



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.

Over the next several issues you will see a larger concentration on the upcoming 2007 WorldSkills Competition. As Members prepare teams, Experts prepare competition details, the Japanese Organising Committee prepare equipment, venues and accommodations and WorldSkills International prepare administrative and management support, the newsletter will aim to communicate up-to-date information regarding the developments for the 39th WorldSkills Competition.

We also want to communicate the steps and processes that Competitors take to make it to the WorldSkills Competition. If you would like to share a story about your team's preparation or a story about one Competitor's journey please contact me at michelle.bussey@worldskills.org

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



WorldSkills International news

Technical Committee Meeting in April in Japan

In April 2007, approximately 100 representatives from across the globe came to Japan for the Technical Committee meetings. 6-7 months before a WorldSkills Competition this group gets together to discuss matters relating to the final preparations of Competitors, Experts and Delegates. The meetings lasted for four days and included hotel and venue tours. Seeing the Competition venue really helped a lot of the delegates to visualise the logistics of the event. The state-of-the-art buildings will be able to handle the volume of spectators and the large equipment needed for the various skill categories. The Japanese Organising Committee is continuing to work hard to accommodate all the requests and suggestions made by the Technical Delegates. Now with just over 6 months to go before the Competition, all eyes are looking to Japan with anticipation.



Delegates at the Technical Committee Meeting

VIP Experience venues secured

Now that WorldSkills International is in the middle of the roll-out of the VIP Experience program, the potential participants names are starting to flow back in. With limited registration the program is gaining momentum. In April, representatives from the VIP Working Group toured the venues that the VIPs will be seeing in November. The area of Tokyo where the VIPs will be staying is called Roppongi Hills and boasts a huge array of shops, restaurants, night clubs, and historic and cultural venues. Planning for the logistics of the VIP Experience is well under way and the VIPs will certainly receive exceptional treatment from the time they land at Narita Airport to the time they depart again.

To learn more about the VIP Experience please visit:
www.worldskillsleadersforum.com



Calling all cabinet makers, tilers, hairdressers, IT specialists and other skills professionals...

WorldSkills International is giving former WorldSkills Competitors the chance to learn more about their skill on a global scale, whilst being mentored by a WorldSkills endorsed employer, for 6-18 months in another Member country / region.

Placements currently available for any time during 2007/2008 are listed below; however placements can be sourced in other WorldSkills Member countries/regions at the request of Champions.

Australia	Wall and floor tiling
Australia	Sheetmetal
Australia	Tool making
Australia	Joinery
Australia	Hairdressing
Ireland	Automobile technology (2 placements)
Sweden	Electrical installations
Sweden	Metal roofing
UK	Cabinetmaking

The criteria for the person taking part in the exchange is that they are no older than 28 by the end of 2007 and have competed internationally.



For more info visit: www.worldskillschampions.com

Any Champions, Experts, Delegates, Team Leaders or other Employers that are interested in getting involved, please contact Mikaeli Costello:
mikaeli.costello@worldskills.org or phone +44 (0) 207 612 9282

Mikaeli Costello
WorldSkills Champions Project Coordinator



Upcoming WorldSkills International (WSI) initiatives

Countdown to WorldSkills Competition 2007

As the 39th WorldSkills Competition draws closer, WorldSkills International and the Japanese Organising Committee for the International Skills Festival for All (JOCISF) are pledging to have a section in each WSI newsletter dedicated to Competition preparation updates. Please watch for these regular updates of important information.

Marketing and Communications discussion forum

In order to better promote and raise the awareness of the WorldSkills movement's successes throughout the world, WorldSkills International has created a Marketing and Communications discussion forum. The purpose of this discussion forum is to bring together Marketing representatives from our Member organisations to share ideas, brainstorm, and exchange information. The forum will be able to talk about initiatives that are taking place in their regions and learn from each other. Also WorldSkills International will utilise this group to facilitate the sharing and distribution of marketing opportunities and resources amongst our Members. Leading up to the WorldSkills Competition in Japan, a new section has been added on this discussion forum to keep the members up-to-date on promotions relating to the Competition. If you would like more information on this discussion forum or know someone that might be interested in joining please contact Michelle Bussey at michelle.bussey@worldskills.org.



