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Competition Site for WorldSkills Competition 2007

WorldSkills International recently held two working groups and an Executive Board meeting in Japan. Part of the program was a site visit to Shizuoka. The photograph below shows WorldSkills delegates and Japanese Organising Committee staff in front of the site for WorldSkills Competition 2007. Construction is going according to schedule.

UK Win Makes London WorldSkills Capital

By Chris Humphries, UK Official Delegate

I've stood on many stages and delivered many speeches during my working life. But none have given me the same thrill and excitement as addressing the WorldSkills delegates in May, 2006 following their overwhelming endorsement of the UK as host nation for the 2011 WorldSkills Competition.

One of the factors that made our bid so strong was the amount of support we received in the UK. This support was evident in Melbourne where we had representatives from the Department for Education and Skills, the Mayor of London’s Office, Honda UK, the skills charity Edge, L’Oréal Professionnel and City & Guilds amongst many others. All of these organisations and many more are 100% committed to WorldSkills and its potential to inspire the young workforce of the future and governments across the world.

At the very heart of our bid was the desire to create an unforgettable competitor experience. I am confident that all who come to London in 2011 will experience a smoothly-run competition in which their
team's needs are met, allowing their competitors to focus on being the best in the world.

We will provide a competition that will attract and engage visitors, incorporating 'have a go' first-hand elements in each skill competition area. We will have simultaneous web casting and live 'Master classes' at the event. This approach is expected not only to increase the number of visitors to WorldSkills London 2011, but also to show them how valuable a vocational career can be.

One of the legacies of WorldSkills London 2011 will be to build upon the achievements of WorldSkills International and assist it in securing the global recognition it deserves. As the world's leading media centre, London offers an exceptional promotional opportunity for the competition. The proximity of WSC 2011 to the 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games means we have the opportunity to promote WorldSkills on an unprecedented scale, as the world's attention focuses on London in the lead up to 2012.

We are honoured to be hosting the WorldSkills Competition in 2011. I would like to thank everyone who has given the bid their backing and look forward to working with you all to ensure WorldSkills 2011 is a truly global success.

For more information:
www.worldskills2011.com

Interactivity at the 12th Canadian Skills Competition

By Dawn Morrison, Skills Canada-NS

At the Canadian Skills Competition in 2006, thousands of junior and senior high school students registered for tours of the event. Students were able to see over 40 ‘careers in action,’ and were given opportunities to participate in hands-on activities related to skilled trades and technologies.

Interactive displays were set up by event sponsors. With an influx of high school students participating in school tours of the event, sponsors were able to showcase their involvement in the event as well as recruit and encourage youth to consider their industry as a future career option.

To increase excitement, participation and value at the Career Showcase, all booths were asked to have something interesting that students could experience hands-on, safely. This assisted in balancing the more popular competitions with the less visual ones. Volunteers facilitated the interactive components and educated the visitors on the safety rules of their respective activity.

Activities included but were not limited to creating a yo-yo from pre-fabricated parts, sewing part of a quilt, and designing a notepad that they could take home.

Providing a way for students to make a hands-on connection with skilled trade and technology areas, not only entertained, but also provided insight into the tasks involved in the respective competition areas they were observing.

For more information
http://skillsns.ednet.ns.ca
WorldSkills Youth Forum Update

The final report on the WorldSkills Youth Forum is complete. Here is a quick look: “The WorldSkills Youth Forum was a series of major brainstorming and discussion sessions. No politics were involved. Ideas were voiced freely and accepted amongst all. The discussions have ranged from access to information, to the competition floor, to the communities and friendships that are built. The delegates that participated are bringing this back to their home countries, to encourage their organizations to list to the young people.” The report captures the advice, suggestions, and comments of all the youth that participating in the WorldSkills Youth Forum about how to better serve them.

Thank you to all those that participated, it was a valuable exercise and one that we plan on continuing. By actively encouraging and supporting the growth of past competitor alumni networks and associated youth activities in WorldSkills member organisations, we will widen and deepen the effectiveness of WorldSkills in line with our vision and mission.

Plans are already underway for the WSYF 2008 in Austria. Watch the website for developing news on the next WorldSkills Youth Forum.

For more information: www.worldskillsyouthforum.com

The Development of Vocational Education in the Republic of Tatarstan

By Ms Guzel Makhmutova, Department of Vocational Education & Training, The Republic of Tatarstan

Situated at the centre of the Russian Federation Tatarstan is one of the most economically developed republics. Different large investment projects in spheres of economics, engineering industry, petrochemistry, agriculture, aircraft building are being realized nowadays. Such as the building of petrochemical and oil refining plants, program of President’s of the Republic “Program-100”, construction of airplanes, special economic zone “Alabuga”.

