




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

[Subscribe to newsletter](#) 

[Download as PDF](#) 

[Newsletter archive](#) 

### In this issue...

#### News from WorldSkills International

- [Editorial](#)
- [Thinking big with WorldSkills](#)
- [WorldSkills Premiere Experience update](#)

#### Countdown to WSC2009

- [WorldSkills Calgary CEO visits Australia](#)

#### Spotlight on WorldSkills Experts and Champions

- [Spotlight on: WorldSkills Experts and Champions](#)
- [Heli Stolt](#)
- [Mark Bramer](#)
- [Markus Baumgartner](#)
- [Marlon Maulsby](#)

#### Stories from around the world

- [Dutch Princess Máxima present during official opening of EuroSkills 2008](#)
- [WorldSkills Australia National Competition, Sydney 2008](#)
- [Finnish National Skills Competition – Taitaja 2008](#)
- [Building Skills for the future](#)
- [National Skill Competitions encourage Indian youth](#)
- [UK's WorldSkills Medal Winners' Afternoon Tea with the Queen](#)

#### Focus on WorldSkills Youth Forum 2008

- [34 Past Champions – 19 Countries – 23 skill categories](#)
- [Youth Forum 2008 topics](#)
- [Facilitators](#)
- [Topic Presenters](#)

#### Upcoming Events

- [Upcoming WorldSkills events](#)

## News from WorldSkills International

### Editorial

By **Christine Scoot**, Marketing & Project Coordinator

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.

The WorldSkills International General Assembly (GA) is just a few days away, and we look forward to an enjoyable and very productive series of meetings that will strengthen and further develop elements of Action Plan as well as see new initiatives commenced. We will also welcome our 50th Member during the course of these meetings, and celebrate Skills Austria's 50th anniversary of Membership.

We would like to thank Skills Austria for their great work in organising this event and look forward to our stay in beautiful Vienna.



I would like to request all of our Member organisations to send me information about your Past Competitor alumni networks. We would like to have a page on our website with this information, for easy access and availability.

If you have a past Competitor alumni network within your country/region, please send the information to [christine.scoot@worldskills.org](mailto:christine.scoot@worldskills.org)

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



## Thinking big with WorldSkills

**By Mikaeli Costello, WorldSkills Champions Exchange Coordinator**

Managing Director for Us Media, Joel Wijngaarde, likes to think big. Since launching his new-media production company with two friends just over 10 years ago, he has seen 'Us Media' service many international high-profile clients and now boasts a client list reminiscent of the 'who is who' list of leading worldwide brands; Unilever, Heineken, Rexona and Becks to name just a few.



Joel Wijngaarde

Never one to rest, Joel's vision now is to grow the Netherlands-based media company into a global success story. By enlisting 2007 WorldSkills web design Champion, Wouter Niekus, and a team of other young Dutch skilled people to travel to South America and train a team of employees. Joel has taken the first step in making this dream a reality.

Following several months of training and education, Wouter and his team have successfully launched 'Us Media's' first foreign office, which will service South America and Western Europe with web programmers, developers, animators and html wizards from two geographical locations.

Aside from the potential for new business, created through the expansion, Joel sees many great benefits as an employer facilitating the exchange of skills and information between different countries.

*'There are many benefits in the exchange of youth and skill – for the country sending them, and the country receiving them,' Joel says.*

*'By sending young people like Wouter abroad, it helps to broaden their perception of the world. Whilst working in countries not as developed as their own, they learn to value technologies and skills that they may have taken for granted. Through sharing these skills with others it also helps young people to appreciate their own knowledge.'*

To help achieve its global ambitions, 'Us Media' realises the tremendous value in meeting and working with people of other cultures.

*'Experiencing first-hand how another culture operates and communicates, also helps to break down barriers sometimes experienced through cross-cultural correspondence, particularly with email, which until you understand the context of who or where it is coming from, can be misinterpreted in so many ways.'*



Wouter Niekus

'Us Media's' global endeavours will also enable a higher level of service to their existing clients, and help expand their reach to include smaller companies.

*'In a growing area like new media, the importance of connecting globally is immense. An idea that engages the minds of many people from different geographical locations has incredible potential and is favoured by our international clients.'*

It doesn't end here. 'Us Media' is now looking for new ways to engage more WorldSkills Champions in its offices in the Netherlands and South America.

