





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

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### In this issue...

#### News from WorldSkills International

- [Editorial](#)
- [Iceland becomes a Member of WorldSkills International](#)
- [Champions Passport](#)
- [VIP Experience](#)
- [Denmark joins the WorldSkills Portal](#)
- [Members profile their 2007 teams on the WorldSkills Portal](#)
- [WorldSkills Champions Exchange](#)

#### Countdown to WSC2007

- [Useful information](#)
- [Excursions and hospitality events](#)
- [Tips for Japan](#)

#### Stories from WorldSkills Members

- [Denmark: Team Denmark is getting ready for WSC2007](#)
- [India: India prepares for WorldSkills Competition](#)

#### Upcoming Events

- [Upcoming WorldSkills events](#)

## News from WorldSkills International



### Editorial

By Christine Scoot

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.

As mentioned in Vol.6 we have a forum dedicated to discussing and informing Members about the WSI Marketing & Communication initiatives, before, during and after WSC2007. We would like to encourage all Members to have a Marketing and Communications representative on this forum as important information relating to the media and promotions of the WSC are being discussed on a daily basis. If you are involved with marketing, communication and media in your Member country/region please feel free to join the forum, we welcome any input, remarks and suggestions. You can register here: <http://forum-marketing.worldskills.org/>.

With only days to go before the big event I am sure that everyone is busy in making the last preparations. Why not sit back relax and have a good read about the many ongoing activities leading up to the forthcoming Competition.

As this will be the last newsletter we distribute before the 39<sup>th</sup> WorldSkills Competition in Shizuoka I would like, on behalf of the WSI Secretariat, to take the opportunity to wish everyone a successful and memorable Competition. We are looking forward to welcoming all of you in Japan.

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



## Iceland becomes a Member of WorldSkills International

WorldSkills International is pleased to welcome a new Member to the movement. Iceland joined WorldSkills in the beginning of October and will be represented in Plumbing with a Competitor and an Expert.

We look forward to welcoming Iceland's Official Delegate, Erling Erlingsson, and Technical Delegate, Thor Palsson in Japan, along with Iceland's first competitor and expert. WorldSkills International has been in close contact with Erling and Thor and they are very excited about their participation in Japan. Please help us in giving Iceland a warm welcome in Shizuoka.

Iceland is the 49th country to join WorldSkills International.



## Champions Passport

During the upcoming WorldSkills Competition in Japan, WorldSkills International is going to launch a new initiative called the Champions Passport. The idea behind the passport is simple; track and recognise what the Competitors do and achieve so that they have something to show for their efforts. The Passport will grow with them as they continue through their career. There are places for employer references, future WSI involvement, etc... It also highlights and promotes the link between the Champion and the Portal. By directing people to the Portal from the Passport, Champions can utilise their page on the Portal as an online curriculum vitae. The Youth Forum Team will have their Passports to show the Competitors and promote the initiative.

For more information on the Champions Passport please contact Michelle Bussey at [michelle.bussey@worldskills.org](mailto:michelle.bussey@worldskills.org)



## VIP Experience

The response to the WorldSkills VIP Experience for the 39<sup>th</sup> WorldSkills Competition in Shizuoka has been overwhelming. There are now over 150 VIPs registered for components of the program, representing over 15 different countries. With the participants confirmed the Global Skills Seminars during the VIP Experience have been decided upon:

### **Seminar #1: Why Competitions? The need, the support, the legacy**

This session talks about the importance to a region, the local economy and youth for hosting a Competition.

### **Seminar #2: The Youth Experience**

In this session young Champions will tell their stories and outline what WorldSkills and skills education in general have done for them.

### **Seminar #3: Raising the bar in Competitions in 2009, 2011, and beyond**

This session investigates and explores the future of WorldSkills Competitions.

### **Seminar #4: State of the art methods to promote the image of skills**

Hear from "SkillsOne", an organisation that is doing incredibly innovative things in Australia to grab the attention of youth, employers, parents, educators and governments.

