories. The 38th WSC was held in Helsinki, Finland, from 26 to 29 May 2005.

## Developing a Global Skills Portal

Drawing inspiration from ITE Singapore's successful experience in promoting technical education, the President of WorldSkills, Mr Tjerk (Jack) Dusseldorp, felt that Singapore was a good role model, having established a sound and robust technical education system. The visiting guests were much impressed with Singapore's success in turning around public perception of vocational and technical education. Both Mr Dusseldorp and Mr David Hoey, Secretary General of WorldSkills, felt that ITE was therefore in a vantage position to help WorldSkills develop a global skills portal under the WorldSkills website, which could be adapted by member countries to promote skills education and vocations in their respective countries. The portal would facilitate WorldSkills' marketing efforts by providing a common platform for information on skilled occupations and a spotlight on success stories of past competitors, to reach out to youths, their parents and other stakeholders in the economy and society.

aware of it, we'll watch its continuing success with great interest. This has been a great educational experience for us, too."

*Contributed by Institute of Technical Education, Singapore*

## More than 900 guests at home-coming Team Netherlands in Amsterdam ArenaA



Team Netherlands arrived home on Friday night 3 June and were welcomed in a spectacular way. More than 900 enthusiastic supporters were waiting to honour them in the Amsterdam Arena. These supporters were not only proud family members, but also representatives from trade and government organisations.

Actress Nicolette van Dam and



sportsman Mark Huizinga gave a personal message to each competitor and handed over certificates and flowers. State Secretary of Education Mark Rutte praised the team from a large screen, and Margo Vliegthart, President of the Bve Raad, donated an enormous cake.

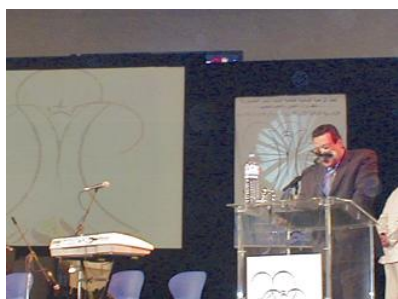
It was a proper honouring for all 35 competitors who have worked so extremely hard the past couple of



months. The WorldSkills Competition in Helsinki was informative, incredible and fantastic, but also nerve-racking and overwhelming. The Dutch have returned home with two silver medals and one bronze medal, plus a 'Best of Nation' award and no less than sixteen Medallions for Excellence. And now it's time to recover!

*Contributed by:  
Birgitta Broekhoven  
Skills Netherlands*

## Skills competition in Algeria



In looking forward to be a member of the WorldSkills organisation and in order to participate as an observer during the 38th WorldSkills Competition which was held from the 25th of May until the first of June 2005 in Helsinki, Finland, the Ministry of Vocational Education and Training of Algeria, organised from the 8th until the 16th of last April the first national vocational training skills competition in Algiers.

This competition was held under the very high authority of his Excellency the President of the Algerian Republic, Mister Abdelaziz Bouteflika.

537 young trainees participated in this competition in 65 skills. 195 laureates were honoured by the presentation of trophies and other prizes.

All participants, the members of the juries and the sponsors received encouragements recognizing their contribution for the success of this very important first event.

We would like to note that both opening and closing ceremonies were transmitted through all television and radio channels as they were honoured by the presence of government members.

The competitions took place in the Fair of Algiers. There was a large influx of important visitors as well as many government members and high authority figures.

*Contributed by:  
Osmane Meslough  
Director of Studies  
Vocational Education and Training  
Ministry of Algeria*

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