




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

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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.

On behalf of the Secretariat I would like to thank everyone for the huge amount of support that we experienced before, during and after the WorldSkills 2007 Competition in Shizuoka. We can not thank you enough for the hard work everyone put into making the event a truly memorable one. We are looking forward to continuing our work together as we now move towards WorldSkills Calgary 2009.

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



What can we learn from the WorldSkills Shizuoka Experience?

By **Tjerk Dusseldorp, President, WorldSkills International**

Just the change of a single word can make so much difference to the meaning of a sentence. If I'd written "Competition" instead of "Experience" you would have expected me to focus on all the outstanding successes of the Competition - the record number of competitors and visitors, and the massive logistics and cost involved in staging the event and so on.



But by focusing on the WorldSkills "Experience" I think we get to our purpose and role which is animating a world wide skill and learning network of individuals, organisations, agencies and communities to promote the essential contribution that skills make to any society.

I believe the overall WorldSkills Experience in Shizuoka was significantly richer than ever before, simply because I could see that the experience of all our key stakeholders were significantly enhanced, as they were meant to be.

Of course our young skill champions wanted and got an environment that enabled them to do their best work, but they were also looking for opportunities to make new contacts and friends from around the world, and a chance to learn something about the host country.



Our Japanese hosts helped them to achieve this by providing shared accommodation in a Japanese resort in the foothills of Mt Fuji, arranging the immensely successful "One School One Country" cultural exchange experience where each country/region was supported by a local school, and transported 200,000 visitors to the Competition site which left our young champions with a precious lifelong memory of being highly appreciated for their skills and determination to succeed.

This same spirit was evident in the work of the multinational expert groups and delegates who conducted the nearly 50 separate skill category competitions without any significant disputation despite the inevitable obstacles some of them confronted.

This can be attributed in part to the high quality service of our small but very talented and dedicated Secretariat and the new IT communication and management tools they have created to help our hundreds of volunteer experts to share their expertise before, during and after the Competition.



I was also pleased with how the proposed future direction for WSI was strongly endorsed by our member delegates, and supported by a willingness to add some modest new financial resources to the Secretariat to implement it.

I am glad to see that the Action Plan "Releasing the Full WorldSkills Potential" is now posted right up front on the WSI web site homepage (under "News") so members can easily refer to it and be reminded of where the organisation is headed.

Looking ahead, I believe WorldSkills will not only continue to manage big skills competition events such as Calgary 2009 and London 2011 and beyond, but also continue to evolve as a dynamic global skills development network of like minded individuals and organisations which will benefit untold numbers of young people to achieve their potential.

I send you my season greetings and best wishes for the New Year!



VIP Experience 2007

By Michelle Bussey, Marketing and Communications, WorldSkills International

The WorldSkills 2007 VIP Experience is officially over and it has been a tremendous success. Over 100 VIPs from around the world, enjoyed a unique opportunity to experience the Competition, the food, the culture, the hospitality and the atmosphere of Japan and the overall WorldSkills Competition, while networking with key Skills Stakeholders from around the world.

I would like to thank all the VIPs and our Members that encouraged the VIPs to attend. We are already starting our initial planning



stages for the VIP Experience as part of WorldSkills Calgary 2009. We have learned a lot of this program and aim to make Calgary even better. We look forward to welcoming new VIPs from even more countries/regions in 2009.

Dr Song, Executive Vice President, Samsung Electronics, speaks at the Leaders Forum



WorldSkills Champions Exchange

By Mikaeli Costello, WorldSkills Champions Exchange Coordinator

France, Spain, Scandinavia, look out! A WorldSkills Champion could soon be headed your way. Up to 170 Shizuoka Champions have expressed interest in sharing their skills around the globe in the next few years following the promotion of the WorldSkills Champions Exchange in Shizuoka.



After being presented with the opportunity to develop their personal and professional skills in another WorldSkills country/region, Champions from 80% of our Members submitted a request to learn more about taking part in an exchange. On hand to help make it happen are 80 Connectors across 40 Skill Categories who have nominated themselves to seek out challenging and meaningful work for Champions coming into their country/region.

We are now working with this group of interested Champions and Connectors, along with our Members, to make some of these exchanges a reality. Watch this space in 2008 to see the stories from some of our Champions as they take the next step in their global future with the WorldSkills Champions Exchange.

It is not too late for further interested Champions and Connectors to take part in this fantastic opportunity to provide a life-enriching cultural and employment experience for all involved.

