### WorldSkills Newsletter

August, 2005



#### In this issue

- Manufacturing Skill Grand Prix
- Singapore IT celebration
- Austrian Team homecoming
- WorldSkills 2009 launch
- WorldSkills Leaders' Forum Patron
- Reflections by competitors
- TV show promotes skills
- Did you know?

#### Manufacturing Skill Grand Prix awarded to Japanese Gold Medalists by Prime Minister

Six Japanese gold medalists from the Worldskills Competition in Helsinki were awarded "Manufacturing Skill Grand Prix" by Mr. Junichiro Koizumi, Prime Minister of Japan, at his official residence in Tokyo on 4 August, in the category of "skill to sustain manufacturing". Another 53 winners were selected by relevant ministries in the Japanese government under the categories of "manufacturing skill to sustain industry" and "manufacturing skill to sustain culture".

This award is a newly created biyearly award to recognize the importance of manufacturing skills, which contributed to the progress of Japanese industry and culture, and to enhance the enthusiasm for manufacturing skills in Japan. We believe this new national award will be a good incentive for young people to develop their skills. We hope this will lead them to take part in National Skill Competitions and WorldSkills Competitions.



Mr. Junichiro Koizumi, Prime Minister of Japan with the six gold medalists: Shoji Watanabe (Polymechanics), Yuji Endo and Akihiko Hirata (Mechatronics), Kazutoshi Onuku (Mech. Eng. CADD), Yoshihiko Akatsuka (CNC Machining), and Daisuke Kominato (Telecomm. Distri. Tech.)

Contributed by:

Japan Organizing Committee for the International Skills Festival (JOCISF)

### Singapore celebrates its IT success at 38th WorldSkills Competition



Viridis Liew and Lo Min Ming were among 11 youths who represented Singapore in 10 skills areas at the 38th WorldSkills Competition. Viridis won Gold in the IT – PC & Network Support category and attained the highest score of the Competition and was awarded with the Albert Vidal Award. Lo Min Ming won Gold in the IT – Software Applications category and scored the second highest points in the Competition.

They were both champions of the Singapore National Competition – the WorldSkills Singapore – organised by ITE in 2004. In all, Singapore won two Golds, a Bronze in Web Design and three Medallions of Excellence, each in Industrial Electronics, Mechanical Engineering CADD and Mechatronics.

And the Minister of State for Education, Mr Chan Soo Sen, was clearly impressed by Singapore's achievements. In his impromptu speech following the presentation of awards at a Dinner held in honour of Singapore's WorldSkills Competition representatives, the Minister, who was the Guest-of-Honour, remarked: "We may not have a tradition of skills in Singapore, but we have reputable institutions like the Polytechnics and Institute of Technical Education which are able to groom highly skilful youths. Continue to put Singapore on the world map and do Singapore and the employment market proud. Our success means a lot to the investors and to our economy and workforce. Congratulations..."



Contributed by: Institute of Technical Education, Singapore



### Reflections on WorldSkills Competition by Singaporean competitors...

The big battle of skills may be over but the impressions our youths have of the 38th WorldSkills Competition remain deep-seated.

"It is not about winning. Neither is it about losing. It is about knowing where your limits are and how far these can be stretched. I did not lose. I gained. An experience of a lifetime that no amount of wealth could get me," said Liew Wei De, an ITE College West graduate from Singapore, who competed in Automobile Technology.

Added Xia Hui Min, Graphic Design Technology competitor from Temasek Polytechnic: "For youths wanting to gauge their technical competence, the WorldSkills is the right platform. Even if you win the local competition, there are many more things that you will have to learn – lessons which your global counterparts can give you..."

From the ITE website (www.ite.edu.sg)

### Did you know?

Did you know that during the week of the Competition the Skills Finland website (<a href="https://www.wsc2005helsinki.com">www.wsc2005helsinki.com</a>) had:

- 116,777 page views in one day
- more than 440,000 page views in the 4 days of the Competition



# Austrian team welcomed at Vienna Airport by Lower Austrian Economic Chamber President Sonja Zwazl

The WorldSkills team flew back from Helsinki to Vienna to be welcomed by Sonja Zwazl, President of the Lower Austrian Economic Chamber. President Zwazl congratulated all on their outstanding achievement of reaching sixth place in the medal tally. Sonja Zwazl said she was convinced that the excellent dual system of vocational training is a substantial benefit of Austria as a location for business and thanked all competitors, companies, instructors, teachers and parents for their commitment.



President Sonja Zwazl with the medalwinners.

### Reception of Austrian team by Austrian Federal President Fischer, Education Minister Elisabeth Gehrer, Economics Minister Martin Bartenstein, and Austrian Federal Economic Chamber President Leitl

On 30 June 2005, Austrian Federal President Heinz Fischer and Austrian Federal Economic Chamber President Christoph Leitl in Vienna officially congratulated the Austrian team on its success. Christoph Leitl said in his welcoming speech, "Quality and qualification are crucial to economic success – and the 26 Austrian WorldSkills competitors have shown they have both." All participants had proved that Austria has an excellent vocational training system and it is capable of world-class performance.

Austrian Federal President Heinz Fischer congratulated the successful participants of the 38th WorldSkills Competition in Helsinki on the team's 6th place overall, and on their 3 gold medals, 2 silver medals, 1 bronze medal and 13 diplomas. He paid tribute to the dual system of vocational training in Austria, saying that peak performance at WorldSkills was achieved as the result of a broad-based vocational training system that has excellent offerings in a wide range of trades and industries.