For more information about 'Us Media' visit: [www.usmedia.nl](http://www.usmedia.nl)

For more information about the WorldSkills Champions Exchange visit: [www.worldskillschampions.com](http://www.worldskillschampions.com)



## WorldSkills Premiere Experience update

**By Michelle Bussey, Communications and Marketing Director**

WorldSkills International is delighted to announce the launch of the brand new WorldSkills Premiere Experience website : [www.worldskillspremiere.com](http://www.worldskillspremiere.com)

The schedule for the WorldSkills Premiere Experience has been set and will be online soon. It will be an exciting program filled with networking between global leaders, learning from world class presenters on skills issues and interacting with hundreds of WorldSkills Champions.

As space is very limited for the WorldSkills Premiere Experience please ensure that you book early to reserve your place on the program. To express interest in reserving a place for yourself, or someone that you know who would benefit from this inspirational and informative program, please contact your [WorldSkills Member](#) or Michelle Bussey at [michelle.bussey@worldskills.org](mailto:michelle.bussey@worldskills.org)

To find out more about the program and to watch for updates and new information please visit: [www.worldskillspremiere.com](http://www.worldskillspremiere.com)





## WorldSkills Calgary CEO visits Australia

By WorldSkills Calgary 2009

Richard Walker, President and CEO of WorldSkills Calgary 2009 visited Australia in July to attend the WorldSkills Australia National Skills Competition. During his stay, Mr. Walker spent time with the "Green Team", the group responsible for the sustainability elements of the Australian National Competition, and gathering information on the leading edge practices and initiatives that WorldSkills Australia are implementing.

*'We had a great time during the event, comparing the environmental issues and mitigation strategies in use at the Australian Nationals and those that are planned for Calgary,' Walker commented. 'Sustainability House was my "second home" for the week.'*

Sustainability House was an initiative supported by the Dusseldorp Skills Forum and WorldSkills Australia. The booth featured a cut-away of a small home and highlighted the energy generation and conservation opportunities as well as water collection and distribution technology available to home owners.

In addition to the environmental meetings, Mr. Walker provided several groups with information about the upcoming 40th WorldSkills Competition in Calgary in September 2009 and the plans and preparations that are underway.

*'Team Australia was very interested in details about the single-site Competitors Village at SAIT Polytechnic and the recreational facilities that are available on campus,' Walker stated. 'I also had a chance to brief WorldSkills Australia and some of the TAFE institutions with regard to our sponsorship methods and the great success we are having in raising corporate interest.'*

After Mr. Walker's visit to the National Skills Competition, he flew up the coast to Brisbane to meet with the WorldSkills International Secretary General David Hoey. WorldSkills International and WorldSkills Calgary 2009 are cooperating on several programs to ensure that the 2009 Competition is the biggest and best to-date. Meetings between the two organisations continue to ensure that the interests of all Member countries/regions are addressed and that the plans for the 40th WorldSkills Competition proceed in a strategic and effective manner.

For more information about the 40th WorldSkills Competition please visit: [www.worldskills.org](http://www.worldskills.org) and [www.worldskills2009.com](http://www.worldskills2009.com)



### Spotlight on: WorldSkills Experts and Champions

In this section, entitled 'Spotlight on', we highlight fantastic people who have made an outstanding contribution to WorldSkills International. In this issue we focus on some of our very hard working Chief Experts and WorldSkills Champions.

If you wish to nominate someone for their outstanding contribution in supporting WorldSkills International and raising the awareness of skills, or have a great story about a past Champion, please send a description to [christine.scoot@worldskills.org](mailto:christine.scoot@worldskills.org)



#### Heli Stolt

**Finland, Chief Expert, Beauty Therapy**

##### **Position in home country/region**

Teacher in Beauty Therapy - for the last 3 years worked as Project Manager on major events in vocational education including the Finnish National Skills Competition 2008 and SAKUstars Culture Skills for students attending a vocational institute; a total of 1,390 Competitors participated!

##### **WorldSkills achievements**

I worked as an Expert in St.Gallen, 2003, as Deputy Chief Expert in Helsinki 2005 and as Chief Expert in Shizuoka 2007 and am going to continue as Chief Expert in Calgary 2009.

##### **When and how did you become involved with WorldSkills?**

It was in 2003 when it was decided that Finland would participate in Beauty Therapy, which was a demonstration trade at that time.

##### **How would you describe WorldSkills in a few words?**

It never ceases to amaze me how rewarding it is to work with experts from around the world. It is easy to work with the key members of WSI, they have become like family members whom you meet every other year.

