

## In this issue

- Skills/Compétences Canada presents “Skills on the Hill” to Canadian Parliamentarians
- Youth Skills Competition in 3 Regions of China
- Young Star Rising... recognised in the Michelin Guide\*
- Skills Canada hosts the Ontario Technological Skills Competition
- WorldSkills and International Abilitylympics Federation cooperation.
- Transforming Vocational & Technical Education in a Global Economy

## Skills/Compétences Canada presents “Skills on the Hill” to Canadian Parliamentarians

On November 15th, Skills/Compétences Canada hosted the first “Skills on the Hill” event for Canadian Parliamentarians and special guests. The event was hosted in Canada’s historic Parliamentary precinct and the event was aimed at introducing Members of Parliament, Senators and other invited guests to the pan-Canadian and international programs supported by Skills/Compétences Canada.



Members of Canadian Parliament celebrating Canada's WorldSkills 2005 medallists

The nearly 200 guests were invited to participate in three interactive events designed to highlight contest areas in which Canada competes nationally and internationally. Guests were invited to taste treats created by Catherine Guillet, Canada’s Silver medalist in Confection/Pastry at the 2005 WorldSkills Competition in Helsinki. These were widely considered to be some of the tastiest treats experienced by some of the guests.

Guests were also encouraged to try their hand at cabinetmaking. An interactive station was set up so that guests could assemble a business card holder created from three different types of Canadian wood – maple, oak and pine.

The guests used a saw to cut the base, then they sanded their cut pieces of wood and finally they stamped the Skills/Compétences Canada logo on the base. The cuts for the card holders gave the room the wonderful smell of fresh wood and the guests beamed when showing off their creations.

Finally, guests were able to try robotic shuffleboard. They were instructed by Canadian Skills Competition medalists on the manner of maneuvering the robots and then they were shown how to pitch a puck down a shuffleboard course. “Building robots and making them follow instructions is not as easy as it might appear”, said MP Brent St. Denis (far left in the group photo).

The night was topped off by a speech from Canada’s Deputy Prime Minister Anne McLellan which highlighted the importance of Skills/Compétences Canada and the role of skilled trades in the Canadian economy. The speech was followed by the presentation of the medalist certificates to Canada’s five medalists from the 2005 WorldSkills Competition. Their certificates were presented by three honoured guests, Parliamentary Secretaries Jim Karygiannis and Peter Adams, along with WorldSkills Vice President of Special Affairs, Laurent Thibault.

Skills/Compétences Canada is proud of this event and looks forward to hosting the next edition of “Skills on the Hill” next year.

For more information about this event, please contact Catherine Keill, Director of Communications and Partnerships, Skills/Compétences Canada at [catherinek@skillscanada.com](mailto:catherinek@skillscanada.com).

Contributed by Skills/Compétences Canada



Speaker of the House of Commons, Hon. Peter Milliken being instructed in woodworking by Stephen Burse of the Canadian Wood Manufacturing Council.



Hon. Peter Milliken using a compound saw to cut the base for a business card holder.



Parliamentary Secretaries, Peter Adams and Jim Karygiannis with Laurent Thibault, WorldSkills Vice President of Special Affairs present certificate to Menno Vanderlist, Canadian Silver Medalist in IT PC Network Support and Canada's Best of Nation recipient.

## Youth Skills Competition in 3 Regions of China

Each year three regions in China, namely Guangzhou, Hong Kong and Macao jointly organize a one-day youth skills competition.



*Opening Ceremony*

In October the competition took place in Macao, an integral part of the People's Republic of China located at the mouth of the Pearl River Delta. It is one of the two international free ports in China and plays a relatively important role in the regional economies by connecting Mainland China and the international market.



*Three regions Floristry elite*

Three regions sent 45 elites, aged 24 or younger to compete at this regional competition in 5 different skills: Web Design, Electrical Installation, Floristry, Ladies' Dressmaking and Ladies' Hairdressing.

The selection of the skills was done carefully to correspond to the current economic trends of the three regions: information technology, the service industry, and the property/construction industry.



*Electrical Installation*

Electrical Installation and Ladies' Dressmaking were skills that required more of the participant's practical skills, whereas Floristry, Ladies' Hairdressing and Web Design, required a lot more of the participant's creativity. This year's competition was seen as the most competitive and fierce due to the fact that participants' skill levels were much higher than before and many of their scores were very close.

