






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

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NEWS FROM WORLDSKILLS INTERNATIONAL



Editorial

By: Michelle Bussey, Marketing and Communications, WorldSkills International

Welcome to the WorldSkills International Newsletter. The WorldSkills International Newsletter is one of the many informational and promotional tools that we use to inform Members, partners, volunteers and the general public about the latest activities and initiatives happening throughout the world as part of the WorldSkills movement.

We would like to increase the readership of the newsletter with each issue. If you know a person or a list of people that would be interested in receiving this newsletter please send it along to them by clicking on the "[send to a friend](#)" link. If they enjoy reading the newsletter, please encourage them to officially [sign up to receive our newsletter](#) on a regular basis.



Holiday Greetings

To all our readers and their families, we would like to extend our warm wishes for a happy and safe holiday season and all the best for the New Year. 2007 will prove to be an exciting time for the WorldSkills movement as we progress toward to the WorldSkills Competition in Shizuoka, Japan in November 2007. We look forward to seeing you all in Japan!

Seasons Greetings and Happy New Year from your team at WorldSkills International!



WorldSkills International News

New Skills Announced for WSC2007

On the 14th November 2006, WorldSkills International finalised the skill competitions for WorldSkills Competition 2007 (WSC2007) in Shizuoka, Japan. There are 4 skills appearing for the first time as Demonstration Skills – these are Caring (Nursing), Mobile Robotics, Mould Making and Bakery. There are also 5 skills being conducted as Host Member Skills – these are Mechanical Device Control, Construction Metal Works, Pattern Making, Plastering and Sheet Metal Technology. For more information please visit: <http://www.worldskills.org/site/staging/?pageid=77>

Record Enrolments for WSC2007

WSC2007 will be the biggest Competition ever! We have 6 new Members who have joined WorldSkills International since WSC2005 in Helsinki and we have 2 more countries with pending applications that will also join us in Shizuoka. Combine this growth in membership with record enrolments from existing Members (i.e. participating in more skill categories than ever before) and we currently have 850 Competitors from 46 Member countries/regions provisionally registered.

Upcoming WorldSkills International (WSI) Initiatives

WorldSkills Portal

WSI is preparing to introduce a totally new concept to promote WorldSkills as a movement, and in particular to celebrate the achievements and share the experiences of WorldSkills' youth Alumni. In March 2007, WSI will be launching a special website called the WorldSkills Portal that will raise the awareness of the international skills community as well as individual Members. The concept and design was done by our Singapore Member (ITE) and WorldSkills International is now offering it to all the Members. The WorldSkills Portal is designed to be an interactive, informative, multi-lingual, multi-regional and international website. It will contain pages from around the world of past skills competitors experiences, success stories, as well as key officials that are endorsing the WorldSkills movement.

The WorldSkills Portal will be an informative website that will also describe and explain the different skill categories to the viewer. The viewer will be able to choose to look at the website from an international perspective or from a regional perspective. There will be information in multiple languages and unique information based on the region of the world that the viewer wishes to learn about. This is a major promotional and informative tool that will help position the WorldSkills movement into the spotlight worldwide. It will be a complementary value added piece for WorldSkills Members with existing websites and it will also provide an opportunity for Members who do not currently have dedicated skills websites an international platform on which to showcase their successes.

With WorldSkills International doing all the technical development and maintenance, the Members can concentrate on developing and fostering the information and stories from within their regions. The WorldSkills Portal will be a centralised website to show the true impact of the WorldSkills movement, it will evolve and change as new stories and information are added and will eventually contain have thousands of worldwide success stories. The WorldSkills Portal will start the global networking community of youth meeting employers and the public learning about skills. It is a powerful tool and one that WorldSkills International invites all Members to embrace.

If you are interested in being apart of the pilot WorldSkills Portal that will be launched in March 2007, please contact Michelle Bussey (michelle.bussey@worldskills.org) for more information. All pilot information must be submitted by January 31st, 2007.

Coming soon: official launch of the WorldSkills Portal in March, 2007!

