



WorldSkills International Newsletter - 2008 Volume 7

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, 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 Secretariat has been on the move for most of September; after a very successful General Assembly in Vienna, Austria we were based in Rotterdam while visiting EuroSkills 2008. We would like to thank Skills Austria for their incredible support and generosity in hosting the General Assembly, and congratulate ESPO on the tremendous success of EuroSkills.

Please note that the WorldSkills Newsletter has undergone a review, and this will be the last newsletter that you will receive in this format. In the future you will be receiving more frequent updates from WSI and our Member countries/regions, to ensure more timely and accessible presentation of news items. Please feel free to send your news stories to christine.scoot@worldskills.org

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



General Assembly Vienna 2008 the 'best ever'



Skills Austria with WSI President Tjerk Dusseldorp. From left to right: Stefan Praschl, Cornelia Bodansky, Tjerk Dusseldorp, Katrin Eichinger-Kniely and Peter Kranzlmayr

Delegates from around the world met in beautiful Vienna, Austria from September 8-12, 2008 for WorldSkills International's General Assembly. Timed to coincide with the official celebrations of Austria's 50th anniversary of membership in WorldSkills International, the General Assembly presented not only an incredibly productive series of meetings, but also a rich cultural experience for all involved.



Youth Forum – starting a revolution



The WorldSkills Youth Forum 2008 (WSYF) ran from September 7-11, 2008 and ended with a presentation to the WorldSkills General Assembly, who couldn't wait to reward the 34 participants with a standing ovation in recognition of their hard work and insightful recommendations.

The WSYF participants discussed and made recommendations with respect to 6 topics, taken from the 2008-2011 WorldSkills Action Plan. These recommendations, embodied in the WSYF Report, will be reviewed by WorldSkills International in the near future, with a view to implementation where appropriate.



The Youth Forum participants and the Board of Directors in front of Vienna City Hall

To view the WSYF report, download photos and watch video interviews with the delegates please go to www.worldskillsyouthforum.com, where a video of the presentation will be available shortly.



SENA Columbia joins as WorldSkills International's 50th Member!



WorldSkills International is pleased to welcome a new Member. WorldSkills International's newest Official Delegate Julia Gutierrez de Piñeres and Technical Delegate Mariana Saker of Bogota, Colombia attended our General Assembly in Vienna, where SENA (Servicio Nacional de Aprendizaje) Colombia was welcomed as WorldSkills International's 50th Member.

WSI look forward to working with SENA, and to welcoming team Colombia to WorldSkills Calgary 2009.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.sena.edu.co/portal>



WorldSkills International's first Global Skills Ambassador takes skills to the stars

At the WorldSkills Leaders Forum, hosted by Skills Austria, there was a great line up of speakers representing various government, industry and education sectors in Austria and Europe. For a complete list of the speakers please visit



www.worldskills2008.com. We would like to thank everyone who participated and shared their experiences.



Also featured in the WorldSkills Leaders Forum was Brazilian astronaut Marcos Pontes. After giving an inspiring testimony of the profound difference that skills training has made in his life - literally taking him to the stars - Marcos Pontes quickly accepted WorldSkills International's invitation to become our first Global Skills Ambassador. Already a committed and vocal supporter of skills in his native Brazil, we look forward to hosting Marcos at WorldSkills Calgary 2009.



WorldSkills International's new website goes live!

WorldSkills International proudly launched its new-look website at the General Assembly in Vienna. We invite you to view it at www.worldskills.org and trust you will find the new format more user-friendly and easier to navigate.

Some of the key enhancements that have been made in this total redesign of the site include:

- + Clearly defined sections for different user groups - where Competitors, Experts, Delegates, Members, Sponsors, Media etc can very easily find the information that specifically relates to them.
- + An attractive new look throughout the entire site.
- + A fantastic search engine, easily customisable to help you quickly find what you need.



Lights, Camera, Action - WorldSkills TV is rolling

WorldSkills International is delighted to announce the launch of an innovative and accessible new approach to skills videos - [WorldSkills TV](#). WorldSkills TV is comprised of a comprehensive selection of skills-related short videos which are available for download and use by all skills stakeholders.