For more information on the VIP Experience please contact Michelle Bussey at [michelle.bussey@worldskills.org](mailto:michelle.bussey@worldskills.org)



## Denmark joins the WorldSkills Portal





We are proud to announce that yet another Member has decided to profile their national team on the WorldSkills Portal. Denmark has recently joined, adding photos and profiles for their 12 Competitors who are going to compete in Japan. The Member Organisation, DK-Skills, has recently managed to spark interest from the National press (read more in the "Stories from our Members" section) and will be using the Portal as an important

marketing tool. The profiles are only available in Danish to start with but DK-Skills are hoping to add English translations soon.



Using the Portal is a simple process and we look forward to welcoming other Members in the future. If you would like more information about how to take advantage of this promotional tool please contact Michelle Bussey: [michelle.bussey@worldskills.org](mailto:michelle.bussey@worldskills.org).



## Members profile their 2007 teams on the WorldSkills Portal

Since the launch of the WorldSkills Portal in March this year, there has been a steady addition of content from WorldSkills Members. WorldSkills Australia and Skills Netherlands have used the opportunity to update their country-specific pages by profiling their 2007 teams. In addition to more Members adding content to the Portal, Members already on the Portal are continually updating their profiles and enhancing their presence. This helps to keep the Portal fresh and up-to-date. To view the amazing growth of content on the WorldSkills Portal please visit: [www.worldskillsportal.com](http://www.worldskillsportal.com).



## WorldSkills Champions Exchange

By Mikaeli Costello, WorldSkills Champions Exchange Coordinator

To ensure that the Competitors Village will be warm, welcoming and a sanctuary from the pressures of the Competition, the WorldSkills CHAMPIONS exchange team has volunteered to co-ordinate a mix of relaxed and low-impact activities around all three of the Villages each evening for those Competitors who wish to take part.

Drawing on their experience as Competitors in the past, the group will facilitate an 'Exchange Lounge' at all three Competitors' Villages, where each evening after dinner, the WorldSkills CHAMPIONS exchange team will also conduct guided walks around the Villages for any Competitors that wish to stomp out their pent up energy after a hard day's work.

Not forgetting those Competitors that prefer to keep to themselves of an evening, the WorldSkills CHAMPIONS exchange team are working with WSI to design activities and games to help Competitors unwind after the long Competition days.

As this type of activity is a first for WorldSkills, we welcome feedback from Members, Delegates, Team Leaders and Competitors alike about any of these proposed activities, so please feel free to contact me at [mikaeli.costello@worldskills.org](mailto:mikaeli.costello@worldskills.org) and let me know your thoughts on this.





## Useful information

Here is some additional information that you may find useful during the Competition.

**Service centre for language support:** This service will enable you to dial for help if you run in to any communication problems. Simply dial the number, in the handbook provided to you when arriving in Japan, and you will get immediate help with translation. For example when travelling by taxi and you want to explain where you want to go, call the service centre and they can communicate directly with the driver in Japanese. The service centre is open from 08:00am - 6:00pm from November 8-21. Tel.: +81 (0) 55926 3930

### Post office:

A temporary post office is being set up where it is possible to buy stamps and mail letters and parcels.

### Money exchange:

A money exchange booth will be open three hours a day, between 11:00am and 2:00pm. The currencies available for exchange are: AUD, CAD, EUR, GBP, KRW, SFR, TWD, USD, and of course JPY.

### ATM (cash machine):

An ATM will be available from November 12-19 and the hours of operation are 11:00am and 2:00pm.



## Excursions and hospitality events

A set of optional tours have been arranged by JOCISF.

The Experts and Technical delegates will have a number of options on November 9. There is a choice of visiting the Competitors Village, a shopping trip to a famous electronic retailer, a historical tour to Numazu Goyoutei from where Mount Fuji can be seen, or finally you could visit the Sano Museum and Mishima Shrine which is more than 2000 years old. The last tour will also give you an opportunity to come closer to the ancient Japanese culture.

Everyone gathers together at the end of the day for a Welcome Reception at the Competition site.

On November 12, Numazu City invites Member teams to visit their supporting Japanese school through the One School One Country support program. This school visit will also be followed by a Welcome Reception. Please visit: <http://www.gokigen-numazu.com/> for more information about your school and for more information about the plan for your team's visit to its school.