VIP Experience Program for Shizuoka 2007

As part of the 39th WorldSkills Competition (WSC), WorldSkills International (WSI) is delighted to offer a VIP Experience Program that is designed specifically to cater for senior international leaders in government, industry, unions and education. Every time a WorldSkills Competition is held Members bring their Regional leaders, however in the past these individuals have not had a structured format in which to meet with other leaders from around the world throughout the course of the event. WSI is partnering with WorldSkills Calgary 2009, London 2011 plus other interested Members and, by utilising their combined synergy and experience, will create a very special experience/visit to WSC2007.

The VIP Experience Program is designed to bring individual regional and international leaders together from all countries/regions for a productive, informative and eye-opening program that revolves around the WorldSkills Competition. The VIPs will be able to network and exchange knowledge and ideas with like-minded senior leaders from around the world. They will be able to share in the excitement and festivities of the Opening Ceremonies of the WorldSkills Competition, participate and network at the WorldSkills Leaders Forum and explore the WorldSkills Competition. They will also be offered a unique opportunity to tour and learn from local Japanese companies that are world-leaders to their fields.

This program is flexible and customisable to meet the needs and to match the interests of all VIPs planning on taking part in the VIP Experience Program. The VIP Experience Program will be open to all WSI Members. We invite you to start compiling your list of potential VIP Experience Participants.

Coming soon: Informational flyer on the VIP Experience Program in late January, 2007!



A Review of the “Competitor Village” for WSC2007 in Shizuoka, Japan

By: Michelle Bussey, Marketing and Communications, WorldSkills International

In November, 2006 a group of Technical Delegates and WorldSkills International Secretariat visited Japan to take part in a Technical Working Group. As part of the meetings, we went to Shizuoka Prefecture, and visited the “Competitor Village.” After a thorough tour and staying in the “Competitor Village” ourselves, I offer this review.

For the first time during a WorldSkills Competition, the competitors will all stay together in an official “Competitor Village.” The Japanese have found the perfect place for the competitors to unwind and relax during the nights. There is everything here for them to do, from large fields to play sports, to nature walks and pool tables. Everyone will find something of interest. The idea of a “Competitor Village” will help increase the social and cultural experience of the competitors. The WorldSkills Competition is not only about competing, it is equally important for youth to learn from each other about different parts of the world. They travel all the distance from their home regions and often do not get to have relaxing times with their fellow competitors.

The “Competitor Village” is the solution. It provides a unique opportunity for the competitors to unwind and to meet new friends. We are all anxious to see the competitors in Japan and see them enjoy the thrill of the competition and embrace the chance to learn about other cultures.

Good luck to everyone and see you in Japan!



A centrally located area of restaurants and cafes.



Outdoor fields and tennis courts are found in the midst of all the accommodations so competitors can relax in the nights.



Slow House Vilas: A sample of some of the accommodations for competitors.



STORIES FROM THE WORLDSKILLS MEMBERS



Sheet Metal Gold Medalist

SkillsUSA Championships The United States’ Road to the WorldSkills Competition

By: Jane A. DeShong Short, Program Specialist, SkillsUSA

SkillsUSA chapters will soon begin the process of holding local/regional competitions in their respective schools/areas. This begins the journey to the selection process that ultimately determines the national high school and post-secondary winners in a given occupational area in the United States.

The competitions begin at the public high school or college level. From there the top scorers go on to compete in district competitions. From the district level, the top scorers are eligible to compete in their state competitions held in the spring. Each state holds its own competition, but the number of occupational areas represented does vary depending upon the interest and sponsorship support in the state.

Only the gold medallists from each state competition qualify to compete at the national level. The national SkillsUSA Championships is held annually in June. In 2006, more than 4,800 competitors competed in 84 hands-on skill and leadership contests. SkillsUSA adds contests to the SkillsUSA



Carpentry



SkillsUSA Championships

Championships to meet the demands of new and expanding occupations. One hundred and thirty different occupational areas are represented by SkillsUSA affiliated instructional programs.

Since the WorldSkills Competition is held every two years, U.S. candidates for competition are selected from the top scorers of the national competition over a two-year period. WorldSkills International recognizes SkillsUSA as the authorized organization to supply competitors for the international competition from the United States. Currently, the United States government does not sponsor the competitors' training or travel costs and a competitor and competition must have support from business and industry to go forward.

SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers and industry working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce. The national organization serves more than 284,000 high school and college students and professional members enrolled in training programs in technical, skilled, and service occupations. Membership in SkillsUSA offers leadership, citizenship and character development programs and activities to complement skill training. SkillsUSA has one-quarter million members annually in 13,000 chapters in 53 state and territorial associations.

For more information please visit:
<http://www.skillsusa.org/>



Commercial Baking



Cosmetology



Culinary



Ready for WorldSkills Competition 2007 in Japan! The 44th Japanese National Skills Competition

The 44th Japanese National Skills Competition was successfully held in Kagawa Prefecture from October 20 to October 23, drawing record number of competitors – 1158 from 47 Prefectures in 45 skills categories. More than 130,000 visitors gathered in Kagawa to watch this event. It was notable that many high school students, who will be the leaders of the next generation and who will be considered key parts of vocational training, watched the competitor's high skills in a serious manner.

As a preparatory exercise for next year's WorldSkills Competition in Shizuoka, Japan, the big screen monitors were used to introduce participating competitors and skill competitions so that more people could observe and enjoy what was going on in the event.

This year's Japanese competition added two skills: Manufacturing Team Challenge and Web Design. This Competition was very special since most of the 45 winners would be representatives for Japan in the WorldSkills Competition 2007 in Japan. This will be the third time that the WorldSkills Competition has been held in Japan over the past 22 years.

Every year the National Skills Competition takes place at a different prefecture and this makes people aware of the importance of the skills that are very important for the vocational trainings in local regions in Japan.

The marketing department of Japanese Organising Committee for the "International Skills Festival for All" (JOCISF) set up a booth at the Competition in order to take advantage of the opportunity to promote the 2007 World Skills Competition. They gave out the brochures, badges and popular handbags to attract a great deal of attention from the visitors.



After the success of the competition, the number of the visits to the JOCISF website has risen significantly and we see it as a guarantee for the great success of WorldSkills Competition 2007.

For more information:
www.skillsfestival2007.or.jp



National Skilled Trades Day in Canada

By: Skills/Compétences Canada

In order to promote trades and technical careers to young Canadians, Skills/Compétences Canada (S/CC) hosted the first annual Skilled Trades Day in Canada on October 30th, 2006. The official launch was in the National Capital of Ottawa at Algonquin College where it was officially kicked-off by the Government of Canada's President of the Treasury Board, Minister John Baird and Mike Holmes of the popular TV show "Holmes on Homes". Minister Baird and Mr. Holmes participated in a demonstration by Nathan Banke, Canada's 2007 WorldSkills Competition Automotive Service Technician representative.



Mike Holmes from "Holmes on Homes", Nathan Banke, Team Canada 2007 Competitor, and The Right Honourable Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada.

Following the launch ceremony S/CC representatives including Mike Holmes and Nathan Banke were invited to Parliament Hill for an official declaration in the House of Commons where they also had the opportunity to meet The Right Honourable Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada.

In Canada, many young Canadians do not understand the value of a career in skilled trades and technology. As a result, employers in many parts of Canada find it difficult to hire and retain skilled workers to combat the affects of their ageing workforce or their growing business needs.

S/CC plays an important role by raising the awareness of the value of skilled trades and technology careers. Through provincial/territorial, national and international skills competitions as well as career awareness programs, S/CC makes skilled trades and technology careers more visible to youth, parents, and educators as well as the general public. Our programs attract youth into these promising and important careers, helping industry find well-trained, well-prepared young people now and in the future.

As part of National Technology Week and Canada Career Week, S/CC offices across the country hosted events and activities to celebrate National Skilled Trades Day. The events, involving 1000's of young people participating in "hands-on" activities, were designed to ultimately entice youth to choose a career in trades or technologies.

With the government's support, corporate sponsors and dedicated educators, the message is clear that choosing such a career path is lucrative, challenging and fulfilling.