##### **Anything that you want to add?**

I would like to thank WSI for their cooperation so far and look forward to many more years together. I also would like to send my best regards to all my friends within the WorldSkills movement - I am looking forward to meeting you all in Calgary!



#### Mark Bramer

**Canada, Chief Expert, Cabinetmaking**

##### **Personal History**

Born and raised in Canada, I grew up with a love for woodworking. After receiving my diplomas and spending time working in the wood industry, I accepted a position as Professor of Wood Technology at Conestoga College. I live in Kitchener, Ontario (a small city with German/Mennonite roots), with my wife and four teenage daughters.

##### **WorldSkills Involvement**

I first became involved with the skills movement when our own country started Skills Canada back in 1992. My first opportunity to serve as Expert at a WorldSkills event was in Lyon, France, 1995. What an exciting adventure that was. I continued as Canadian Expert in St Gallen '97; Montreal '99, and then as Chief Expert in Seoul '01, St Gallen '03, Finland '05 and Shizuoka '07. I look forward to serving once again as Chief Expert in 2009 when we host the world here in Calgary, Canada.

##### **Value of WorldSkills Competitions**

To be involved at any level in a WorldSkills Competition is a great experience. The world and work place are changing. One of our challenges is to help prepare the next generation for work and success. WorldSkills does this well. As a volunteer, I give of my time and expertise to see that these young people have opportunities that I only dreamed of. To showcase their trade to the world and influence the next generation is a joy to behold. The experience of cross-cultural exchanges of both information and friendships is a value I hold in high regard.

My life is richer because of this experience.



## Markus Baumgartner

**Austria, Competitor, Industrial Control, Gold medallist, Best of Nation**

**Date of birth:** Born in 1985 in Bregence, Austria

**Location:** Lochau / Vorarlberg

**Occupation:** industrial controller

**Company:** Julius Blum GmbH Höchst / Vorarlberg ([www.blum.com](http://www.blum.com))

### **Training and education:**

- Primary school education in Lochau (4 years)
- High school in Lochau (4 years)
- HTL Bregenz (1 year)
- Vocational training school in Bregence (4 years)

### **On-the-job training:**

- 4 years of apprenticeship with the company Blum (2000-2004)
- Skilled workers for the last 2 years

My job: remedy and maintenance of injection moulding facilities

### **A few words about me**

My name is Markus but all my friends call me Baumi. I come from Lochau (Vorarlberg), a city located close to beautiful Lake Constance. I am 21 years old. I like sports and love working on my car.

My hobbies: soccer, ice hockey, car tuning, wellness and fitness

My goals: To win a medal at the WorldSkills Competition! (this profile was written before Shizuoka) Make my dreams come true. Have a nice and fulfilling life.

Miscellaneous: I am already delighted to participate in a WorldSkills Competition and I would really like to warmly thank my company, my parents, my girlfriend, my friends and all of those dear to my heart for allowing this to come true!



## Marlon Maulsby

**Jamaica, Competitor, Web Design, Best of Nation**

### **Making a mark for Jamaica in Web Design**

He is a sharp young man, quick with ideas and thoughtful in execution which, of course, makes him a perfect web developer.

Marlon Maulsby represented Jamaica in Web Design at the WorldSkills Competition in Shizuoka, Japan in November 2007.

The 21-year old is focused and self-motivated, yet humble enough to have expressed the honour he felt at being selected to represent his country. In an interview prior to competing in Japan, Marlon stated, *'I intend to do well and to make Jamaica proud.'* Indeed, Jamaica was proud (and still is!). Marlon won "The Best of Nation" award.



Currently, Marlon is pursuing a Bachelors Degree in Information and Communication Technology at the HEART Trust/NTA Vocational Training Development Institute (VTDI) in Jamaica. His interest in the field was born out of watching his graphic designer older brother at work. Later, at Jamaica College, he became a member of the Computer Club.



Marlon explains that he has gained a lot from his involvement with WorldSkills Jamaica, which has helped enhance his web development skills, as well as contribute to aspects of his own personal development.

Subsequent to his participation in the WorldSkills Competition in Shizouka, Japan, Marlon has been the recipient of several contracts to develop and maintain websites for several companies across Jamaica

In addition, Marlon has other involvements that include him speaking to persons in training across the national training system in Jamaica in a bid to encourage them to participate in the WorldSkills Jamaica program.