For more information, please visit: www.worldskillschampions.com



Worldskillsportal.com

Since the launch of the WorldSkills Portal in March this year, Members have steadily uploaded further information to the Portal. 10 Members so far have taken advantage of this powerful resource and we currently have more than 400 Champions' profiles online. Many country/regions have a direct linkage to the Portal from their homepages and we would like to ask all Members to support this initiative by adding a linkage to their website. We can provide you with the interactive logo upon your request.

We would also like to encourage all Member organisations to add their 2007 team to the 'Up, Close & Personal' pages to benefit from this great communication tool.

If you would like to know more about how to make the best use of the Portal in your country/region please contact Michelle Bussey: michelle.bussey@worldskills.org



WSC2007 results online

Over 800 Competitors drawn from 47 member countries/regions tested themselves against tough international standards in 47 key skills and technologies over the four day competition. The medals, awards and certificates have all been given out and the Competitors have returned to their home country/region to continue their lives after an incredible experience that will stay with them for many years to come.



All the results from the 39th WorldSkills Competition in Shizuoka can now be found on www.worldskills.org . If you are looking for particular photos of certain skills, meetings, the Global Skills Village or other non-competition events please visit our photo gallery where more than 2700 high resolution photos have been uploaded during the event. Video footage taken during the Competition will be available within the next couple of months and will be provided by JOCISF.



For more information please visit: www.worldskills.org



Meet the WSC2007 Albert Vidal Award winner

By Skills Compétences Canada

The taste of success

Nicolas Drouin, Cooking

At fourteen years of age, Nicolas Drouin started to work as a dishwasher at the Saint-Amour restaurant of Québec, Canada, one of the great tables of the "Vieille Capitale". "It gave me a taste for it," as he said.

Today, Nicolas is part of a team of chefs in the same restaurant where he worked 2 days a week in preparation for the 2007 WorldSkills Competition in Shizuoka, Japan. In his free days, he went to the Cooking Lab of Hydro-Québec de l'École hôtelière under the attentive supervision of Marlène Gagnon, his coach, and other chefs from this school who are accustomed to training champions.



WorldSkills International President, Tjerk Dusseldorp congratulates Nicolas Drouin

Nicolas chose to participate in this contest for the challenge and also to surpass himself in his work. According to him his strengths are his workmanship and his attention to detail. He is very quick and in control of what he does.

Finally all the efforts and preparation of this young man of 20 years of age have delivered the fruits of his labour. As a matter of fact, Nicolas is coming back from Japan with his hands full. Not only did he win the gold medal in Cooking, but he was also awarded the prize of the Best of Nation for Canada. More over, Nicolas was recognized with the Albert Vidal Award for the best score amongst all Competitors in all skill categories from all countries/regions.



WSI Executive Board 2008-2011

By Michelle Bussey, Marketing and Communications, WorldSkills International

At the final General Assembly meeting at the WorldSkills Shizuoka 2007 Competition, the WorldSkills Members elected their Executive Board to lead the organisation for 2008-2011.

Tjerk (Jack) Dusseldorp (Australia) was re-elected as President for a third term. Roberto Spada (Brazil) was elected as Vice President Special Affairs.

All other officers were appointed by acclamation, continuing into their second term in their respective elected positions. They are:

- Marie-Therese Geffroy (France) Vice President Strategic Affairs/Chair Strategy Committee
- Liam Corcoran (Ireland) - Vice President Technical Affairs/Chair Technical Committee
- Yoo-Bae Kim (Korea) - Vice Chairman of Strategy Committee



- Veijo Hintsanen (Finland) - Vice Chairman of Technical Committee

The WorldSkills Executive Board also has two ex-officio members from the next two host Members. Terry Cooke (Canada - WorldSkills Calgary 2009) continues for a second term and Simon Bartley (United Kingdom - WorldSkills London 2011) joins the board as Yoshika Okubo (Japan - Shizuoka 2007) departs.

At its first meeting, the Board unanimously voted to re-appoint Laurent Thibault (Canada) as Treasurer. Laurent has been Vice President Special Affairs for two terms and also was Treasurer for the most recent of these terms. Laurent withdrew from the Vice President Special Affairs election to ensure new membership on the Board - the Board highly respected his decision and experience and invited him to stay in the Treasurer position.