For more information:
www.skillscanada.com

FOCUS ON REGIONAL SKILLS COMPETITIONS



Dk Yani Mariana Pg Yahya, the Gold medal winner (Cookery) from the Host Country, Brunei Darussalam

The Sixth ASEAN Skills Competition, 3 - 12 September, 2006

By: Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam

The 6th ASEAN Skills Competition (ASC) was held from the 3 - 12 of September 2006 in Bandar Seri Bagawan, Brunei Darussalam with a total of 425 participants (including 92 experts and 136 competitors) from 9 ASEAN member countries. The 9 participating countries were Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. The competition was officially declared open by His Royal Highness, The Crown



Official Opening Declaration by His Royal Highness The Crown Prince Brunei Darussalam

Prince Brunei Darussalam and the Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, Brunei Darussalam at the International Convention Centre, Bandar Seri Begawan on September 6th, 2006.

There were 12 skill area competitions held: Automobile Technology, Bricklaying, Cabinet Making, Commercial Wiring, Mechanical Engineering, Drawing and Design – CADD, Cookery, Electronic Applications, Information Technology, Ladies Dressmaking, Plumbing, Restaurant Service and Welding.

A historical note regarding the 6th ASEAN Skills Competition 2006 was that it was the first time that Myanmar had participated in the ASEAN Skills Competition.

The 6th ASEAN Skills Competition adopted the Test Projects (with modifications) and the Competition Information System (CIS) from the 38th WorldSkills Competition in Helsinki, Finland. The total duration for each of the modified Test Projects varied from 15 to 18 hours over the competition period of 3 days.

The closing ceremonies were held on September 11th, 2006 at the Rizqun International Hotel, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. The medals and certificates were presented by the Honourable Minister of Education, Brunei Darussalam.

After the official handing over of the ASEAN Skills Competition flag to Malaysia as the host of the 7th ASEAN Skills Competition 2008, the official Closing Declaration was made by The Honourable Minister of Education, Brunei Darussalam

The matrix of medals and Diploma of Excellence by the participating countries is as shown below:



The Heads of Delegation with the Chairperson of the ASC Organising Committee, Mr Haji Mohd Daud bin Haji Mahmud (Centre)



The introduction of the Team from the Host Country, Brunei Darussalam at the Opening Ceremony



The presentation of medals and certificates to the winners at the Closing Ceremony by The Honourable Minister of Education, Brunei Darussalam

No	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Diploma of Excellence
1	Brunei Darussalam	1	1	0	0
2	Cambodia	0	0	0	0
3	Indonesia	6	2	2	2
4	Lao PDR	0	0	0	0
5	Malaysia	3	0	6	7
6	Myanmar	0	0	0	0
7	Philippines	0	0	0	4
9	Thailand	5	1	3	13
10	Vietnam	6	2	5	6





Latin America Skills Competition hosted by SENAI (The Brazilian National Service for Industrial Apprenticeship)

SENAI - National Department, International Cooperation Unit

Created in 1942, through the initiative of business leaders in the sector, SENAI is one of the most important centres for the creation and dispersion of knowledge related to industrial development in Brazil. An integral part of the National Confederation of Industry, SENAI supports 28 different industrial areas through the creation of human resources and the offer of services like assistance to the productive sector, laboratory services, applied research, and technological information.

Thanks to the flexibility of its structure, SENAI is the largest professional educational complex in Latin America. Directly connected to the national department, 27 regional departments bring their programs, projects, and activities to all parts of the national territory, offering appropriate assistance for different local needs and contributing to the strengthening of industry and to full and sustainable development in the country.

Brazilian Skills

The Knowledge Olympics is the largest professional education competition in the Americas. The Knowledge Olympics, which has been held in Brazil for over 20 years, unites SENAI students from different professions and from all of the federation units.

In the Knowledge Olympics, the students are evaluated according to technical and technological knowledge criteria, and personal qualities and abilities, all of which are essential prerequisites for the insertion and permanence of the young worker in the job market.

To participate in the Knowledge Olympics, thousands of students from SENAI schools all over Brazil need to win the first challenges at the school level. Next, the winners from each occupation dispute at the state level where the best are classified for the national competition.