Marlon's hard work was recently recognized in one of Jamaica's local newspapers, The Jamaica Observer dated February 4, 2008 in an article entitled "Help them to realise their dreams, please!".

Christian Stokes, the conceptualiser of the Caribbean's first ever multimedia online learning environment, Caribbeanischool.com, in the article written by Observer writer, Kimone Thompson said *'I have spent the last 15-20 years mentoring and tutoring young people and have come across many of them who have really good ideas that have economic value, in my view...'* Stokes gave the example of Marlon Maulsby, a 21-year-old third year student of the HEART Trust's Vocational Training & Development Institute (VTDI) who was one of the local web developers who helped create and refine the caribbeanischool.com website.

When asked how his participation in the WorldSkills Competition has influenced his own personal development, Marlon's response was

*'Personally, I am more aware of the commitments I make and about fulfilling them. As for the WorldSkills Competition, Marlon says 'Do it, not only for what you get out of it but for what it makes of you'.*



### Dutch Princess Máxima present during official opening of EuroSkills 2008



By Skills Netherlands

In September the first EuroSkills takes place in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. The official opening will be held in the presence of the Dutch Princess Máxima.

EuroSkills 2008, which takes place September 18-20, is Europe's biggest job & career event. During this three day event more than 400 youngsters from 30 European countries will compete for the title of 'best of Europe' in their particular skill out of 49 challenging competitions.

The official opening on Thursday 18th of September will also be attended by the Mayor of Rotterdam, Mr. Ivo Opstelen, the Secretary of State, Mrs. Marja van Bijsterveldt and Euro Commissioner, Mr. Ján Figel.



EuroSkills enhances craftsmanship and vocational education in Europe. The event stimulates the mobility of young professionals in the European labour market by introducing the practice of their profession in other European countries. Rotterdam, the city with a broad and innovative vocational education structure, has the honour of hosting the first EuroSkills.

For the Japanese car manufacturer Toyota, EuroSkills is the perfect moment to bring the career possibilities at Toyota under the attention of the thousands of visitors. Furthermore, for the competitors of the Toyota Education Programme it will be a challenge to test themselves against the other European contestants.

*'We have to invest in high quality technical education if we want to guarantee durable growth for Toyota as well as for Europe', explains Massimo Nordio, Vice-President After Sales at Toyota Motor Europe. 'With the Toyota Technical Education Programme we want to deliver well trained technical professionals with extensive know-how and practical experience. In regards to that, EuroSkills for Toyota is the perfect event.'*

Skills competitions are not only interesting for the competitors, but help bring awareness to a broader, social problem: the appreciation for vocational education. The way EuroSkills is highlighting excellence with craftsmanship and pride, is an important factor in improving the image of vocational education. EuroSkills is an extension to the skills competition at the international level; the WorldSkills Competition.

EuroSkills is sponsored by the European Commission, the Dutch ministries of Education, Economic Affairs and Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality. The Official Partner is Toyota. EuroSkills 2008 is organised by Skills Netherlands together with a number of sector- and educational institutes.

For more information contact Marjolein Bos: [bos@skills-netherlands.nl](mailto:bos@skills-netherlands.nl)  
EuroSkills has free entrance after online registration via [www.euroskills2008.eu](http://www.euroskills2008.eu)



### WorldSkills Australia National Competition, Sydney 2008

By WorldSkills Australia

While our sporting elite were busy training and preparing for the Beijing Olympics, the same could be said of some 500 trade and skills elite going for gold during the 2008 WorldSkills National Competition.

Over three days in July, more than 500 young Competitors generated several hundred hours of perseverance as they snipped, clicked, plumbed, baked and sawed their way to medal





victory and the chance to represent Australia at the WorldSkills Competition in Calgary, Canada next year.

The National Competition was held from July 11-12th in Sydney's beautiful Darling Harbour and attracted over 45,000 visitors keen to see the sparks fly as the contestants hammered it out to take the titles of 'National Champion' for their skill or trade.

The three-day battle featured young Australians displaying their skills in 50 exciting categories ranging from construction steelwork, plumbing, autobody repair, cabinet making, hairdressing, cookery and graphic arts.

The end of the competition was celebrated with an entertainment packed evening at the presentation ceremony held at the prestigious Sydney State Theatre on Monday July 14th and acknowledged Australia's finest young skillspeople.



