







We welcome all WorldSkills Members to send in stories of events happening in their regions to [Michelle Bussey](#).

In this issue:

- [National Competition - WorldSkills Norway](#)
- [CroatiaSkills Plans its First National Skills Competition](#)
- [WorldSkills Ecuador: Rising Up](#)
- [Hungary: National Institute of Vocational Education](#)
- [Skills Spain](#)
- [Mexico: The General Directorate of Vocational Training Centers](#)
- [Vietnam: No Stranger to Skill Competitions](#)
- [Singapore: WSN Tea in September](#)
- [Upcoming WorldSkills Events](#)

-  [Subscribe to WorldSkills Newsletter](#)
-  [Download PDF](#)
-  [Newsletter archive](#)
-  [Send to a friend](#)



National Competition - WorldSkills Norway

By: Elisabeth Lange, Secretary General, WorldSkills Norway

For the first time WorldSkills Norway organized competitions in 22 skill categories at a national event outside Oslo from 23 – 25 October.

The competitions were part of an extensive Education Fair featuring information on study programs that young people can choose on entering secondary education at the age of 16. Programs ranged from music through university prep to plumbing, auto mechanics, floristry, health care and all the skills we know from WorldSkills Competitions.

There were national competitions as well as Nordic and international contests in some skills with competitors from Japan, Finland, Sweden, Denmark and Estonia. Some of the competitors will be competing in the WorldSkills Competition in Japan in 2007.

The Prime Minister of Norway, Mr. Jens Stoltenberg said, on his visit to the Competition, that the event shows the tremendous variety in vocational skills. He also emphasised the mission of such an event to increase the awareness of Norway's need for highly skilled workers in industry. He was highly impressed and said the exhibition and competition ought to be an annual event.

The Education Fair and Skills Competitions venue attracted over 35,000 visitors, mainly young people and educators watching the various trades and skills demonstrations and competitions.

The Annual National Education Conference took place at the same venue as the Competition, thus giving educators and representatives from industry an opportunity to see the Skills Festival.

The event also welcomed international visitors from Japan and the Nordic and Baltic countries. Liam Corcoran, Chairman of WorldSkills International Technical Committee, who visited the Competition, was impressed by the arrangement and the large number of young visitors.

Competitors, experts and the public attended the closing



Elisabeth Lange, WorldSkills Norway, Liam Corcoran, Chairman of the Technical Committee, WorldSkills international, Kjell Grue, WorldSkills Norway and Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg.



ceremony where the Minister of Education Mr. Øystein Djupedal awarded medals to the winners of the 22 skills competitions.

All participants at the Competition wore similar outfits produced by Snickers Workwear, the new WorldSkills International Global Sponsor Partner, and also the general sponsor for WorldSkills Norway.

For more information: www.worldskills.no



CroatiaSkills Plans its First National Skills Competition

By: Davor Dinter, President of CroatiaSkills, Official Delegate Croatia

CroatiaSkills joined WorldSkills International in May 2006 as a Full Member and EuroSkills-Development Workgroup in June 2006 and most recently has become a Member of International Abilympic Federation in September 2006.

As an association designed to raise the knowledge and promotion of youth skills, CroatiaSkills is a national, non-profit and non-government association that actively promotes careers in VET (Vocational and Education Training system) for young people across Croatia.

CroatiaSkills have a national responsibility for organizing competitions in order to promote vocational education and training in Croatia. The organization has the vision of organizing an annual national skills Competition, starting from 17-21 April 2007 in Zagreb, Croatia.

Incredible amounts of career possibilities are open for today's youth. CroatiaSkills was created to provide the best possible information about careers in skilled trades and technology. We are hoping that this will make it easier for our youth to make decisions about their future careers.

Our target audience is youth between the ages 15-23 years. CroatiaSkills is trying to motivate its youth through hands-on experiences, to share information about future career choices and to deliver the message that skill education and training offers more choices for the future.