After the Competition there will be an option to visit one of the largest machine tool production factories in Japan, Toshiba Machine, whose headquarters is in Numazu. This excursion is available for all Experts and Observers on November 21.

### WorldSkills Welcome Festival

A welcome event has been arranged at the Gotemba Competitor's Village on November 20. The event celebrates the exchange of the many different nationalities and cultures taking part in a WorldSkills Competition. There will be four zones within the area: The Japanese Cultural Experience zone, a Stage Event zone, the Exchange Event zone and a Tourism/Public Relations Zone. The four zones will guide the participants through the Japanese culture in all its exotic mystery and beauty.



## Tips for Japan

### By A Member with Japanese contacts

The name of Japan is "*Nippon*" (or "*Nihon*") The characters that make up Japan's name mean "sun-origin", which is why Japan is sometimes identified as the "Land of the Rising Sun". Japan is comprised of 4 islands where 71% is mountains, with 76 active volcanoes.

**Population & climate:** 127.5 million inhabitants. Japan is an ageing society with high life expectancy: Male 79y, female 86y. Only 10% of the land is habitable, so there is severe pressure on space.

Japan has 4 distinct seasons. Summer is hot and humid; June/July is the rainy season (good for rice). Winters bring a lot of snow. Typhoons are common in the late summer and early autumn. In November we will have around 17-19 degrees

**Transport:** People drive on the left; there are no roundabouts; taxi doors are opened automatically. Lateness is looked down upon. When using taxis ensure to bring the address and details with you.

**Business etiquette and structures:** Bowing: 15%, 30%, 45%: the more senior and elderly the person, the lower the bow. When people are leaving, one bows till they are out of sight. Do not turn your back on people you are leaving. Handshakes are fine, but not other physical contact.

**Business cards & gift-giving:** *Meishi*: have a card holder to keep them clean etc; keep them close to the heart and never in a back pocket. Give and take them with both hands. Never push cards across a table or ask others to pass them on. Always go to the person and hand over the card physically. It is good to ask about the meanings of names, since all names will have meanings. Don't write on cards when the person is there. Job titles matter and Japanese people like to know where people fit within hierarchies.

Don't open gifts given to you unless pressed to do so. Don't offer gifts unwrapped. (Japanese wrapping is highly skilled; you might want to use a gift bag as an alternative).

**Etiquette:** One uses the family and then the personal name; there are no middle names. At work one does not use personal names. Attach *San* to the family name; for intimate relations attach *San* to personal name. Never add *San* to your own name. For adults you can also refer to the job title and then add *San*.

### Eating with chopsticks:

**Hashi** = Chopsticks. Put them on a stand when not using them. Don't use them to skewer food and don't point with them. Turn them around and use the other end to take food from a communal bowl.





### Denmark: Team Denmark is getting ready for WSC2007

By Pia Hegner, Technical Delegate, Denmark

The Danish Competitors met each other for the first and only time before the WorldSkills Competition in the last weekend of September. The meeting took place in a simple hut in the woods, and although the weather was wet and grey, as it often is this time of year, the atmosphere was warm and friendly.



Denmark has the biggest team ever for Shizuoka - 12 Competitors - and three of the skills are first timers: Painting and Decorating, Printing and Graphic Design. We are also introducing a new Team Leader, Theis Fatum Carlsen, who runs his own coaching company and has a past career as a bricklayer.

The teambuilding weekend was solely for building up trust and friendship among the young Competitors, talking about hopes and aspirations - and how to handle ups and downs during the Competition days. We also spent some time establishing "tribal rules", meaning how we behave in different situations and what are the general rules for the team outside the Competition. After a long and exhausting couple of days came the final team test. In small groups of three the Competitors had to cook different Asiatic dishes for dinner - and eat the meal with chopsticks. Needless to say this great team also faced up to this challenge and even seemed to enjoy it.



#### Media attention

Team Denmark is also grabbing media attention. There will be a film produced on Team Denmark in Japan 2007 sponsored by the Ministry of Education. As well local newspapers are doing several articles on Team Denmark and next week they have a spot on national television.

