




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

[Subscribe to newsletter](#) 

[Download as PDF](#) 

[Newsletter archive](#) 

[Send to a friend](#) 

In this Issue:

NEWS FROM WORLDSKILLS INTERNATIONAL:

- [Editorial](#)
- [WorldSkills International news](#)
- [WorldSkills Portal launched](#)

STORIES FROM THE WORLDSKILLS MEMBERS:

- [Finland: Finnish National Skills Competition – Taitaja 2007](#)
- [Canada: Countdown to WorldSkills Calgary 2009 kicks off with launch of new website](#)
- [SothTyrol, Italy: Provincial Championships in Crafts and the Restaurant Trade 2006](#)

FOCUS ON NEW WORLDSKILLS YOUTH:

- [WorldSkills Youth Forum update](#)
- [WorldSkills youth update: Canada](#)
- [How will the pilot WorldSkills Exchange Program work?](#)
- WorldSkills youth exchange experiences:
 - [Belgium](#)
 - [Ireland](#)
 - [Sweden](#)
 - [France](#)
 - [Austria](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- [Upcoming WorldSkills events](#)

NEWS FROM WORLDSKILLS INTERNATIONAL



Editorial

By: Michelle Bussey, Marketing and Communications, WorldSkills International

Welcome to the WorldSkills International Newsletter.

As the 39th WorldSkills Competition draws nearer we want to ensure that our Members and the public have up-to-date information. We are striving to inform you of breaking news through this newsletter and our website homepage (www.worldskills.org). We also would like to highlight what the WorldSkills Members are doing to prepare their teams for the Competition. If you have a training plan or an innovative way of preparing your team, please let us know. We would like to share these stories and build momentum leading up to the Competition. Send your stories to michelle.bussey@worldskills.org.

Together we can raise the awareness and profile of the WorldSkills movement throughout the world.



WorldSkills International news

VIP invitations sent out

The WorldSkills VIP Experience for Shizuoka promises to be an outstanding program, with the release of the initial invitations this month. We invite our Members to take advantage of this wonderful marketing and networking opportunity. The VIP Experience invites government, industry, association and education leaders from around the world to come to Japan in November 2007 to participate in this program. If you are interested or know someone that would be interested in attending please visit:

<http://www.worldskillsleadersforum.com/>.



VIP Invitation was the launch of Stage 2 of the VIP Experience Program

Upcoming WorldSkills International (WSI) initiatives

Gathering stories about WorldSkills Honorary Members

WorldSkills International values the contributions of all the Honorary Members around the world over the years. In an upcoming issue of the WorldSkills International Newsletter, we would like to profile Honorary Members' stories. If you are an Honorary Member and would like to share your experience with the world please send us your story. Or if you know an Honorary Member that you would like to recognise please send us a story about them. Please send your stories to Michelle Bussey by April 6, 2007 at michelle.bussey@worldskills.org

Capturing the history of WorldSkills Members

Each WorldSkills Member has their own unique organisational history and development. WorldSkills International would like to capture all of that history in one location so that the entire world will be able to see how widespread the WorldSkills movement truly is. If you are interested in participating in this initiative please send any relevant historical facts about your organisation to Michelle Bussey at michelle.bussey@worldskills.org. If you don't have anything currently created, WorldSkills International will work with you to capture the history.



WorldSkills Portal launched

By: Michelle Bussey, Marketing and Communications, WSI
www.worldskillsportal.com

WorldSkills International launched its WorldSkills Portal in March 2007. Here is a look at this incredibly exciting and powerful new tool for our WorldSkills Members.

The WorldSkills Portal (designed and contributed by our Singapore Member, ITE - www.ite.edu.sg) puts the spotlight on skills, competitors, past competitors and support by VIPs. This enables the marketing and profiling of success stories of past participants in a global environment. The WorldSkills Portal is just as the name suggests; a web based tool whereby WorldSkills stakeholders, and anyone interested in skills, can interactively access a wide range of skills information, and be inspired by stories of life-changing experiences and success from past WorldSkills competitors.