COUNTDOWN TO WSC2007



One School One Country program

During the recent Technical Committee meetings in Numazu City, Japan in April, 2007, a new program was announced to the Technical Delegates (TDs). "One School One Country" is designed so that each Member team coming to the 39th WorldSkills Competition is paired up with a local school in the Shizuoka Prefecture. This program is a special education program designed for Numazu City's elementary and junior high school students. On the last day of the Technical Committee meetings, a student from each school was brought in to meet their TD. Emotions were high as the students and the TDs began to exchange names, and the schools presented gifts of artwork to their Member teams.

The joy of this program is that each Member team will get to correspond with their school in advance through email, letters, exchange of photos, etc. The school will then research and learn as much about "their" Member team over the next several months and become a personal cheer squad. Besides cheering, the schools hope that this program will encourage students to develop and research a variety of areas. For example, to learn about the history of WorldSkills International, to study the culture of participating countries/regions, to learn about each skill category, to experience cultural exchanges, to recognise the importance of skills, and to see the unique exchange and comparison of skills.

It is up to the Members how much they correspond with the schools in advance and what information or materials that they send the schools. Some ideas would be to send the school flags, music and photos of your country/region so that the students can embrace the idea of cheering your competitors on during the Competition. Your member team may also like to bring small gifts which reflect the culture of your country/region, to present to your allocated School in November.

If you have any questions on the One School One Country program please let me know. You can send your questions or comments to michelle.bussey@worldskills.org



Numazu and Shizuoka launch websites to promote the WorldSkills Competition

By: Michelle Bussey, WorldSkills International

As part of the promotion and awareness for the WorldSkills Competition, the host city, Numazu City, has put together a video that shows people more about their City. Although the website is only in Japanese it gives you an idea of the excitement that is growing within the city as the WorldSkills Competition gets closer. It also has plenty of pictures and maps to get familiar with the area. Of additional interest is the blog that the City of Numazu has started, they have updates on the One School One Country program as well as other key events.

<http://www.gokigen-numazu.com/>
<http://www.gokigen-numazu.com/movie/webver.html>
<http://www.gokigen-numazu.com/blog/>

Also the host prefecture of Shizuoka has put together an English website for people to learn more about the International Skills Festival for All. On this website you can find pictures and information about the Ceremonies venues. It also has some useful links to cultural sites to see in Japan and Shizuoka Prefecture.

<http://www.pref.shizuoka.jp/syoukou/syo-2007/english/index.html>

Both websites are very useful in learning more about the areas that the Competitors, delegates and



observers will be visiting in November. I recommend visiting them and watching the video linked above; it gives a snapshot look at the city, the people, and the culture of Shizuoka.



Commemorative Coins for the International Skills Festival for All, Japan 2007

By: Miyuki Yoshida, JOCISF

At the recent meetings between the Japanese Organising Committee for the International Skills Festival for All (JOCISF) and WorldSkills International (WSI) it was announced that the Japanese Ministry of Finance will mint coins to commemorate the International Skills Festival for All, Japan 2007 which is the overarching festival incorporating both the WorldSkills Competition and the International Abilitylympics Competition in November.



“Commemorative 1000 yen coin of the International Skills Festival 2007” will not be sold below the face value and manufacturing costs incurred. The face value is 1000 yen but the sales price is 6000 yen.

The scheduled date of release is around October, 2007 and 80000 coins will be minted. The design includes rainbows and the Skills Festival 2007 symbol mark on one side, and Mt. Fuji on the other side. This is a coloured coin. A 1000 yen silver premium coin will be minted for the first time in many years and it is very rare for a coloured coin. This coin will attract a great amount of attention from many coin collectors.

This is exciting news for WorldSkills International as it will be a lasting legacy for the WorldSkills Competition. As they are a limited edition it will increase the significance of these coins. Already several Japanese newspapers have picked up on the story and have printed articles announcing the coins.