WorldSkills Australia and SkillsOne worked together to produce extensive video footage from the Competition and highlights of the presentation ceremony. This can be viewed on [www.worldskills.org.au](http://www.worldskills.org.au) and [www.skillsone.com.au](http://www.skillsone.com.au)

The 2008 National Competition was also the perfect backdrop to acknowledge and celebrate the WorldSkills Competition held at the same venue, 20 years ago. A cocktail party organized by Dusseldorp Skills Forum was held on Saturday July 12th at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre providing an opportunity for past Competitors, Judges, Chief Judges, Team Leaders and anyone else involved in the competition to meet again and reminisce on the 1988 Competition.

The WorldSkills Competitions highlight the importance of Vocational Education and Training as a career option stimulating the academic motivation of many students by focusing on the 'fun' of learning through interesting and diverse skill challenges.



WorldSkills Australia is a not-for-profit organisation with a support network of around 5000 volunteers including people working in small businesses, the training sector, industry bodies, employers and government officials. Volunteers untiringly give of their time in order to encourage the participants to achieve excellence not only in the competition, but in their trade or skills career pursuit.

For more information please visit: [www.worldskills.org.au](http://www.worldskills.org.au)



## Finnish National Skills Competition – Taitaja 2008

By Skills Finland

Finnish National Skills Competition, Taitaja, was held in Espoo April 16 – 19, 2008. Some 70,000 spectators visited the competition area to see today's vocational training in action. The Competition was successful and the atmosphere was cheerful with over 300 youngsters competing in 39 different skills. In every skill the best three competitors were awarded with medals. In this year's Taitaja were also some international competitors and dozens of international visitors.

At the end of Competition a jury chose one competitor as the "Best of the Best." This year's "Best of the Best" was Sakari Hartikainen who competed in stonemasonry. 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 participates.

At the same time the SAKUstars competition was also held. SAKUstars is a competition in culture for the students in vocational training. In SAKUstars students compete for example in dramatic art, solo singing, photography, painting, recitation and so on. The competition categories are not subjects in youngsters' studies. SAKUstars is a competition where students can show their skills in activities which they do in their spare time. All in all there were 38 competition categories and about 1000 competitors.

Next year the Finnish National Skills Competition will be held in Vaasa March 25-27, 2009.

For more information please visit: [www.skillsfinland.fi](http://www.skillsfinland.fi)



## Building Skills for the future

### By Skillbuild - Northern Ireland



Construction apprentices from all over Northern Ireland tested their skills in the largest multi-trade skills competition in the Province at Nutts Corner on May 29-30th, 2008.

Providing a unique stage to showcase excellence and talent, Skillbuild NI is hosted annually each spring and 100 of the top apprentices competed to win coveted titles in 12 different construction craft areas ranging from plumbing to brickwork and featuring cabinet making for the first time. The winners may then go on to represent Northern Ireland in National and World Skillbuild finals.



Skillbuild NI competition test pieces are designed to challenge the ability of apprentices to follow detailed instructions, produce accurate and neat work outputs, economical with materials while working to strict timescales – all essential requirements for today's construction industry. The competition not only encourages trainees to improve their own skills but provides an example of the high quality work being produced in training organisations across NI to meet local industry skill levels.

Skillbuild has the support of the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB), ConstructionSkills in NI the Department for Employment and Learning (DEL), Association of Northern Ireland Colleges, and major sponsors such as British Gypsum, Haldane Fisher, Snickers Workwear, UK Copperboard and Weber.

David Cooper, Chairman of Skillbuild NI said; *'The young people that compete in Skillbuild are a credit to the industry and help promote a positive image of construction to other young people. We will always need skilled tradespeople and events like this demonstrate that it is possible to reach highest standards in trade careers.'*

Commending the apprentices on their hard work and dedication shown in their field of expertise, Employment and Learning Minister, Sir Reg Empey, said: *'Raising the skills level locally is of fundamental importance to our economy. Through Skillbuild the status and standard of technical and professional education has risen to a very high level which can only be good news to the construction industry. However, we cannot afford to show complacency and must continue to raise our standards.'*

The Minister continued: *'The Skillbuild Northern Ireland competition allows our young apprentices to demonstrate their skills on the local stage. As we look forward to the UK Skills competition and ultimately the WorldSkills Competition, we hope that today's successes will herald the start of a journey of personal achievement and public acclaim. To this end I would encourage everyone to go on and fly the flag for Northern Ireland construction crafts and test their skills against the best in the UK and the world.'*