This amazing tool is available to all WorldSkills Members. We plan to work individually with each interested Member to ensure that they get the most out of the WorldSkills Portal by customising it to meet their needs. It is a great opportunity to put our Member organisations on the world stage if they don't currently have a dedicated website. Or it can serve as a valuable complementary resource alongside Members' existing websites.

Having worked closely with the Members involved in the pilot WorldSkills Portal, I understand that each Member has different needs and expectations for the Portal. If a Member wasn't involved in the pilot but would like to be involved now, it is easy to do. First they contact me, Michelle Bussey, for assistance and guidance, including templates if required. Then they approach past participants and leaders in their region that endorse the WorldSkills movement. Once a Member has gathered the stories and checked the information for accuracy, they send them to me and I'll put them on the Portal in their country's/region's section. It is that simple!

Another important feature of the WorldSkills Portal is that visitors can view the information in any



language; the Member simply has to provide the translations to WorldSkills International. This enables a wider audience to be able to view stories from a Member's country/region.

The WorldSkills Portal can also have customised skill definitions that are represented in the Members national/regional section of the WorldSkills Portal so that they correspond with the skills in their country/region. There are also templates available for writing this section.

The WorldSkills Portal is a great promotional tool that requires a little work to gather the information but the rewards are huge as the Member's country/region is promoted worldwide. It will continue to grow as an international online alumni network and resource. The more information Members provide to WorldSkills International, the more strength and power the WorldSkills Portal will have as a true testament of what the WorldSkills movement is accomplishing worldwide.

I look forward to Members contacting me to discuss how the WorldSkills Portal can best serve their country/region.

For more information please contact: Michelle Bussey at michelle.bussey@worldskills.org



STORIES FROM WORLDSKILLS MEMBERS



Finnish National Skills Competition –Taitaja 2007

By: Teemu Lindfors, Information Officer, Skills Finland

Finnish National Skills Competition, Taitaja, was held in Joensuu January 31 – February 2, 2007. Some 33,500 spectators visited the Joensuu Arena to see today's vocational training in action. The Competition was successful and the atmosphere was cheerful with over 300 youngsters competing in 36 different skills. In every skill the best three competitors were awarded with medals. At the end of Competition a jury chose one competitor as the "Best of the Best." This year's "Best of the Best" was Pasi Tahkola who competed in plumbing. The winner was given the use of a Citroen car for one year. As "Best of the Best" he is committed to promoting vocational education and the Taitaja Competition during Skills Finland's events as well as other fairs where Skills Finland is a participant. At the closing ceremony the members of Team Finland were announced. Team Finland will compete in 39 skills in Shizuoka, Japan in November 2007. In 2008 the Finnish National Skills Competition will be held in Espoo.

Competition Information System training in Joensuu

In conjunction with the Taitaja Competition there was a two day Competition Information System (CIS) training program for international guests, organised by WorldSkills International and hosted by Skills Finland. The CIS is much more than a scoring system for a competition – it is a powerful knowledge management and learning tool for WSI and its Members. The participants from Iran, Japan, Netherlands, Canada, Singapore and the WSI Secretariat learnt how to install, commission and operate the CIS. Mr Janne Ostrovski (one of the designers of the CIS) provided this very informative and beneficial training.

Study Paths

Skills Finland – together with Jyväskylä University of Applied Sciences – developed a Study Path pattern which was used in the 2005 WorldSkills Competition and at the Finnish National Skills Competitions. They had six ready-made Study Paths. These allowed students and other visitors to get an idea of various professions and working life. Similar to the 2005 WorldSkills Competition in Helsinki, the Study Paths proved to be very popular. The Study Path pattern is currently part of every Finnish National Skills Competition.



Best of the Best



Overview of the Competition site



Hairdressing is a spectator-friendly trade

Education and Working Life Fair answers questions

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

Comprehensive school competition

At the Finnish National Competition 2007 final-year students at comprehensive schools had their own competition. The students competed in teams, and the winning team was given scooters as an award. Other events during this competition included various seminars in which visitors could participate.