The Republic of Tatarstan, as well as many other countries, faces the problem of shortage of qualified specialists. Under the Ministry of Education and Science, the Department of Vocational Education was formed, that cooperates with Association of Entrepreneurs, Chamber of Commerce and Industry in working out new approaches of preparing highly skilled workers for realization of large economic projects. The Department works at improving the quality of vocational education and bringing it in correspondence with employers’ requirements, Copenhagen Declaration, International Labor Organization. For this reason for the Republic of Tatarstan Worldskills Organization is of great importance in questions of improving the quality of skills, of bringing them in accordance with international requirements. Our students would like to take part in WorldSkills Competitions. 187 state and private vocational educational institutions are in the Republic, different annual competitions for 10 most highly competitive skills are being held, our students successfully participate in numerous contests.

So in May 2006 annual republican competition for tailor’s skill was held.

For more information you can visit www.tatedu.ru website or contact Ms Guzel by email at gipsyg5@mail.ru.
MOU - WorldSkills International & International Abilympics Federation

WorldSkills International (WSI) and the International Abilympic Federation (IAF) met in Melbourne at the WorldSkills General Assembly 2006. At this meeting Mr. Jack Dusseldorp, WSI President, and Mr. Fumio Kimura, IAF President, signed the Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation between the WSI and IAF.

Mr. Kimura made a presentation in the WSI Strategy Committee meeting introducing the International Abilympic movement. During the Melbourne meetings, many WSI members showed their interest in the IA and IAF. It is expected that the cooperation between the two international organisations will further promote awareness among a wide range of people regarding the importance of vocational training and skills development in promoting the employment and social participation of persons with and without disabilities. It is also anticipated that the both vocational skills competitions will further play an active role in transmitting important skills to the next generations by motivating workers with and without disabilities to elevate their own skills.

New Staff At WorldSkills International

We are pleased to announce that John Cox (Information Systems) and Michelle Bussey (Marketing & Communications) have joined the WorldSkills International Secretariat. We are very confident that both John and Michelle will make a valuable contribution to WSI and I look forward to working with them and achieving many of our objectives and improving the overall output of the Secretariat.

A quick introduction to John

- Been running his own consultancy since 1999
- Supporting and developing web based systems for government, finance, insurance, retail, & manufacturing sectors
- Has experience covering everything from being a technology spokesperson for a National Museum to developing databases for agricultural parts suppliers which readied him for the diverse challenges of information systems within WorldSkills
- John currently lives in Brisbane, Australia and works in our virtual Secretariat

A quick introduction to Michelle

- was Executive Director of Skills Canada - Nova Scotia
- was Chief Organiser of the 2006 Canadian Skills Competition hosted by Nova Scotia
- Bachelor's in Business Administration, marketing major & a Masters of Public Administration
- was at the WorldSkills Competition in Helsinki, 2005 as a Delegate
- Michelle currently lives in Halifax, Nova Scotia (Canada) and works in our virtual Secretariat.

You can contact either of them through email: john.cox@worldskills.org or michelle.bussey@worldskills.org
WorldSkills Competitions Updates

Shizuoka, Japan – Nov. 15-18, 2007
www.worldskills2007.com

With just under over a year left, Japan and WSI are working around the clock to get everything ready for the world in November 2007.

Calgary, Canada – Sep. 2-5, 2009
www.worldskills2009.com

Canada is playing an important role in developing new strategies and ideas for the WSC in their preparations for September 2009.

London, UK – Oct. 6-9, 2011
www.worldskills2011.com

As the official host of the WSC2011, the UK is gathering even more support from home and lending a helping hand to both Canada and Japan in their preparations.

Upcoming WorldSkills Events

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Website/Contact</th>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 23-25</td>
<td>National Competition - Norway</td>
<td><a href="http://www.worldskills.no">www.worldskills.no</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 27 - 30</td>
<td>National Competition – Kagawa Prefecture, Japan</td>
<td><a href="http://www.javada.or.jp/">www.javada.or.jp/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 30</td>
<td>National Skilled Trades Day - Canada</td>
<td><a href="http://www.skillscanada.com">www.skillscanada.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 31 – Nov. 3</td>
<td>2006 National Plastering Fibrous Competition - Australia</td>
<td><a href="http://www.worldskills.org.au">www.worldskills.org.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. - Nov.</td>
<td>SkillsUSA are conducting 80 separate skills events</td>
<td><a href="http://www.skillsusa.org">www.skillsusa.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. '06 – Mar. ‘07</td>
<td>Preselection Competitions - Belgium</td>
<td><a href="http://www.skillsbelgium.be">www.skillsbelgium.be</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. '06 – Mar. ‘07</td>
<td>Preselection Competitions - Austria</td>
<td><a href="http://www.worldskills.at">www.worldskills.at</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 5</td>
<td>Guangzhou / Hong Kong / Macau Youth Skills Competition – Hong Kong</td>
<td><a href="http://youthskills.vtc.edu.hk/">http://youthskills.vtc.edu.hk/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 13</td>
<td>La 4ème Journée de la formation professionnelle - Switzerland</td>
<td><a href="http://www.swisscompetence.ch">www.swisscompetence.ch</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 23-25</td>
<td>National Skills Competition – Bolzano, Italy</td>
<td><a href="http://www.lvh.it">www.lvh.it</a></td>
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