The national competition is held every two years in a different Brazilian city so that all of the states can follow the pedagogical and technical innovations that are evident in the event. The first place students in the Knowledge Olympics will be the Brazilian representatives who will participate in the WorldSkills Competition the following year.

As part of their support for regional development of skills competitions, SENAI hosted a Latin American skills competition in 2006 as part of their national competition. Mechatronics was first skill with competitors and experts from Mexico, Guatemala, Ecuador, Colombia, Peru, Costa Rica and Dominican Republic.

2006 Brazilian Skills

The 2006 Knowledge Olympics, which were held in Pernambuco, Recife, was the stage for learning, discipline, and personal achievement. During four days of tests (March 9-12), over 500 competitors showed that professional education is decisive for qualification and innovation in industry.

The competition beat all records. According to the General Director of the Brazilian National Service for Industrial Apprenticeship (SENAI), José Manuel de Aguiar Martins, it was the largest Knowledge Olympics competition that had ever been held. "It wasn't just because of the size and record public, but also because of the technological advances represented there. Besides the latest equipment used in the competitions, the tests followed international standards, adopted by WorldSkills", said Martins, in his speech at the awards ceremony.

The Regional Director of SENAI Pernambuco, Antônio Carlos Maranhão de Aguiar, said that there was an extraordinary evolution in relation to the former editions of the Knowledge Olympics, which is testimony to the strength of the methodology used at SENAI in the skill-building of young Brazilians. "Brazil will quit being the country of the future and start being the country of the present when it gives



opportunity to these young people.”

Maranhão also called attention to the fact that, since the past, when the event was called the Professional Formation Championship, there has been a clear evolution in the competition because now the students have to face situations that are similar to real work situations. “In this edition, traditional occupations, such as wood working, soldering, and clothing confection competed side-by-side with areas that are on the leading edge of technology, such as web design, information technology, graphic design, mechatronics, and robotics. That is, without abandoning traditional occupations, SENAI has evolved to be contemporaneous in industrial activity”, he concluded.

During the Knowledge Olympics, approximately 200,000 people passed through the event, including more than 45,000 students from public and private high schools in Pernambuco. According to Maranhão, this makes the formation of human capital possible. “And human capital promises more return for this country than either physical or financial capital”, he affirmed.

For more information please visit:

www.senai.br



EuroSkills 2008 Gains Momentum in Europe

By: Jos de Goey, Managing Director, Skills Netherlands

EuroSkills 2008 aims to create a new platform for the promotion of craftsmanship, skills and vocational education and training in Europe. EuroSkills 2008, as an event, will contribute to the raising of the status of vocational education and training and craftsmanship in Europe on a structural basis. Therefore the event will be organized every two years by a European Member State, alternating with the WorldSkills Competition.

EuroSkills 2008 appears to be an attractive format for countries and organisations that are not involved in WorldSkills International activities so far. The EuroSkills Competitions are team-based, modular and include competence assessment, have daily and overall winners and focus on soft skills as well as technical skills.

The WorldSkills International countries/regions in the Development Work Group (DWG) are working hard towards the realisation of the event. The provisional list of EuroSkills Competitions comprises 27 competition categories, of which half are organised as a team-oriented competition. The competitions and demonstrations represent almost 50 trades.

The EuroSkills' website highlights skilled labour and vocational education in Europe. After all, young skilled people are the 'rising stars' of Europe.

For more information please visit the EuroSkills website:

www.euroskills2008.nl



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

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 '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/
Dec '06 – May '07	Preselection Competitions - Switzerland	www.swisscompetence.ch
Jan. 31 – Feb. 2, 2007	National Skills Competition – Taitaja, Finland	www.skillsfinland.com
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
Apr. 17-21, 2007	1st CroatiaSkills Competition (National Competition) – Zagreb, Croatia	www.croatiaskills.hr
Apr. 23-27, 2007	1st "New" National Skills Competition – Madrid, Spain	www.mec.es/skills-spain
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
Aug. 2007	Olimpíada do Conhecimento Goiás - Goiânia-Goiás, Brazil	www.senai.br
Nov. 14-21 2007	39th WorldSkills Competition – Shizuoka, Japan	www.worldskills2007.com



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