For more information please visit: www.skillsfinland.com



Measuring in Landscape Gardening

Countdown to WorldSkills Calgary 2009 kicks off with launch of new website

WorldSkills Calgary 2009 website unveiled on Parliament Hill at second annual 'Skills on the Hill' event

By: Mr. Kerry Moynihan, Vice-President External, WorldSkills Calgary 2009

Lynne Yelich, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Human Resources and Social Development officially launched the new WorldSkills Calgary 2009 website (www.worldskills2009.com) during the second annual 'Skills on the Hill' event on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, Canada to showcase the upcoming 2009 WorldSkills Competition in Calgary set for September 2009. The original website, which was designed three years ago and used to win the bid to host the competition in Calgary, has been revamped to provide more comprehensive information regarding:

- The Competition
- Venues
- Accommodation and transportation
- Volunteer and employment opportunities
- Media and sponsorship
- Scheduling and events
- Additional cultural and educational events
- Skills events and projects leading up to the competition

The organising committee for WorldSkills Calgary 2009 chose this event to unveil the new website as it provides an opportunity for Canada's political leaders to learn more about the trades and the young people who are role models of excellence working in this area. It also provides a forum for them to discover ways to promote skilled trades and technologies as a rewarding career option for young Canadians. In addition to Members of Parliament and the Senate, members from Team Canada who will be representing the country at the 2007 WorldSkills Competition in Japan were also in attendance.

The new website offers a multi-dimensional, virtual forum to share the WorldSkills experience with people across Canada and around the world. WorldSkills Calgary 2009 is very proud of this new website as they see it as a powerful tool for showcasing the importance of the skills and recognising skilled youth working in the field through this Competition.

Currently it is available in both English and French, and German will be available in May 2007. This website features optimised website design, an adaptive Content Management



Homepage of the WorldSkills Calgary 2009 new website



Lynne Yelich, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Human Resources and Social Development as she officially launches the new WorldSkills Calgary 2009 website.



System (CMS) as well as simplified navigation and greater functionality for users.

Additional features will be rolled out over the coming months, including merchandise sales, online accommodation management, virtual tours and distribution of automatic alerts for feature stories and news releases.

The new WorldSkills Calgary 2009 website was funded in part by the Government of Canada and was designed and developed by Media Dog Productions Inc., a Calgary-based firm.

For more information please visit: www.worldskills2009.com



Mr. Yasuyuki Koga, First Secretary, Embassy of Japan in Canada talks about WorldSkills Shizuoka 2007 at the 2nd Annual Skills on the Hill in Ottawa, Canada.



Provincial Championships in Crafts and the Restaurant Trade 2006

South Tyrol's youth is fit for life

By: Ramona Pranter, Landesverband der Handwerker LVH

South Tyrol's best skilled workers in crafts and in the restaurant and gardening trades have been chosen and will be travelling to Japan in November 2007 for the WorldSkills Competition

Under the watchful eyes of thousands of visitors they worked with the utmost concentration for three days. Finally, with representatives of government and business as well as some 3,000 spectators present, awards were presented to the winners of the Provincial Championships in Crafts and the Restaurant Trade on Saturday November 25, 2006. The three best in each of 34 vocational categories received medals and cash prizes, and at the same time took a step closer to the WorldSkills Competition in Shizuoka, Japan in November 2007. About one-third of the some 300 participants in the event were young women.

Provincial Governor Luis Durnwalder and Deputy Governor and Provincial Councillor Otto Sauer highlighted in their addresses the profound significance of this event for the comprehensive education of maturing young people. "South Tyrol must continue to put its money in our youth and their education. This is the best possible way of investing our funds," Provincial Councillor Otto Sauer stated.

"South Tyrol's ability to successfully take on a variety of tasks at the highest level qualifies it to compete with the world class," was how Herbert Fritz, LVH President and official delegate from WorldSkills Italy, summed up the event. WorldSkills International President Tjerk Dusseldorp, who had come to Bolzano just for the event, was impressed and inspired by the organisation provided by the small region of South Tyrol as well as our outstanding performance.