"I hope that the CroatiaSkills competitors will win some medals in forthcoming events in WorldSkills 2007 and IA2007 (Shizuoka, Japan) and also in EuroSkills 2008 (Rotterdam, Netherlands)," Davor Dinter, President of CroatiaSkills.

For more information please visit our website: www.croatiaskills.hr



WorldSkills Ecuador: Rising Up

By: Mr. Xavier Mendieta

Since joining WorldSkills International as an Associate Member in 2006, Corporación TECNHA through its program WorldSkills Ecuador is developing and executing actions towards the organization of the first national WorldSkills Ecuador Competitions in June 2007. We are looking forward to having a national team in the 39TH WorldSkills Competition in Shizuoka, Japan. Five skills have been identified as the first national WorldSkills Ecuador competitions: Mechatronics, IT-Software Application, Welding, Painting & Decorating and Cooking.

Latin American Skills Competition: Silver medal in the 1st Mechatronics Tournament, Pernambuco, Brazil. The Ecuadorian Team formed by competitors Leslie Riviere, Hector Tello and Hugo Trujillo, won the silver medal in the 1st Mechatronics competition in Pernambuco Brazil, during the Latin American Skills Competition organized by SENAI. The following countries participated in the competition: Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico and Peru. Ecuadorian participation was supported by the Direction of Technical Education of our Ministry of Education (DINET-MEC), SENAI (Brazil) and Festo. To the supporters we would like to give our special thanks.



International Abilitylympics Federation (IAF) Membership: TECNHA officially began a member of IAF this past August and will include skills for disabled persons in the national competition; this will confirm our commitment in developing skills in a "society for all".

Other activities: Support of new skills categories is growing by means of developing skills clubs around universities and schools. For example: the Universidad Técnica del Norte Robotic Club now has more than 28 members. All our academic activities under WorldSkills Ecuador are supported by the CONESUP (organization that is in charge of our superior education).



Hungary: National Institute of Vocational Education

By: Dr. Bartus Zsolt, Deputy Director-General

Hungary became a Full Member of WorldSkills International in 2006. The organisation responsible for bringing Hungary on as a Member and tasked with fulfilling the mission as a WorldSkills Member is the National Institute of Vocational Education which was founded in 1990 as a support institute both for the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Labour. It is responsible for research, development, service and co-ordination on a nationwide basis. Today it is the support institute for the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour. Through the core activities of the Institute, Hungary already has a lot of expertise and research on the vocational education and training that is vital to helping WorldSkills Members reach youth in their regions.



Some of the core activities of the Institute are:

- Conducts, initiates, organizes and coordinates regional and nation-wide research activities.
- Conducts continuous development of the vocational structure, National Qualification Register, central programmes (curricula) and textbooks.
- Conducts continuous development of the contents of vocational education.
- Makes comparisons between domestic and international qualification requirements.
- Organizes professional and methodological training courses for teachers in the area of vocational education.
- Cooperates with foreign institutions, organizations and bodies in line with the international strategic objectives of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour.
- Under special assignment, coordinates and implements domestic and international projects and organizes international meetings and conferences.
- Cooperates with organizations of Hungarians abroad in the areas of vocational education.
- Performs the tasks related to the organization of national vocational competitions.
- Operates the Vocational Education Research Committee and the Committee of Textbook and School equipment.
- Participates in the preparation of master curricula for the educational phase preceding and preparing for the acquisition of vocational qualifications from vocational schools or vocational secondary schools.
- Participates in the management of the educational documents of vocational education conducted in the language of a national minority.





Skills Spain

By: Domingo Antonio Rodríguez Agulleiro, Skills Spain

Spain was the founder of the first international competitions of Vocational Training celebrated in the 1950s. Later, other countries got involved and set up the organization "WorldSkills", which has become a worldwide body for the dissemination and promotion of the professional skills of Vocational Training. Spain organized the first championships and took part in this organization until 1991.

In May 2005 at the General Assembly in Helsinki (Finland), the Spanish Official Delegate read a speech announcing its renewed affiliation with WorldSkills International, as an Associated Member. In January 2006, Spain became a Full Member again of WorldSkills International.

