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And the host for 2011 is... the United Kingdom



Official Delegate Mr Chris Humphries presenting the successful bid to the General Assembly in Melbourne

The climax of the very productive WorldSkills General Assembly Melbourne 2006 was the voting for hosting the 2011 WorldSkills Competition. Following receptions by Australia, Sweden and the UK on the Sunday and Tuesday and a daily Bid Marketplace for interaction with delegates, each bidding Member was given 20 minutes to present its case.

Allowed a maximum of 4 speakers, Australia, Sweden and the UK presented strong bids supported by slides and video and even a "live video interview" from Sweden.



Mr Bob Puffett AM presenting the Australian "Down Under" bid.



Mr Tommy Hellström "interviewing" Volvo chairman for the Swedish bid.



The UK bid included a message from the Prime Minister Mr Tony Blair.

The voting proceeded with the UK winning by the required absolute majority in the first

round. Congratulations to the bidding Members on their excellent preparations – and especially to the UK, which will host the 2011 WorldSkills Competition at the ExCel site in London.

WorldSkills Leaders Forum Melbourne 2006



Hon. Bob Hawke AC, former Prime Minister of Australia and Patron of the WorldSkills Leaders Forum

Sunday 7 May saw the 4th WorldSkills Leaders Forum with the theme *Transforming the way young people acquire the technical, social and learning skills needed in the 21st century*. Held in the Melbourne Exhibition and Convention Centre from 0900 to 1200, the WorldSkills Leaders Forum attracted 178 delegates and guests.

The forum was opened by Mr Jack Dusseldorp, President WorldSkills International and featured a welcome address by Hon. Bob Hawke AC, former Prime Minister of Australia and Patron of the WorldSkills Leaders Forum. Mr Hawke warned of the risks of not providing young people with the education and training necessary to play a meaningful role in society. [Coverage by The Age, Melbourne](#). Mr Hawke has long supported WorldSkills, having been instrumental in the launch of Work Skills Australia (now WorldSkills Australia) 25 years ago.

This impassioned address was followed by presentations from around the world:

- **Timo Lankinen, Ministry of Education, Finland** - "Attractiveness, working-life approach and quality – the Finnish vocational education and training system."
- **Lt Gen (Retd.) S. S. Mehta PVM, AVSM and bar, VSM, Principal Adviser, Confederation of Indian Industry, India** - "Skilling a million Indians – Galvanizing skills formation across India."
- **Dr Law Song Seng, Director & Chief Executive Officer, Institute of Technical Education, Singapore** - "A world-class vocational technical education system in time for the future."
- **Bruce Mackenzie PSM Chief Executive Officer, Holmesglen Institute of TAFE, Australia** (an institute with some 50,000 students) - "How young people acquire technical, social and learning skills."



Timo Lankinen

Halfway through the Leaders Forum, the Global Sponsors introduced their companies and their reasons for supporting WorldSkills, and explained their interactive Global Sponsor stand.

Joint Global Sponsor Partners stand



The four global sponsors partners had a joint stand in the main concourse immediately outside the entrance to the WorldSkills Australia National Competition. The four members of the Global Sponsor Team – Cisco, Festo, Fluke and Skillers – achieved an integrated stand with an open flow of visitors between companies. The sponsors made use of each other's equipment, for example using Fluke temperature sensors to test Cisco racks, a Festo Modular Production System on the Fluke stand, and use of Snickers/Skillers workwear.

The National Competition attracted over 55,000 visitors, and all of them passed the stand, which was located at the entrance and was not competing for attention in that area. Designed to be interactive, the stands generated great interest from children, young people and adults.

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Networking



Lt Gen Mehta



Bruce Mackenzie



Dr Law answering questions from the floor during a panel session.

The Leaders Forum was followed by a stand-up lunch in the foyer immediately outside the auditorium. This provided the opportunity for WorldSkills delegates and Leaders Forum guests to network.

The relationship between WorldSkills and the Global Sponsor Partners continues to go from strength to strength.