For more information contact Siobhan Daly [siobhan.daly@citbni.org.uk](mailto:siobhan.daly@citbni.org.uk)



## National Skill Competitions encourage Indian youth

By WorldSkills India

### 44 winners in 19 categories



130 skilled workers from Tata Motors, MICO, Denso India, DCM Sri Ram, Hindalco, Tata Steel, Hero Honda, Godrej, Bhilai Steel Plant, Bajaj Auto, GRSE and Carborandum Universal participated in the 20th National Work Skills Competition and 2nd WorldSkills India Competitions at Bangalore from February 25-28th, 2008. They were facilitated by Mr S Sadagopan, Director, IIIT-B as winner of the National Honours. Speaking at the award ceremony, Mr N. Srinivasan applauded the winners from 32 industries.

The 4 day event had more than 130 workers from across the country competing in 19 different skill categories covering Mechanical, Electrical, Electronics and Computer disciplines. These competitions were organised by CII Institute of Quality in association with DGET, Government of India.

Though the Indian economy has been registering impressive growth rates, our labour productivity is the lowest amongst the developing nations. For sustainable competitiveness it is imperative to raise the skill standards of our workmen to world class level. CII has been striving to raise Indian skill standards to world class level and is working closely with WorldSkills International. The competitions recognise outstanding workers, instil pride in their skill levels and also provide a good indicator for evaluating the effectiveness of our Vocational Training System.

For the first time, a parallel competition based on the rigorous pattern of WorldSkills International was also held concurrently. 34 workers, below the age of twenty two years participated in six different skills: CNC Turning, CNC Milling, Welding, Industrial Control, Electrical Installations and Industrial Electronics and the winners were declared.

These competitions will help them to participate in the next WorldSkills Competition to be held in Calgary, Canada in 2009.

India participated in the 39th WorldSkills Competition in Japan in November 2007 in 5 skills of CNC Milling, Electrical Installations, Welding, Industrial Control and Moulding.

We now have plans to compete in about 20 skills for the next WorldSkills Competition in Calgary, Canada in September 2009.

For more information please visit: [www.ciionline.org](http://www.ciionline.org)



*Tata Motors received the Best Company award for the National Skills Competition*



*MICO BOSCH received Best Company Award for the WorldSkills Competition*



## UK's WorldSkills Medal Winners' Afternoon Tea with the Queen

By UK Skills

It was a typical party – but with 27,000 cups of tea, 20,000 sandwiches and 20,000 slices of cake consumed!

The UK's medal winners from WorldSkills Shizuoka 2007 –



Jonathan Lloyd, Simon Noble, Harry Smith and Gary Tuddenham – joined hundreds of other guests at the Queen’s Garden Parties at Buckingham Palace in July. They were accompanied by training managers Bill Jones, Peter Legg and Michelle Rolston.



*Simon Noble, Harry Smith, Bill Jones & Michele Rolston outside Buckingham Palace*

Commenting on the day, Harry Smith (Graphic Design Technology student) said: *‘Going to Buckingham Palace was incredible. Attending one of the Queen’s Garden Parties is something very few people get to do and I’m honoured to be one of the lucky ones that had this opportunity. It was so exciting to walk up to the gates and be let in! I worked hard at WorldSkills because I wanted to do the best I could for my industry and my country’*

Simon Bartley, Chief Executive at UK Skills, who managed the WorldSkills UK team said: *‘These competitors and their training managers have put in a tremendous amount of hard work preparing for, and then competing at, the WorldSkills Competition and it is wonderful that they have been recognised by none other than the Queen for their efforts. It is so important that people are made aware that vocational careers are just as skilled and as vital as any other. With the results that Team UK achieved at the last WorldSkills Competition, they are doing just that.’*

Team UK won a gold medal, a silver and two bronze medals at last year’s Competition with a further nine Competitors receiving Medallions for Excellence.

For more information about the team visit [www.worldskillsteamuk.org](http://www.worldskillsteamuk.org)





### 34 Past Champions – 19 Countries – 23 skill categories

At the time of writing there is exactly 1 week until 34 very excited Past Champions arrive at the [Springer Schlössl](#) in Vienna Austria – the venue for the 2nd WorldSkills Youth Forum, where important ideas for the future of the WorldSkills movement will be created, discussed and brought to life through the youth voice from 19 different Member countries/regions across 23 skill areas.