For more information please visit: <http://www.mof.go.jp/english/ec/ekk190417.htm>



STORIES FROM THE WORLDSKILLS MEMBERS



Skills Finland's “Passport to health and safety skills” won an EU award

Contributed by: Skills Finland

Eight organisations from across Europe have won prestigious “Good Practice Awards” for improving health and safety for young workers. The European “Good Practice Awards 2006” were given to acknowledge the positive contributions made to promote the occupational safety and health of young people. One of the awarded organisations was Skills Finland with its “Passport to health and safety skills: resources and competition”. The winners received their awards at the closing ceremony of the European Week for Safety and Health at Work on 22 March in the Euskalduna Centre, Bilbao. On behalf of Skills Finland the award was received by Project Manager Ms Riikka Ruotsala and Director General, The Finnish National Board of Education and Vice President of Skills Finland Ms Kirsi Lindroos.



Passport to health and safety skills

The Excellence in Health and Safety at Work project was coordinated by Skills Finland and carried out

in cooperation with the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, and funded by the Finnish Work Environment Fund and the Veto Programme of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health. An educational package called 'Passport to health and safety skills' was developed with health and safety included for the first time in the WorldSkills 2005 Competition

The aim was to develop health and safety material to support teaching and learning, and to plan practical tools for promoting occupational safety and health in the education of young people in vocational schools and on-the job training.

For the first time in the 50-year history of the WorldSkills Competition explicit safety instructions were drawn up and occupational safety and health (OSH) was a significant factor in the evaluation process. All Technical Delegates of the 40 participating countries were provided with instructions on OSH.

Running competitions and coaching young competitors was found to be an excellent method for promoting occupational safety and health. The competitions involved enterprises and educational establishments from about 40 different skills, and promoted cooperation between schools and businesses. Through this co-operation both partners became more aware of the importance of OSH issues at work and for workers' health. Young competitors who were awarded are good role models for students in vocational education and for other young people at the start of their work careers.

Other awarded organisations came from Austria, Denmark, Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom.

For more information please visit: www.skillsfinland.com



French National Skills Competition

Contributed by: WorldSkills France

From 28-31 of March, 2007, WorldSkills France organised its national competition in Amiens, the capital of the Picardy region.

673 young men and women from all regions of France participated in this competition which served as the selection process for the French Skills Team, which will compete in Shizuoka, Japan in November 2007.

During the three days, 60,000 visitors, mainly students who are looking for careers advice, came to Amiens to encourage the young competitors and to discover skill occupations like tiler, joiner, jeweller or still solderer. 48 professions were represented during the competition in all!

Here are a few figures from French Skills Competition in Amiens:

- 6 days to set up the site
- 17 000 m2 of competition surface
- 17 high schools and 20 education centres mobilised for the Skills Competition organisation in Picardy
- 485 juries, including 50 jury presidents
- 1 000 volunteers to organise the competition
- 21 working hours during 3 days
- 4 000 lunches served per day
- 1 profession in demonstration: blacksmith's job

For more information please visit: www.cofom.org





Europe in the spotlight at Dutch Skills Masters

Contributed by: Skills Netherlands

The third edition of Skills Masters, the Dutch Skills Championships, was held in March 2007 and was bigger than ever; more visitors, more exhibitors and more entertainment. And above all, there was 'breaking news' concerning the ongoing development of EuroSkills, the pan-European skills event held in 2008 also in the venue Ahoy (Rotterdam). During Skills Masters the European Skills Promotion Organisation (ESPO) was officially inaugurated. Jos de Goey, Managing Director of Skills Netherlands was appointed the first President of ESPO. The main objectives of this new organisation are the further development and coordination of the upcoming and future EuroSkills events. More than a hundred and fifty special guests, including WorldSkills International delegates and representatives of European countries interested in joining EuroSkills attended the ESPO Founding Meeting and also visited the EuroSkills Preview. At this first trial of EuroSkills 2008, demonstrations of teamwork and integrated competitions were given in the sectors Construction Technology, Manufacturing Technology, Refrigeration Technology, Automotive Technology and Graphic Media.

Unique opportunity

Skills Masters has proven that its formula of bringing together national skills competitions, vocational education institutes and employers is an attractive one for youngsters of 14 – 20 years of age. For them, Skills Masters is a unique opportunity to experience modern trades and to get informed about their future education and jobs. The key to success in this is the combination of seeing skills competitions & demonstrations, participating in hands-on activities and finally gaining information from sector organisations, schools and employees.