Tjerk Dusseldorp thanked the Members for their vote of confidence and promised that the Executive Board would continue the strong leadership and governance as the organisation enters the most exciting period of its 57 year history. The period 2008-2011 has WorldSkills Calgary 2009 and WorldSkills London 2011 - both promising further development plus greatly increased media coverage. WorldSkills International formally adopted (unanimous support by the General Assembly) its 2008-2011 Action Plan "Releasing the full WorldSkills potential" - this provides a focus and framework to better guide, coordinate and integrate the many exciting and progressive initiatives already under way.



Re-elected President, Tjerk Dusseldorp

For more information please visit: www.worldskills.org



Jamaica wins hosting rights to WSI General Assembly 2010

By Michelle Bussey, Marketing and Communications, WorldSkills International

At the final General Assembly meeting at the WorldSkills Shizuoka 2007 Competition, the WorldSkills Members voted Jamaica to be the host for its 2010 General Assembly.

Both Jamaica and Singapore were vying for the right to host the 2010 General Assembly (GA). They both offered outstanding facilities and attractions that would provide a first class event plus unique cultural experiences. Via a voting process, Jamaica was the winner.



Official delegate for Jamaica, Kevin Mullings at the GA in Shizuoka

As part of their bid presentation, Jamaica said the GA2010 would:

- Launch the WorldSkills brand in the Caribbean
- Bring national and regional attention to skills development
- Tie in with the first Caribbean Skills Competition with 15 potential new members

The Caribbean is a business and services destination and there is movement towards a Caribbean Single Market Economy. Promoting a skills respect culture is essential to economic success and hosting the WorldSkills General Assembly will provide a great marketing and exposure boost towards supporting Jamaica's goals in this direction.

For more information please visit: www.worldskills.org or www.worldskillsjamaica.org





Singapore ITE wins global award for transforming vocational & technical education

By Yong Tsuey Ling, Singapore ITE

Singapore found itself on the world map yet again, thanks to the Institute of Technical Education (ITE). As principal provider of post-secondary career and technical education and key developer of national occupational skills certification and standards, ITE emerged as Harvard University's pick as a model programme in improving vocational and technical education.



A 10-Year Transformation Programme has impressed the University's Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at the John F. Kennedy School of Government so much that it picked ITE as winner. The programme won for its measurable successes, collaborative and innovative practices, scope and potential for global replication.

Selected from more than 100 applicants from 30 countries, by an international panel of experts, ITE's programme surpassed the other finalists' submissions, counting government agencies from the United States, Canada and Georgia, to clinch the global award: IBM Innovations Award in Transforming Government and a \$100,000USD grant. ITE was presented the Award on 24 September 2007 in Washington D.C. The grant will be used for sharing and replication of lessons learned with governments of other countries.

Kudos for ITE

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, commending ITE on winning the global award, said: "We are all very proud of ITE. ITE has developed a unique brand of education, to train students with 'thinking hands' who excel in technical vocations. A first class ITE system is critical to enabling every Singaporean to maximise his potential, and participate fully in Singapore's growth and progress. The ITE staff and students have worked long and hard to make this vision a reality. This award shows that they are succeeding, and winning international recognition. Congratulations!" Indeed, the ITE today is the jewel' of Singapore's education system', summed up Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Singapore's Minister for Education.

For more information about ITE and the program please visit: http://www.ite.edu.sg/ite/index_op.html



VTC Hong Kong - Celebrates 25th anniversary

By VTC Hong Kong

The year 2007 marks the 25th anniversary of the Vocational Training Council (VTC). Over the years, VTC has shouldered the important role of providing quality vocational education and training in Hong Kong. It has been striving for innovation and continuous improvements to support the needs for manpower in Hong Kong's fast changing economy.



In 1982, VTC was set up as a statutory body by the Government to co-ordinate and develop the technical education and industrial training of Hong Kong. Today, VTC's fleet has grown to include 10 vocational education campuses, 12 industry-specific training centres, 5 youth colleges, a senior secondary school, a continuous professional development institute and the newly set up Hong Kong Design Institute, making remarkable contributions to the manpower development in Hong Kong.

We celebrated our silver jubilee with the theme "Commitment and Innovation". Over 30 celebrative events was launched, including the Alumni Concert, the Distinguished Lecture Series, culinary demonstrations and competitions, student exchange forum and a fun fair day.