Although it was a small competition, more than 5,000 people attended the event and the competition was a



*Champion Hairdresser*

success; vocational training received a huge increase in public awareness and media attention, more young people were encouraged to embark on a career in industry and commerce, and excel in their respective skills and occupations. Nevertheless, the concept of lifelong learning by means of transfer of skills, know-how and cultural exchange was reinforced in the competition. Most importantly, we successfully established a mutual understanding and cooperation between the 3 regions.

We believe that our commitment to this competition will gain further support from different regions of the country. With our ongoing desire to reach out and expand, we are looking ambitiously to grow this event to a much bigger sphere, i.e., the Pan Pearl River Delta Region and eventually, collaborate with other mainland provinces and major cities to extend the scope of competition.

*Contributed by Department of Labour & Employment Affairs, Macau*

## Young Star Rising... WorldSkills Competitor now owns restaurant that is recognised in the Michelin Guide\*



Christophe Pauly was a Belgian competitor in WorldSkills 1999 Montreal in cooking.

*Christophe Pauly - a young restaurant owner trained even before entering a restaurant management school*

A devouring passion for his job, a true mastering of his skill, a constant will to learn and a strong character; this is the recipe of success for Christophe Pauly. Aged 27 this young restaurant owner of the Condroz region is also the one with the biggest number of stars in Belgium. Indeed, his restaurant "Le coq au champ" was recently added to the famous Michelin Guide. Quite a recognition for Christophe who did not choose a traditional path to be trained in his skill.

Having started studies in economics, Christophe, who was already working during the weekends in restaurants, did not even finish his third year of high-school. Instead, he decided to start an apprenticeship in restaurant management and opted for restaurants listed in the Michelin guide to start out. Christophe felt good in such an environment and already had the feeling that, one day, he would open his own restaurant. Once his apprenticeship was over, he got on-the-job training under

*Continued . . .*

contract with a three-star French restaurant. There, he started as a simple apprentice chef but was soon entrusted with wider responsibilities. He then left this job-based training to go to another well-rated restaurant.

*“The choice I made was to first gain experience”, he says. “A young man leaving a restaurant management school has no such thing”, adds Christophe who is convinced that what matters is to learn the practice of one’s skill.*

Two years ago, a friend of his, a wine merchant, told him that “Le coq au champ” is for sale. For 20 years, the restaurant had had a star in the Michelin guide but the star had been lost when Christophe and his wife

decided to buy the place. *“I love good produce; I love fresh and delicious products. The menu varies with the seasons”, explains the young chef trying to describe what his cuisine is about. When he learned he was listed in the Michelin Guide, he put things into perspective. “This does not mean I am the king of good cuisine. Getting a star is good, but keeping it is the real challenge”, he says enthusiastically.*

If he had to do it all again, Christophe would not change anything in his learning path. He would not go for a more traditional type of education and he certainly would not trade his on-the-job apprenticeship for the world. *“If I had to start over, I would go exactly the same way. This is the best way to learn a skill”, adds the daddy-to-be.*

In a nutshell, his learning journey has been a journey far away from school benches and proved to be a successful formula for a man animated by an insatiable craving to learn.

*Contributed by Skills Belgium  
\* Michelin Guide: The Michelin Guide is the oldest and best-known European hotel and restaurant guide, which awards the famous Michelin stars. The Michelin stars are probably the most famous and influential gastronomic ratings in the world.*

*The guide awards one to three stars to a small number of restaurants of outstanding quality. Stars are awarded sparingly and are taken very seriously in the restaurant business, where the addition or loss of a star can mean a difference in turnover of millions of euros. Some three-star restaurants are able to charge hundreds of euros for a meal on the strength of their reputation.*

### Skills Canada hosts the Ontario Technological Skills Competition

In Waterloo, Ontario the air crackled with excitement at this year’s competition. Eager competitors arrived to put forth their best efforts in a friendly but determined manner. Their passion fuelled by the energy put into practicing those skills throughout the year. Competitions, such as these, provide an opportunity to showcase excellence.

Skills Canada – Ontario has hosted a provincial skills competition for 17 years. We have experienced overwhelming interest in our programs and competitions which has led to a series of successful firsts.

Qualifying Competitions have been introduced in six contests. Winners from the Qualifying Competitions advance to the Ontario competition. The Ontario Technological Skills Competition (OTSC) is a platform for the organization to showcase the talented youth of our province. Over 10,000 spectators converge on this three-day event to watch over 1,300 of the brightest young people compete in the 40 skills contests. In conjunction with the OTSC, Skills Canada – Ontario offers a Teacher Advisor Conference, Careers Showcases, Young Women’s Conferences and an Elementary Technology Activity Day.