The participants are representing the following countries/regions:

*Australia – Austria – Canada – Denmark – Finland – France – Hong Kong - Korea – Liechtenstein – Netherlands – New Zealand - Norway – Portugal – Singapore - Spain – Sweden - Switzerland – United Arab Emirates – United Kingdom*

To read more about the 2008 Youth Forum Delegates visit: [www.worldskillsyouthforum.com](http://www.worldskillsyouthforum.com)



### Youth Forum 2008 topics

As mentioned in an earlier issue we have chosen topics directly relating back to the 2008-2011 Action Plan – Releasing the full WorldSkills potential.

Once the topics for the Youth Forum were developed, we wanted to graphically demonstrate what each of the topics represents. Taking the WorldSkills International “hand” symbol, which symbolises the youth of all countries, reaching out for new skills, we have created six images that represent the key topic areas. Our goal is to create an atmosphere, that encourages the Youth Forum Delegates to think outside the box and to stimulate discussion and debate.



To read more about the topics please visit: [www.worldskillsyouthforum.com](http://www.worldskillsyouthforum.com)



### Facilitators

The Youth Forum will be run in a very tight schedule to allow the Delegates to cover all aspects of WorldSkills International.

We have been focusing a lot on the specific topics but we will also make sure that all the Delegates feel comfortable in the YF environment and get to talk about important subjects as; ‘What brought us all back to be part of the Youth Forum?’ and ‘What will keep us coming back and how can we continue to contribute?’

These questions will be taken up by the facilitator team that run the Youth Forum from the time the Delegates set their foot on Austrian soil until they leave for their respective countries.

#### The facilitator team is:



**Angelie Kaag (NL):** Angelie worked at the Dutch Member organisation Skills Netherlands, as the PR & Communications Manager until recently and is now working freelance with marketing and communications consultancy. Angelie is still very involved in the world of skills on both national and international level.



**Jarrad Langdon (AU):** Jarrad competed in the WorldSkills Competition in 2005 in the Web Design trade, taking home the gold medal for Australia. Since then Jarrad has



started his own company Jala Design, which has become very successful. Jarrad is now passing on his talents to future designers by teaching design skills at TAFE. He continues his involvement with WorldSkills as a national judge, mentor and WorldSkills International Expert.



**Christine Scoot (DK):** Starting from a young age, she has seen 4 WorldSkills Competitions ('97, '99, '03, '07) Since the middle of 2007, Christine has been an integral part of the WorldSkills Secretariat. Currently she is in charge of organising the WorldSkills Youth Forum with Skills Austria. She also oversees the development of the WorldSkills Portal and the WorldSkills Newsletter. Her next big adventure will be to take on the WorldSkills Champions Exchange program.

To download the full Youth Forum schedule visit: [www.worldskillsyouthforum.com](http://www.worldskillsyouthforum.com)



## Topic Presenters

To provide the Youth Forum Delegates with meaningful and innovative input for each topic, we have engaged a group of experienced presenters that are all very familiar with what WorldSkills International stands for.

Each topic presenter will introduce a specific topic that has been inspired by the WorldSkills International Action Plan, to the Delegates. They will discuss the current issues relating to their specific topics but have been given complete freedom to structure the presentation. After the presentations, the presenters will act as mentors for each group.



The presentations will lead up to an initial creative brainstorming and idea generating session between the Delegates.

To read more about the Youth Forum presenters please visit: [www.worldskillsyouthforum.com](http://www.worldskillsyouthforum.com)