Federal Economic Chamber President Dr. Christoph Leitl and Austrian Federal President Dr. Heinz Fischer with the competitors.

Previously, the team had been formally received and congratulated by:

- Federal Minister of Education, Science and Culture Elisabeth Gehrer
- Vienna Economic Chamber President Brigitte Jank
- Austrian Federal Economic Chamber Vice President Richard Schenz
- Federal Minister of Economics and Labour Martin Bartenstein

Contributed by: WorldSkills Austria



### WorldSkills 2009 Calgary - Launch Extravaganza



Over 1,300 guests participated in the launch of WorldSkills Calgary 2009. The lively event, held on 12 July, was an opportunity to generate community awareness and begin building momentum to 2009.

Called the Great Rush for Gold Stampede Extravaganza, the launch event took place during Calgary's famous Calgary Stampede Week. The impressive venue, an outdoors field on SAIT campus with a breathtaking view of the city skyline, was equally matched with impressive summer weather.



Chuckwagon races at the launch of WorldSkills Calgary 2009

Guests were treated to a jam-packed event program including live country western entertainment, horseless chuckwagon races, a mock skills competition, and the opportunity to drive a solar car. Prizes for the live auction and draw included a tool set, a genuine nugget of gold, and a vacation package for two to the Yukon. The event wrapped up with a fireworks display.

The launch brought together guests from industry, education, skilled trades,



Richard Walker, CEO of WorldSkills Calgary 2009, judges the mock skills competition

and government – all who have a stake in the outcomes of 2009. For a number of guests who were part of the general public, the launch event was their first exposure to WorldSkills. They were able to meet some former WorldSkills competitors, understand the benefits of the Competition, and find out how to get involved.

The event has definitely created a buzz!

Contributed by: WorldSkills Calgary 2009

## WorldSkills Leaders' Forum 2006 – welcomes Hon Bob Hawke AC - former Prime Minister of Australia as Patron



The 2006 WorldSkills Leaders Forum will be held in Melbourne, Australia on 7 May 2006 with the theme "Transforming the way young people acquire the technical, social and learning skills needed in the 21st century".

Recently Hon Bob Hawke AC former Prime Minister of Australia accepted the position as patron of the Forum.

"I am pleased to accept patronage of the WorldSkills Leaders' Forum being held in Melbourne in May 2006. This important international gathering will discuss ways to assist young people around the world with their vocational choice and the challenges they face as they move into the workforce, while, at the same time, integrating as contributors to society and to the welfare of their country.

While governments understand and acknowledge that a skilled labour force is vital to the development, growth and stability of the economy, trends in public expenditure on education in recent years have tended to ignore traditional apprenticeship training.

Today, we see the results of this neglect with a critical shortfall of skilled workers, particularly in the industrial trades. It is a consistent refrain in boardrooms everywhere. WorldSkills has, for the last fifty years, promoted the importance of excellence and best practice in vocational education and training throughout the world and is wholeheartedly committed to inspiring and encouraging the youth of today in their vocational choice.



I am very proud to be associated with the organisation and look forward to making a contribution to its continued success."

Hon Bob Hawke AC – former Prime Minister of Australia



### "From The Ground Up" TV Show to promote skills in Canada

Editors note: The following is an interesting and innovative way to increase awareness of the opportunities and benefits of a career as a skilled tradesperson. Debbie Travis is a familiar face to television viewers around the world, a bestselling author, syndicated columnist, sought after speaker and recognized internationally as the "Queen of Paint".

Canada's most beloved design queen has no trouble renovating houses, but now she wants to renovate attitudes. Specifically, the attitudes of those between the ages of 19 and 30 who fancy themselves budding contractors.

"Something has gone askew with this generation," Travis says. "They seem to want it all and yet don't want to work hard to get it."

So she'll teach 12 lucky contestants a thing or two about work ethic as they knock down a house in Oakville, Ontario, and rebuild it into a stunning mansion. The whole experience will be recorded for an upcoming Global television show called From the Ground Up with Debbie Travis. And, as the producers are stressing, it's not just the house being built from the ground up, it's the contestants' personalities.

"I'm tired of all the before-and-after-type shows," says Travis at her Toronto office. "I think this is something different because it's not a make-over show -- it's not about screaming and shouting at people, and it's not just about design. It's all about honouring and putting pride back into work."

Specifically trade work, which the veteran designer says has become a less popular vocation in recent years, despite a booming home-renovation market.

"In England, some plumbers can make up to \$250,000 a year," says Travis. "There's a shortage of skilled tradespeople now because we're just not training them anymore.

Everyone is going to university, but what are we going to do without the electricians and the tilers? The market is there, it's condo condo condo, fortunes can be made ... I want people to watch this and think, 'Maybe I shouldn't go to university.' "

But first, she needs people for those people to watch, so Travis and her crew are going on a casting call across the country starting this coming Tuesday in Toronto.

More details regarding Debbie Travis at www.debbietravis.com and From The Ground Up



Debbie Travis promoting skills through her TV show "From The Ground Up"

She's looking for anyone aged 19 to 30, who is eager to "learn a trade, create a career and make a fortune." No design or construction experience is necessary, but applicants have a better chance at getting selected if they have a story: whether it's that they're a disillusioned lawyer or a dropout looking for a second chance.

The producers will narrow the field to a dozen final contestants who then compete for the profit earned from the sale of the finished house.

The 10-week show is set to air throughout the spring and, come June, Travis will ask Canadians to vote on who they think should win, based on both ability and attitude.

Proudly supported by WorldSkills Founding Global Sponsor Partners