The aim of Skills Spain is to promote and disseminate Vocational Education and Training by taking part in WorldSkills. It organizes everything related to the skills competitions for beginner Vocational Education and Training students. These competitions will take place at national and regional levels since the national contest is the way to select the participants that will represent Spain in the WorldSkills Competition.

The Ministry of Education and Science with the Autonomous Communities collaboration is in charge of all subjects related to WorldSkills.

We would like to extend our greetings to all the Members of WorldSkills International. We hope that this new progress constitutes another element of training motivation for our Technicians. By sharing experiences with other young people from all over the world we hope to contribute to their integral education at both technical and civic level.

For more information link our web site: <http://www.mec.es/skills-spain>



Mexico: The General Directorate of Vocational Training Centers

By: Esperanza Bañuelos, Technical Delegate, Mexico

The General Directorate of Vocational Training Centers is a centralized institution of the Mexican Federal Government. Its mission is to train people in the development of skills, abilities and attitudes that respond to the labor market needs. It also certifies the acquired competencies developed through working, with practice or self directed learning and regulates the vocational training delivered by private institutions.

It provides different training services in a flexible manner, according to specific group needs. 214 Regular courses from 52 specialties that are delivered in 120 to 900 hrs. Also Extension Courses, and Accelerated Specific Training Courses. These are organized based on the demand of a group or company.

The General Directorate of Vocational Training Centers has many resources at its fingertips: 3,684 teachers, 397 centers, (198 CECATI, federal schools and 197 ICAT, decentralized schools), 34 mobile training units and a Vocational Training Development and Research Center (CIDFORT).

The courses, developed using competency based education model, are delivered in sessions, however, in order to reach those that live in distant communities there are mobile training units, instructors and tools and/or equipment that can be sent as required. So that this sector of the population can improve their living conditions by acquiring skills needed for employment or self employment. In 2006 The General Directorate started offering on-line training courses.

It also runs a successful entrepreneurship program, delivering courses, organizing conventions, and providing counseling in 14 business incubators along the country. Last school year more than 8000 (eight thousand) students were trained in the different specialties.

We have strategic alliances with the private sector; like Toyota Motor Sales and Akzo Nobel; 5 Toyota Automotive Technical Institutes and the first Akzo Nobel Comex Refinishing Technical Institute.

Since 2004, we have been holding and celebrating our annual national skills competitions. The winners of the competitions compete in WorldSkills Competitions.

For more information please visit our website: <http://www.dgcft.sems.gob.mx>



Vietnam: No Stranger to Skill Competitions

By: Dr. Duong Duc Lan, Official Delegate, Vietnam

As another new WorldSkills Member in 2006, Vietnam is not a stranger to skills competitions. The Member organization is the General Department of Vocational Training. Our organization is responsible for state management on Vocational training in Vietnam. We are also responsible for organizing the Vietnamese team to participate in the ASEAN skill competitions (held every 2 years). So far we have participated 4 times in the ASEAN skill competitions: the first time in Thailand 2001 we placed fourth overall based on 7 participating countries; the second time was in Indonesia 2002, this time placed second overall based on 8 participating countries; the third time was when we hosted the event in Vietnam 2004, this time we placed first overall based on 8 participated countries; and this year in September 2006, in Brunei Darussalam the Vietnamese team again placed first overall. In this past ASEAN skill competition, the Vietnamese team received 6 Gold medals!



Vietnamese team in ASEAN Skill Competition in September 2006 in Brunei Darussalam. The picture shows 6 Vietnamese competitors who received the Gold medal, skill area 01 expert and me.

The General Department of Vocational Training is also tasked with preparing the Vietnamese team to participate in the 39th WorldSkills Competition in Japan next year. In this competition we will be participating in 8 different skill areas: CADD, IT, Industrial Electronics, Cabinet Making, Electricity Installation, Bricklaying, Cookery, and Restaurant Service. This will be the first time that Vietnam will compete in the WorldSkills Competition.