Almost twenty five thousand people visited Skills Masters, of which the majority were recruited by special educational programmes. Besides there was free transport from schools to the Ahoy exhibition centre in Rotterdam.

European approach

In the past few months almost all European countries have shown serious interest in participating in EuroSkills 2008. To secure a truly European approach, a strong network of Skills organisations in Europe is a necessity. ESPO will establish that network and shall support its members in their preparatory work for EuroSkills. These and other, more promotional, activities are financed by the European Commission (Directorate-general Education and Culture) as part of its Lifelong Learning programme. At the founding meeting in Rotterdam an Executive Board was also established, in addition to Jos de Goey (The Netherlands) the following members; Eija Alhojarvi (Finland), Stefan Praschl (Austria), Kevin Woods (UK) and Antonio Caldeira (Portugal) joined the Executive Board. In the coming months ESPO will start its first activities, after finalising legal and financial affairs.

For more information please visit: www.skills-netherlands.nl and www.euroskills2008.nl



1st CroatiaSkills Zagreb 2007

Contributed by: CroatiaSkills

We are very proud to have organised one of the biggest national skills competitions in this part of the world. The **1st CroatiaSkills Zagreb 2007**, was held in Zagreb (Croatia) on 20-21st April 2007.

50,000 spectators visited the Zagreb Fair (Pavilion 1- 14400 m²) in order to see today's vocational training in action. The Competition was successful and the atmosphere was cheerful with over 810 youngsters competing in 38 different skills. In every skill the best three competitors were awarded with medals. The Croatian Team will compete in 4 skills in Shizuoka, Japan in November 2007.

For more information please visit: www.croatiaskills.hr





HEART Trust/NTA Executives and WorldSkills Official Delegate pay courtesy call on Governor General

Contributed by: WorldSkills Jamaica

Mr. Donald Foster, Executive Director of the HEART Trust/National Training Agency makes a presentation to the Governor General of Jamaica, His Excellency the Most Honourable Professor Kenneth Hall. The occasion was a courtesy call at Kings House, the Governor General's official residence. Also in the picture is Ms Pamela Mckenzie, National Programmes Director.



WorldSkills Jamaica's Official Delegate Kevin Mullings (1st right) used the opportunity to introduce the Governor General to the WorldSkills concept as well as providing an update on preparations for Jamaica's participation in the 2007 WorldSkills Shizuoka Japan competition as well as the next National Skills Competition scheduled for April 2008.

For more information please visit: www.heart-nta.org



FOCUS ON RECOGNISING THOSE THAT HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE WORLDSKILLS MOVEMENT

Recognising those that have contributed to the WorldSkills movement

By: Michelle Bussey, WorldSkills International

There are literally thousands of people across the world that have been touched in some way or another by the WorldSkills movement. There are equally as many people that have contributed to it. It is difficult at times to recognise everyone that has volunteered countless hours, given freely of themselves, or been that passionate leader in their region. But WorldSkills International would like to try to reach as many of those contributors as possible. There are several ways to recognise someone that has made an outstanding contribution to the WorldSkills movement. The first would be to write a story about their efforts and share it with us so that we can announce it to the world through the newsletter and the WorldSkills Portal. The second way would be to nominate the person for a Certificate of Merit. The final way would be to nominate the person to become an Honorary Member of WorldSkills International.



WorldSkills International is always eager to gather stories from Members about a person that has really carried the passion of the WorldSkills movement in their region. Through the WorldSkills newsletter and the WorldSkills Portal (www.worldskillsportal.com) we are trying to compile all these amazing stories in one place to demonstrate the magnitude of impact the WorldSkills movement is having on the world.

There are official processes for nominating people for the Certificate of Merit or for Honorary positions. These processes are clearly laid out in the WorldSkills International Standing Orders.

4.4.1. Certificates of Merit: Once a year the Secretary General of WorldSkills International shall invite Members to submit written proposals nominating distinguished individuals for the award of a Certificate of Merit for consideration by the Executive Board and approval by the General Assembly.