LVH Director Hanspeter Munter observed that "vocational training in the schools and companies of South Tyrol is ripe for export."

During the three-day competition, 5,000 students of lower- and upper-level secondary schools, along with their teachers, got an in-depth look into today's fascinating world of trades and crafts, a realm in which a person's overall ability remains the key to success. With a total of almost 8,000 visitors, the Provincial Championships in Crafts and the Restaurant Trade succeeded in attracting wide public interest.

Organisers of the event were the LVH (Provincial Association of Craftsmen and Craftswomen) and the Bureau for German and Ladinian Vocational Education (Amt für deutsche und ladinische Berufsbildung). The South Tyrolean Cooks'



Association (SKV), the South Tyrolean Service Association, the South Tyrolean Gardeners' Association, the Business Association and the Italian Association for Vocational Training and Counselling were partners in the event. Numerous sponsors supported the event financially.

For more information please visit: www.lvh.it



FOCUS ON WORLDSKILLS YOUTH



WorldSkills Youth Forum update

By: Mikaeli Costello

WorldSkills Youth Forum delegates may be back to business in their home countries, but that's not to say that the dust has settled on their vision to bring bright ideas to the WorldSkills movement.

Employed with Swedish Electrical Organisation, EIO, Youth Forum delegate Pontus Slattman is working closely in the development of Sweden's National Competition. Pontus endeavours to share his experience at the Youth Forum to help develop an improved competition experience for Swedish competitors and visitors alike.

"When the Youth Forum met in Melbourne, Australia we came up with many good ideas on how to improve the WorldSkills Competition," says Pontus, "Instead of having a few big modules, we plan to have many small modules. In this way it will be easier for the audience passing by to see at least one whole module. Another benefit in working with smaller modules is that they make it easier for the experts to be able to present daily results. This of course is attractive for the audience."

Impressed by the success of try-a-trade at the Melbourne National Competition, Sweden will also be taking a new approach on integrating this into their competition.

To date reports back from the group detail that Singapore, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom are displaying signs of strong past-competitor networks developing.

Kian Ann Tan, Singaporean Youth Forum Delegate explains the progress being made in his home country. Kian Ann, as the Gold medallist in Information Technology Software Applications in 2001, led the development and initiation of the WorldSkills Singapore Network (WSN). Kian Ann, who is currently an undergraduate at the National University of Singapore, explains his reasoning behind the development of the WSN: "I think people who have experienced the WorldSkills Competition are very special people, and I really want to see what can happen when they work together with past and present competitors!" For more information please visit: <http://www.worldskills.sg/wsn/>

Similar activities are emerging in feedback from the



Pontus Slattman, Team Sweden 2003



Kian Ann Tan, Team Singapore 2005



Renate Langenhuijsen, Team Netherlands 2005

Netherlands Youth Forum representatives Renate Langenhuijsen and Patric Van Eck. "Patric and I have talked about the Youth Forum and how we can start a group/club in the Netherlands with old and new candidates," Renate said.

For more information on the WorldSkills Youth Forum please visit:
<http://www.worldskilsyouthforum.com/>



Patric Van Eck, Team Netherlands 2005

WorldSkills youth update: Canada

By: Menno Vanderlist, Team Canada 2005

It has already been a long time since the Youth Forum, but things have been going well. After the Youth Forum I had a chance to visit the Canadian National Skills Competition, and congratulate the new Team Canada for Japan 2007. The excitement for them is already starting to grow as they prepare and get closer to the competition in Japan.

The forum in May was definitely a great time, and a good opportunity to make new friends. Probably the greatest thing is to see how some of the recommendations are already being applied and put into practice.

I finished up my post-secondary two weeks before the forum, and am already several months into my permanent job as a security professional with Bell Canada. The experiences I gained through involvement with WorldSkills were great assets in obtaining this job. I am also still involved on the board of directors for WorldSkills Calgary 2009 and continue to remain involved with the Youth Forum.



Menno Vanderlist, Team Canada 2005

For more information on the WorldSkills Competition in Calgary 2009:

www.worldskills2009.com

How will the pilot WorldSkills Exchange Program work?