A number of competitors achieve personal bests at our events. A student in the Waterloo Region, scored 100.56% in his contest. In an effort to celebrate success, such as this, the Skills Canada – Ontario Board of Directors’ Award of Excellence has

been implemented to acknowledge the highest individual score achieved at each annual competition.

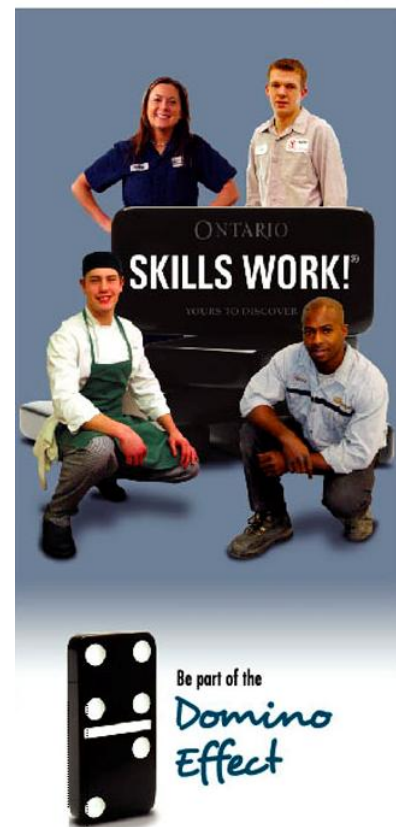
Formation of an Alumni Association has fueled inspiration for many youth. As individuals, the Alumnus of Skills Canada – Ontario programs and competitions have much to offer to other youth exploring their career opportunities. As a collective, Alumni can create positive change for future generations.

Each spring Skills Canada – Ontario hosts an Annual Fundraising Dinner & Silent Auction. For many young people in Ontario, the success of this dinner offers a financial bursary to assist with travel expenses as they advance to compete at the Canadian Skills Competition. The support throughout the province has encouraged us to host three dinners in the new year.

Special thanks to the dedication of Technical Chairs, Qualifying Technical Committees, Technical Committees, Judges, Marshals, Mentors, Workshop Leaders, Corporate Partners, Volunteers and Educators for sharing their time and talents with youth exploring career opportunities in the skilled trades and technologies.

Skills Canada – Ontario has introduced a theme: The Domino Effect; a concept that rightfully suggests that partnerships with industry, education and government can have tremendous impact on youth. On a world stage, it is incredible to know that the efforts from

communities in Ontario are extending throughout Canada and across the world as youth advance their skills into adulthood.



*Contributed by Skills/Compétences Canada*

## WorldSkills and International Abilympics Federation cooperation.



Mr Jack Dusseldorp and Mr Fumio Kimura

In October Jack Dusseldorp, WorldSkills (WS) President met with

Fumio Kimura, International Abilympics Federation (IAF) President to discuss cooperation between the two organisations with the aim of increasing participation in the respective events and further developing activities of both organisations globally.

The 39th WorldSkills Competition and the 7th Abilympics will be conjointly hosted by Japan in November 2007 with an overarching theme of an "International Skills Festival for All"

The discussion led to a draft MOU that will be presented to the respective boards for discussion and approval.

Key areas discussed were:

- Cooperation to promote membership of each others organisations among existing members and potential members
- Participation of competitors with disabilities in the WorldSkills Competition.
- Possible cooperation of WS and IAF members in the same country/region.
- Providing support, where necessary, in order to maximise the effect of staging the IA and WSC concurrently in Shizuoka.

*Contributed by WorldSkills Secretariat*

## Transforming Vocational & Technical Education in a Global Economy – International Perspectives 2006

An International Conference organised by the Institute of Technical Education, Singapore will be held from 16 to 18 August 2006.

Major presentations include:

- Charting New Frontiers
- Sharing of Best Practices
- Staying Ahead in the Global Arena

With rapid changes in the economy, society, industry and the environment, VTE faces many challenges, opportunities and new possibilities. How can VTE position itself to be responsive to the challenges and changing global, economic and educational landscape and take advantage of new opportunities created? How can countries reposition their VTE systems to be relevant to the skilled manpower needs of the economy? How can the delivery of VTE be transformed to include new technologies, including IT? How can VTE systems remain effective through adopting business models of excellence and quality?

These are some of the questions to be addressed at the first International Conference on Vocational and



Technical Education, organised by the Institute of Technical Education, Singapore. This inaugural conference will offer policy makers and practitioners from all over the world the opportunity to listen to renowned VTE policy makers and experts share their journeys, reflections and best practices, in transforming VTE to be relevant,

responsive and ready for a dynamic global landscape.

To register or get more information on this Conference, please contact:

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