#### Great expectations

We are really looking forward to coming to Shizuoka and meeting the rest of the nations in a fair and transparent Competition. The Danish team now has a feeling of unity, and I feel confident that they will compete to the best of their ability and return home with great memories - medals or not!

For more information about the WSI Member in Denmark please visit: [www.dk-skills.dk](http://www.dk-skills.dk)



### India: India prepares for WorldSkills Competition

By Wing Commander B. C Prabhakar

There was enthusiasm amongst the Indian Competitors for the WSI Competitions when motivational seminars and mock skills tests were organised in Bangalore, the Silicon City of India. An invitation to Toyota Motors and a motivational talk from a WorldSkills Competition gold medal winner added to the excitement and enthusiasm. The two-day seminar was followed by mock skills tests at Forman Training Institute and Mico Bosch Bangalore in Welding and Electrical Installations. Mock tests were also scheduled in Industrial Control, CNC Milling and Mould Making at different industries in the 3rd week of September. The entire team consisting of Competitors, the Technical Delegate, Experts and Observers gathered in Bangalore to exchange their views and strengthen the team spirit.



For more information about the WSI Member in India please visit: [www.ciionline.org](http://www.ciionline.org)



### Upcoming WorldSkills events

Do you have events that you want to see here, send them to [christine.scoot@worldskills.org](mailto:christine.scoot@worldskills.org) by the first of every month.

Date:	Event:	Website/Contact:
May - Dec. 2007	Switzerland - National and Regional Skills Competitions	<a href="http://www.swisscompetence.ch">www.swisscompetence.ch</a>
June - Nov. 2007	WorldSkills Australia national and regional competitions	<a href="http://www.worldskills.org.au">www.worldskills.org.au</a>
Nov. 14 - 21, 2007	39 <sup>th</sup> WorldSkills Competition - Shizuoka, Japan	<a href="http://www.worldskills2007.com">www.worldskills2007.com</a>
January 2008	4th National Skills Competition - Brunei Darussalam	<a href="http://www.dte.edu.bn">www.dte.edu.bn</a>
Mar. 6-8, 2008	Skills Masters, National Competition - Rotterdam, NL	<a href="http://www.skillsmasters.nl">www.skillsmasters.nl</a>
Mar. 6-8, 2008	Skills Talents, National Competition - Rotterdam, NL	<a href="http://www.skillstalents.nl">www.skillstalents.nl</a>
Apr. 2008	National Competition - Jamaica	<a href="http://www.heart-nta.org">www.heart-nta.org</a>
Apr. 16 - 19, 2008	National Skills Competition (Preselection for WSC2009) - Luxemburg	<a href="http://www.luxskill.lu">www.luxskill.lu</a>
May 15-17, 2008	National Competition, Jönköping, Sweden	<a href="http://www.youthskillssweden.com">www.youthskillssweden.com</a>
Sept. 8 - 12, 2008	General Assembly & Leaders Forum - Vienna, Austria	<a href="http://www.worldskills.org">www.worldskills.org</a>
Sept. 18 - 20, 2008	EuroSkills Competition - Rotterdam, NL	<a href="http://www.euroskills2008.nl">www.euroskills2008.nl</a>
October 2008	National Competition, Stavanger, Norway	<a href="http://www.worldskills.no">www.worldskills.no</a>
End Oct. 2008	Local Youth Skills Competition - Hong Kong	<a href="http://youthskills.vtc.edu.hk">youthskills.vtc.edu.hk</a>
Nov. 2008	Guangzhou/ Hong Kong/ Macau Youth Skills Competition	<a href="http://youthskills.vtc.edu.hk">youthskills.vtc.edu.hk</a>
Sep. 1 - 6, 2009	40 <sup>th</sup> WorldSkills Competition - Calgary, Alberta, Canada	<a href="http://www.worldskills2009.com">www.worldskills2009.com</a>
Oct. 5 - 10, 2011	41 <sup>st</sup> WorldSkills Competition - London, England, UK	<a href="http://www.worldskills2011.com">www.worldskills2011.com</a>



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