By: Mikaeli Costello, Youth Forum and WorldSkills Exchange Coordinator

By participating in the pilot WorldSkills Exchange program, a WorldSkills Champion is able to gain valuable work experience in their field in a different WorldSkills Member country/region for a short-term period. The program endeavours to provide maximum rewards with minimum disruption to the working 'homes' of the WorldSkills family.

For example: A Motor Mechanic from Sweden comes to Ireland to work at Land Rover for 6 months from June to December in 2007. In exchange a Motor Mechanic from Land Rover Ireland would be placed in Sweden (in the workplace of the Swedish Exchange Delegate).

How does a WorldSkills Champion qualify to take part in the WorldSkills Exchange Program?

In order to qualify for the WorldSkills Exchange program, a WorldSkills Champion will:

- Have competed at a regional/international Level
- Be between 23 and 28 years of age (at the commencement of the placement)
- Be engaged in full-time employment in one of the following six skill categories: web or graphic design; high end engineering (polymechanics, CNC, mechatronics); electrical (domestic or industrial); hairdressing; floristry; or motor mechanics
- Agree to return to their employer for a minimum of six months following the completion of the WorldSkills Exchange placement.

Several past WorldSkills competitors have participated in their own informal skills exchanges. It was from these pioneers that the WorldSkills Exchange Program was created. Read below to hear their stories.



WorldSkills youth exchange experience: Belgium

Florence Labar, Graphic Designer, Belgium

I competed at the 38th WorldSkills Competition in Helsinki, Finland in 2005 in the Graphic Design category. The WorldSkills Competition made me realise my knowledge in Graphic Design was high and corresponded to the level of the other countries. I was quite amazed to see that what I do at home is also done the same way everywhere in the world. What I've just said might seem really logical but still... I felt like the world is not that huge and a lot more accessible than what I thought. However the world will always be immense through my eyes because of all the different cultures, languages, landscapes, etc.

I think that my answer to the question "What has WorldSkills done for you?" is a bit uncommon compared to what I've heard from others. WorldSkills made me feel more confident about my skills in graphic design but it also increased my need to discover what is around me. It's not always something easy to do but I want to keep an open mind about the way people live, act and create all around Belgium, Europe and the World. I truly believe this will keep making me learn.

In November 2005, Tjerk Dusseldorp, the President of WorldSkills International, invited me to take part in the first Youth Forum in May 2006 in Melbourne. I was of course more than happy to answer yes at the proposition. Going to the other side of the world was a real opportunity for me. I wanted to benefit from this opportunity and combine the Youth Forum with a work experience in Australia. Thanks to the help of WorldSkills and the Australian graphic design Expert I got a placement at the McPherson Media Group in Shepparton and worked there for one month just before the Youth Forum.

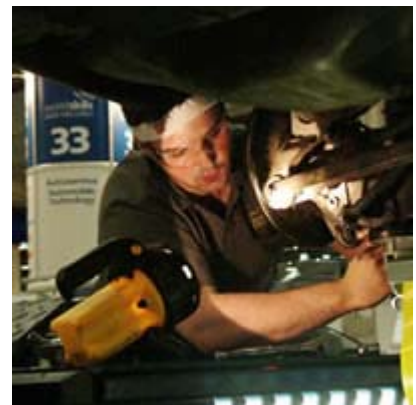
During the month I spent in Shepparton I discovered and learned about one of the different jobs a graphic designer can have. Working for a Newspaper was really interesting. The way of doing things was a bit different than what I was used to. Also it was the first time I had to work with all the programs in English instead of French. I hope my colleagues will remember some of the things I tried to show them as well. This experience was really useful and I enjoyed it a lot.