For more information about the WorldSkills Leaders Forum please visit www.worldskillsleadersforum.com



Jack Dusseldorp with Hon. Bob Hawke

Finnish National Skills Competition –Taitaja 2006 – a success

Competitors in action:



Floristry

Finnish National Skills Competitions were held in Tampere Finland January 25 – 27, 2006. Some 38,000 visitors came to Tampere Fair Centre to see what is really happening in today's vocational training. Competition was successful and the atmosphere was cheerful with over 300 young people competing in 40 different skills. In every skill the best three competitors were awarded medals. At the end of competition a medal was also awarded to one competitor as the "best of the best". The winner was given the use of a Volvo for one year. She is allowed to use it while travelling throughout Finland to promote national competitions.

Study Paths definitely on the right track

Skills Finland – together with Jyväskylä University of Applied Sciences – developed a Study Path pattern which was used in WorldSkills 2005 Competition and at the Finnish National Skills Competitions. They had 6 ready-made Study Paths and one "Build-your-own" path. These allow students and other visitors to gain a comprehensive picture of various professions and working life. As at the WorldSkills 2005 Competition in Helsinki, the paths proved very popular. From now on, the Study Path pattern is going to be part of every Finnish National Skills Competition.

Education Fair answers questions

An Education Fair was held simultaneously in the Tampere Fair Centre as a service to visitors. The fair featured information on the hundreds of different professions you can study in Finland. Experts were on hand to answer young people's many questions possibilities in vocational education. Many came away with new ideas about "What will I be when I'm older".

Comprehensive school competition

At the Finnish National Competition 2006, final-year students at comprehensive schools had their own competition. The students competed in teams, with scooters going to the best team. Other events during this competition included various seminars in which visitors could participate.

Future events

The 2006 competition was a popular event with very positive press coverage. In 2007, the Finnish National Skills Competition will be in Joensuu, Finland. Next year's National Skill Competitions preparations are proceeding at full speed, and Finland is also eagerly anticipating participation in the Japan WorldSkills 2007 Competition in Shizuoka, Japan.



Machining

(Photos Jukka Nieminen)



Winners of the Comprehensive

EuroSkills 2008 officially launched in Rotterdam



At the EuroSkills Information Meeting in Rotterdam Mrs. Margarida Gameiro (right) represented the European Commission on behalf of Euro Commissioner Ján Figel.

Less than a year after the announcement at the WorldSkills Competition in Helsinki, the EuroSkills 2008 project reached an important milestone on March 10 in Rotterdam. In the presence of almost seventy representatives of European countries, Dutch sector organizations and ministries, Skills Netherlands launched the new corporate identity and activity scheme of EuroSkills 2008.

Special guest was Mrs. Margarida Gameiro, deputy head of the Cabinet of European Commissioner for Education Ján Figel. Her message from the European Commission was clear and promising: a regular competition in the European region would provide the occasion to celebrate European excellence and to bring young people together to enjoy, learn and observe that excellence. Mrs. Gameiro stated: "EuroSkills 2008 gives companies the opportunity to see the best fruits of the Vocational Training and Education systems in Europe. So EuroSkills should highlight the creativity, beauty and cultural values attached to many trades and crafts."

Twelve European WorldSkills Members are already participating or have shown interest in participating in EuroSkills 2008. Together with national sector organizations they will work on the technical descriptions and competition rules for the skills that will be present at EuroSkills 2008. During the coming months an inventory will be made to see in what way team competitions and processes can be integrated into the program.

In addition, new ways of presenting and demonstrating are being developed to achieve a higher level of interaction with the public. All these activities will be in line with national Skills competitions to ensure a perfect fit with the existing programs. More information on EuroSkills2008 can be founded on the new website www.euroskills2008.nl.

Upcoming WorldSkills Member Organisation events

20 May	Denmark	Transport Nordic Open Competition
22 - 25 May	Ireland	Dublin Institute of Technology, Cathal Brugha Street , Dublin - Confectionery/Pastrycook Competition
23 - 26 May	Canada	Canadian Skills Competition
May	New Zealand	Central North Island - Palmerston North regional competition
May	UK	UK Skills are conducting competitions in over 70 skills from April to July
May	US	SkillsUSA are conducting 80 separate skill events during 2006
May	Ireland	Institute of Technology, Tralee - Agricultural Mechanics Competition
May/June	Morocco	Manifestation du 2ème assise Nationale sur la Formation Professionnelle
11 - 15 June	Indonesia	14th Indonesian Skills Competition, Jakarta
17 - 19 June	Denmark	Car Painting Competition
June	UK	UK Skills are conducting competitions in over 70 skills from April to July
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