4.3.1. Honorary President and Honorary Member: Any Member may submit written proposals to the Secretary General nominating distinguished past Delegates for Honorary Member or for appointment of



the past President of the Organisation as Honorary President. These proposals will be approved by the Executive Board and presented to the General Assembly for ratification.

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



WSI Certificate of Merit – Mr Krešimir Rašan (Croatia)

Contributed by CroatiaSkills

Rotterdam – 15 March 2007 – Strategy Committee

“WorldSkills International is pleased to present you with a Certificate of Merit in recognition of your outstanding contribution towards the establishment and development of CroatiaSkills as the WorldSkills International Member for Croatia, and in appreciation of your time, enthusiasm and commitment in the development of skills recognition and promotion within Croatia.”

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



WSI Certificate of Merit was presented to Mr. Krešimir Rašan, M.S. and Assistant to Minister of Ministry of Science, Education and Sports by Davor Dinter, President of CroatiaSkills.



My involvement with WorldSkills: Honorary Member of WorldSkills

By: Bryan Jones, WorldSkills International Honorary Member

“My involvement in what was to become WorldSkills Australia began in 1980 with the establishment of the first Australian Apprentice of the Year Award. Prior to that date each state conducted their own Apprentice of the year. The Evatt Foundation of which Tjerk Dusseldorp was the Executive Director instigated this National award. As usual the promotion of apprenticeships and youth training has always been a difficult proposition and the organising of the first national award was no different. Following on from this successful event, further efforts were made to raise the profile of apprenticeship training. The International Vocational Training Organisation (IVTO) was seen as a useful vehicle to further promote apprenticeships in Australia. In 1981 Tjerk, four young apprentices and myself set off for Atlanta in the USA to see for ourselves the 26th Skill Olympics. Not knowing what to expect of the whole event and the dedication of the apprentices taking part, the organisers and experts soon convinced us of the value of such an event in Australia.



From left to right: Tjerk Dusseldorp, President of WorldSkills International; Bryan Jones, Honorary Member of WorldSkills International; John Shiel, Technical Delegate for Australia; Bob Puffet, recently retired Official Delegate and Chairman of the Board of WorldSkills Australia.

The next 18 months were a whirl of activity, convincing governments, educators, trainers and employers of the value of such an undertaking. Also we had to establish WorldSkills Australia regional committees and conduct the first National competition in Melbourne in 1982, prior to taking our first team to Austria in 1983. In the mean time I was selected to be the first Australian Technical Delegate to the IVTO with Tjerk as the Official Delegate. We were of course on a steep learning curve, which was not without its dramas.

Our first foray into the International arena in 1983 at the Austrian competition in Linz saw the 12 Australian competitors present themselves admirably even though no medals were won. From that time, events until the 28th WorldSkills Competition held in Sydney during our bicentennial year were just a whirl, the most memorable being the attainment of Australia's first Gold Medal by Glen Brasen in the bricklaying category in Japan during 1985.

The Skill Olympics in Sydney rounded off for me the most exciting period of my career. I felt that I could step down from the role of Technical Delegate and Chairman of Technical Committees for WorldSkills Australia, knowing we had an organisation as good as, if not better than, many others in the world.

The award of the Order of Australia Medal in 1996 for service to Training in Australia made me exceptionally proud as did my role in the establishment of WorldSkills Australia.”



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:
Apr. – Oct. 2007	UK-wide Competitions – UK	www.skillschallengecompetitions.org.uk
May – Dec. 2007	Switzerland – National and Regional Skills Competitions	www.swisscompetence.ch
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
Oct. 1-5, 2007	Olimpíada do Conhecimento State Stage of Santa Catarina – Chapecó, 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
April 16 – 19, 2008	National Skills Competition (Preselection for WSC2009) - Luxembourg	www.men.lu
Sep. 8 – 12, 2008	General Assembly & Leaders Forum – Vienna, Austria	www.worldskills2008.com
Sept 18 - 20, 2008	EuroSkills Competition – Rotterdam, NL	www.euroskills2008.nl
Sep. 1 – 6, 2009	40th WorldSkills Competition – Calgary, Alberta, Canada	www.worldskills2009.com
Oct. 5 - 10, 2011	41st WorldSkills Competition – London, England, UK	www.worldskills2011.com



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