Heralding a new era, VTC re-branded itself and launched the new corporate logo. The new VTC logo was not



only artistically designed, but reflects the four attributes of VTC today: Vibrant, Professional, Proactive and Creative. These are the essence and values of VTC. The logo also reflects a turning point in a student's life - the moment when they shine! The vibrant, colourful strokes radiating from the letter "V" symbolises the positive transformation that we hope will take place during their learning experience. The new logo is also emblematic of our own transformation as we rise to the challenge of providing leadership in vocational education, training and professional development not only in Hong Kong, but also across the region.

For more information, please contact Mr. Simon Tang at simtang@vtc.edu.hk or visit VTC website: www.vtc.edu.hk.



Albie Lund receives Honorary Membership to the WorldSkills Organisation

By WorldSkills New Zealand

On the 10th November, the 2007 'Tool Blacks' team gathered together with sponsors and supporters at the hallowed ground of Eden Park in Auckland to celebrate and honour the contribution of Albie Lund to the WorldSkills Organisation.

Albie was CEO of WorldSkills New Zealand, previously known as SkillEX and Youth Skills New Zealand, for 20 years from its inception in 1987 to the beginning of 2007. He was the driving force of the competition and worked tirelessly to set up the Regional Committees and forged crucial partnerships with industry and training providers through out New Zealand. By producing a team to participate in every WorldSkills Final since 1987, Albie has helped raise the standards of skills in New Zealand and made a big difference to the lives of those that have taken part in both the domestic and international competitions.

Having retired at the beginning of 2007 and handed over the reins of WorldSkills New Zealand to Peter Spencer, Albie is now enjoying spending his time travelling and relaxing with his wife Jackie. The WorldSkills NZ Board of Directors and Albie's many friends at the WorldSkills Organisation wanted to show their appreciation for his contribution and all his hard work by making him an Honorary Member of the WorldSkills Organisation.

Sir John Ingram, former Chairman of the WSNZ Board, presented Albie with his Certificate of Honorary Membership to the WorldSkills Organisation, which was endorsed by WorldSkills President Jack Dusseldorp and Secretary General David Hoey. The presentation was made in front of the latest 'Tool Blacks' team the day before they headed to Japan and the 2007 WorldSkills Finals. All the WSNZ sponsors were invited and some previous competitors from Albie's rein were there to show their support and thanks.



For more information please visit: www.worldskills.org.nz



Upcoming WorldSkills Events

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

Date:	Event:	Website/Contact:
January 2008	4th National Skills Competition - Brunei Darussalam	www.dte.edu.bn
Mar. 6-8, 2008	Skills Masters Event and Skills Talents Event - Rotterdam, the Netherlands	www.skillsmasters.nl www.skillstalents.nl
Mar. 17-19, 2008	GCCSkills Competition, United Arab Emirates	www.gccskills.org
Apr. 2008	National Competition - Jamaica	www.worldskillsjamaica.org
Apr. 16 - 19, 2008	National Skills Competition (Preselection for WSC2009) - Luxemburg	www.luxskill.lu
Apr. 16-19, 2008	National Skills Competitions, Espoo, Finland	www.skillsfinland.com
May 15-17, 2008	National Competition, Jönköping, Sweden	www.youthskillssweden.com
May 25-28, 2008	Canadian Skills Competition - Calgary, Alberta	www.skillscanada.com
July 11-13, 2008	WorldSkills Australia National Skills Competition - Sydney, Australia	www.worldskills.org.au
Sept. 7-11, 2008	WorldSkills Youth Forum - Vienna, Austria	www.worldskills.org
Sept. 8 - 12, 2008	General Assembly & Leaders Forum - Vienna, Austria	www.worldskills.org
Sept. 18 - 20, 2008	EuroSkills Competition - Rotterdam, NL	www.euroskills2008.nl
October 2008	National Competition, Stavanger, Norway	www.worldskills.no
Nov. 12-18, 2008	7 th ASEAN Skills Competition - Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	
End Oct. 2008	Local Youth Skills Competition - Hong Kong	youthskills.vtc.edu.hk
Nov. 2008	Guangzhou/ Hong Kong/ Macau Youth Skills Competition	youthskills.vtc.edu.hk
Sep. 1 - 6, 2009	40 th WorldSkills Competition - Calgary, Alberta, Canada	www.worldskills2009.com
October 7-12, 2010	WSI General Assembly, Leaders Forum & Youth Forum - Kingston, Jamaica	www.worldskills.org
October 7-12, 2010	4 th National Competition - Kingston, Jamaica	www.worldskillsjamaica.org
Oct. 5 - 10, 2011	41 st WorldSkills Competition - London, England, UK	www.worldskills2011.com



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