### Upcoming WorldSkills events

If 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:
Apr. 11-Dec. 18, 2008	Switzerland-wide, National Skills Competitions - Switzerland	<a href="http://swisscompetence.ch/">swisscompetence.ch/</a>
Jun. 2-Sep. 30, 2008	Youth Skills Competition 2008, Hong Kong	<a href="http://youthskills.vtc.edu.hk/">http://youthskills.vtc.edu.hk/</a>
Sep. 7-11, 2008	WorldSkills Youth Forum - Vienna, Austria	<a href="http://www.worldskillsyouthforum.com">www.worldskillsyouthforum.com</a>
Sep. 8-12, 2008	General Assembly & Leaders Forum - Vienna, Austria	<a href="http://www.worldskills.org">www.worldskills.org</a>
Sep. 18-20, 2008	EuroSkills Competition - Rotterdam, Netherlands	<a href="http://www.euroskills2008.nl">www.euroskills2008.nl</a>
Sep. 18-21, 2008	National Competition - WelTec (Polytechnic), Wellington, New Zealand	<a href="http://www.worldskills.org.nz">www.worldskills.org.nz</a>
Sept. 24 – 28, 2008	National Skills Competition, Herning (Jutland), Denmark	<a href="http://www.dk-skills.dk">www.dk-skills.dk</a>
Sep. 25-30, 2008	National Competition - Korea	<a href="http://www.hrdkorea.or.kr">www.hrdkorea.or.kr</a>
Oct.1-6, 2008	National Skills Competition - Tainan area, Chinese Taipei	
Oct. 14-16 2008	National Competition - Stavanger, Norway	<a href="http://www.worldskills.no">www.worldskills.no</a>
Oct. 16-18, 2008	WorldSkills Singapore 2008, Singapore	<a href="http://www.ite.edu.sg/wss">www.ite.edu.sg/wss</a>
Oct. 26-30, 2008	Portuguese Regional Competitions - Porto, Coimbra, Setúbal, Seixal, Aljustrel, Beja, Faro, Açores and Madeira	<a href="http://194.65.119.130/profissoes/Historia.aspx">http://194.65.119.130/profissoes/Historia.aspx</a>
End Oct. 2008	Local Youth Skills Competition - Hong Kong	<a href="http://youthskills.vtc.edu.hk">youthskills.vtc.edu.hk</a>
Oct. 31-Nov.3, 2008	National Competition, Japan	<a href="http://www.javada.or.jp">www.javada.or.jp</a>
Nov. 3, 2008	Skilled Trades Day Canada - Across Canada	<a href="http://www.skillscanada.com">www.skillscanada.com</a>
Nov. 10-19, 2008	7 <sup>th</sup> ASEAN Skills Competition - Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	<a href="http://www.kkr.gov.my">www.kkr.gov.my</a>
Nov. 15-16, 2008	Youth Skills Competition (GHMYSC2008) - Guangzhou/ Hong Kong/ Macau	<a href="http://youthskills.vtc.edu.hk">youthskills.vtc.edu.hk</a>
Nov. 20-22, 2008	Skills London 2008	<a href="http://www.skillslondon2008.co.uk">www.skillslondon2008.co.uk</a>
Nov. 27-29, 2008	National Competition, Bolzano, South Tyrol/Italy	<a href="http://www.worldskills.it">www.worldskills.it</a>
February 2009	Skills on the Hill 2009 - Ottawa, Ontario	<a href="http://www.skillscanada.com">www.skillscanada.com</a>
Feb. 5-9, 2009	National finals for France, Lille (Nord Pas de Calais), France	<a href="http://www.worldskills-france.org">www.worldskills-france.org</a>
Mar. 5-9, 2009	Skills Masters, National Competitions - Rotterdam, the Netherlands	<a href="http://www.skillsmasters.nl">www.skillsmasters.nl</a>
Mar. 5-9, 2009	Skills Talents, National Competitions - Rotterdam, the Netherlands	<a href="http://www.skillstalents.nl">www.skillstalents.nl</a>

Mar. 11-13, 2009	National Competition - Santarém, Portugal	<a href="http://194.65.119.130/profissoes/Historia.aspx">http://194.65.119.130/profissoes/Historia.aspx</a>
Mar. 20-23, 2009	Skills Grand Prix, japan	<a href="http://www.javada.or.jp">www.javada.or.jp</a>
Mar. 25 – 27, 2009	National Skills Competition – Vaasa, Finland	<a href="http://www.skillsfinland.com">www.skillsfinland.com</a>
Mar. 27-29, 2009	National Competition - Brussels, Belgium	<a href="http://www.skillsbelgium.be">www.skillsbelgium.be</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. 7-12, 2010	WSI General Assembly, Leaders Forum & Youth Forum - Kingston, Jamaica	<a href="http://www.worldskills.org">www.worldskills.org</a>
Oct. 7-12, 2010	4 <sup>th</sup> National Competition - Kingston, Jamaica	<a href="http://www.worldskillsjamaica.org">www.worldskillsjamaica.org</a>
Oct. 5-10, 2011	41 <sup>st</sup> WorldSkills Competition - London, England, UK	<a href="http://www.worldskills2011.com">www.worldskills2011.com</a>



WorldSkills International Secretariat  
The Netherlands

Phone: +31 23 531 1071, Fax: +31 23 531 0816

Proudly supported by WorldSkills Global Sponsor Partners:

Autodesk



FESTO



[www.worldskills.org](http://www.worldskills.org)