WorldSkills youth exchange experience: Ireland

Ross Wasson, Motor Mechanic, Ireland

After the WorldSkills Youth Forum in Melbourne, the Big Brother Big Sister movement supported me to take part in an exchange with the Ferrari workshop in Sydney. Here I worked for approximately six weeks learning the ins and outs of working with one of the world's most prestigious car brands. I really enjoyed the experience and have since been offered the opportunity to return and work at the Ferrari garage on a permanent basis. I had however already committed to a contract in Ireland managing the technical department of 14 Land Rover garages across the country. I do however see the immense value in a skills exchange program and would welcome any former WorldSkills Competitors interested in working in one of our Land Rover shops to come and join me in Ireland for a period.



Ross Wasson, Team Ireland 2005



WorldSkills youth exchange experience: Sweden

Hanna Jonnson, Florist, Sweden

At the WorldSkills Competition in St Gallen, I discussed with expert (and former competitor) Adrian Hertig, the possibility of taking part in an exchange in one of Adrian's stores, Hertig Fleurs in Switzerland. I was particularly interested in Friburg, as it is a French speaking Cantone in Switzerland, and I saw the extra opportunity to improve my French.

Within a couple of months Adrian had organised a placement for me to stay, I took some French classes and moved to Friburg. I have been here for almost 12 months and although the techniques I have been learning are a little different to those I learnt at home in Sweden, the personal development and social experiences I have gained have made it a very



Hanna Jonnson working in Hertig Fleurs, Switzerland



positive experience.

I would highly recommend that other WorldSkills competitors take part in an exchange.

For more information: Hertig Fleurs <http://www.hertigfleurs.ch>



Adrian Hertig's store, Hertig Fleurs

WorldSkills youth exchange experience: France

Auriane Vial, Hairdresser, France

In 2004 after I had competed in the WorldSkills Competition, I realised that it would be really great if I could go to an English speaking country to improve my communication skills. I did not know how exactly to go about this, so I packed my bags, went to England and knocked on the door of a hair salon and introduced myself as a WorldSkills Champion. Although my English was very poor, I was offered a position immediately.

In the time that I spent in England, my English improved greatly. I also learned many new things about hairdressing. When I returned from England I had the skills and confidence to open my own hairdressing salon. I have a sign on the door that tells people I can speak English and that I won a Silver Medal at the WorldSkills Competition.



Auriane Vial at work



Auriane Vial's Hairdressing Salon near Lyon, in the South of France

WorldSkills youth exchange experience: Austria

Eveline Wild, Pastry Chef, Austria

In January 2005, I started a two-year exchange to further my skills as a pastry chef in Germany. I have always had an interest in travelling, and after the WorldSkills Competition I left my small village in Innsbruck (Austria) to work for a very well known restaurant in Vienna. I was offered the opportunity to move to Germany through a colleague at work.

I was excited about the new opportunity to work somewhere different. Although I wasn't paid a very high wage, I gained from the experience of learning from some of the best pastry cooks in Germany as well as meeting new people and living in a new city. I one day hope to open my own restaurant.



Eveline Wild in Innsbruck, Austria

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. '06 - May '07	Preselection Competitions - Switzerland	www.swisscompetence.ch
Mar. 28 - 31st, 2007	French National Competition – Amiens, France	www.cofom.org/
Mar. 20 – 24 & May 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
Apr. 16 - 20, 2007	Skills Competitions as part of the International Industrial Hannover Fair – Hannover Messe, Hannover, Germany	www.hannovermesse.de
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
August 2007	Olimpíada do Conhecimento Goiás - Goiânia-Goiás, Brazil	www.senai.br
Nov. 14 - 21, 2007	39th WorldSkills Competition – Shizuoka, Japan	www.worldskills2007.com
Apr. 2008	National Competition, Jamaica	www.heart-nta.org
Sep. 8 – 12, 2008	General Assembly & Leaders Forum – Vienna, Austria	www.worldskills.org
Sept 18 - 20, 2008	EuroSkills Competition – Rotterdam, NL	www.euroskills2008.nl
Sep. 2 - 5, 2009	40th WorldSkills Competition – Calgary, Alberta, Canada	www.worldskills2009.com
Oct. 6 - 9, 2011	41st WorldSkills Competition – London, England, UK	www.worldskills2011.com



WorldSkills International Secretariat
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