Singapore: WSN Tea in September

By: Kian Ann, WorldSkills Singapore Network, 1st Management Committee, President

On the 23rd of September 2006, we held a session to gather the members of the WorldSkills Network (WSN) for an afternoon tea! The turnout was great - over 60 members took their Saturday off to come together at the National Library for the event. The day started with the official launch of the WSN logo by the Guest of Honour, Mr Heng Guan Teck, Deputy CEO of ITE (Academic Affairs), and the WorldSkills Technical Delegate for Singapore. Following that, there was a session to update our members on the events that are coming up for the year.



That afternoon, we also launched the new look for the WSN website (<http://www.worldskills.sg/wsn>) The WSN website features information about the WSN, the committee, the latest updates and also an online forum for the members to log-in and start interacting. We also got three of our members to share about their experiences during the WorldSkills Competition. Each individual has different things that they took away from the Competition - some commented about making lifelong friends and some about the psychology of winning, mental toughness and persistence.



Of course, towards the end of the day, there were refreshments and a networking session, where members from different trades and different competition years got to know each other, exchange contact information, and made new friends.

Upcoming Event in November - Skills Exchange Workshop

The WSN committee is now planning for the next activity, which is a skills exchange workshop. For this round, we are linking up with Festo for a half day introductory workshop on Pneumatic control. The objective of this workshop is to really promote lifelong learning among the members of the network, and to create an awareness of the different technical skills and technology involved in the trades.



Upcoming WorldSkills Events

Do you have events that you want to see here? Send them to michelle.bussey@worldskills.org by the first of every month.

Date:	Event:	Website/Contact:
Nov. 2006	SkillsUSA are conducting 80 separate skills events	www.skillsusa.org
Nov. 2006	National Competitions in various locations – Germany	www.zdh.de
Nov. '06 – Mar. '07	Preselection Competitions - Belgium	www.skillsbelgium.be
Nov. '06 – Mar. '07	Preselection Competitions - Austria	www.worldskills.at
Dec. 18-20, 2006	SaudiSkills National Competition, Saudi Arabia	www.gotevot.edu.sa/english/
Jan. 31 – Feb. 2, 2007	National Skills Competition – Taitaja, Finland	www.skillsfinland.com
Feb., 2007	National Competition, Jamaica	www.heart-nta.org
Mar. 2007	Nacional Competition - Spain	www.mec.es/skills-spain
Mar. 15-17, 2007	Skills Masters – Netherlands	www.skills-netherlands.nl
Mar. 28-31st, 2007	French National Competition – Amiens, France	www.cofom.org/
Mar. – Apr. 2007	National Skills Competition - Ireland	www.education.ie
Apr. – Oct. 2007	UK-wide Competitions – UK	www.skillschallengecompetitions.org.uk
Apr. 11-16, 2007	Technical Committee Meeting – Shizuoka, Japan	www.worldskills.org
April 16-20, 2007	Skills Competitions as part of the International Industrial Hannover Fair – Hannover Messe, Hannover, Denmark	www.dk-skills.dk/5_2_dkskills.htm
April 17-21, 2007	1st CroatiaSkills Competition (National Competition) – Zagreb, Croatia	www.croatiaskills.hr
June 6-9, 2007	13th Canadian Skills Competition – Saskatoon, SK, Canada	www.skillscanada.com
June 25-29, 2007	43rd annual National Leadership & Skills Conference - USA	www.skillsusa.org/events/nlsc.shtml
Nov. 15-18, 2007	39th WorldSkills Competition – Shizuoka, Japan	www.worldskills2007.com



WorldSkills International Secretariat
 Van Eedenstraat 9, 2012 EL Haarlem, The Netherlands
 Phone: +31 23 5311071, Fax: +31 23 5316360
 To unsubscribe please send an email to newsletter@worldskills.org with "unsubscribe" as the subject.

Proudly supported by WorldSkills Global Sponsor Partners



www.worldskills.org