These videos range from interviews with WorldSkills International Board members and Delegates, to young skilled Champions at work or in conversation about their skill, to the inspiring story of astronaut Marcos Pontes. We invite all Members and stakeholders to take advantage of this new tool to engage more people with a fresh new look at skills.



Sustainability initiatives – environmental ideas

At the General Assembly, the WorldSkills organisation discussed a number of key sustainability initiatives. A number of these relate to both the WorldSkills Organisation and the WorldSkills Competition - we will deal with these items more fully in the next newsletter. In this edition we will focus on our environmental sustainability initiatives:

- + Introducing a "best practice" award to skill categories for reducing costs, safeguarding quality and adopting an environmentally friendly approach
- + Introducing 5 pilot skills with a 'green profile' (environmental impact considerations) to benefit the 40th WorldSkills Competition in Calgary 2009
- + Focussing Test Project development on projects that can leave a short-term or long-term benefit into the local community (For example creating projects that can form social infrastructure, or provide a benefit to local not-for-profit organisations). This focus area also provides excellent opportunities for both local and international media engagement





Champions Exchange – introducing the new Coordinator

Mikaeli Costello, who has worked extremely hard over the last 18 months to launch the WorldSkills Champions Exchange Program (WSCE) with the support of the Dusseldorp Skills Forum (DSF), has returned to Australia to pursue a new career; we wish her all the best in the future. Continuing on with Mikaeli's hard work will be a great task as there are so many WorldSkills Champions looking for placements.

WorldSkills International is pleased to announce the appointment of Christine Scoot to the key role of WSCE Coordinator. Christine brings with her a wealth of knowledge and experience within the WorldSkills movement and is excited to build upon the successes of the WSCE to date.



Mikaeli Costello with WSI President Tjerk Dusseldorp at the General Assembly

The WSCE program came out of the first WorldSkills Youth Forum in 2006 in Melbourne. Since then a database of more than 200 past Champions has been built up, with connectors, employers and related organisations from around the world endorsing the program and working to find placements that will provide great benefit both for our WorldSkills Champions and also for the employers with whom they will work for 3-12 months.

For more information on the WSCE program please visit www.worldskillschampions.com or contact Christine Scoot christine.scoot@worldskills.org



EuroSkills takes teamwork to new levels

By ESPO/Skills Netherlands

EuroSkills 2008, a Europe-wide competition in vocational education & training organised in Rotterdam, the Netherlands was a great success. The 420 candidates from the 29 participating European countries finished their three days of competition on Saturday, September 20th.



The EuroSkills competitions were conducted in six different domains which all had their share of winners. At the closing ceremony directly after the competitions, Ján Figel, European Commissioner responsible for Education, Training, Culture and Youth, awarded gold medals to the competitors who had won the title 'best craftsman/craftswomen' in his or her

skill category. For many competitors it has been an unforgettable experience which can be used to boost their careers further.




EuroSkills 2008 was a celebration of craftsmanship in which skills were highlighted. It showed a lot of new skills competition concepts in which besides the individual hard skills, also soft skills like teamwork and communication were assessed. The event therefore fits in a modern educational process to prepare young students to work in businesses.

All results can be found at www.euroskills2008.eu.

For more information, please contact: Marjolein Bos, PR & Communication Manager: bos@skills-netherlands.nl



And the Skills are...!



WorldSkills International's Provisional Registration date - the date at which our list of skills for WorldSkills Calgary 2009 are finalised based on Member registrations - arrived during our General Assembly in Vienna. The official skill list for WorldSkills Calgary 2009 is now available on the WorldSkills International website, at http://www.worldskills.org/index.php?option=com_skills&Itemid=412.





WorldSkills Calgary 2009 CEO Enthusiastic About General Assembly

By WorldSkills Calgary 2009

Richard Walker, CEO of WorldSkills Calgary 2009 was delighted with his team's trip to Austria's capital, Vienna, for the WorldSkills General Assembly 2008.

"The 2008 WorldSkills International General Assembly in Vienna was extraordinarily important for us", said Richard Walker. "We were able to present our plans, packages and preparations to the Delegates and answer any and all questions they had."

"Having the City of Calgary and Tourism Calgary personnel with us was very helpful as we addressed issues ranging from -
"Where can I get a babysitter in Calgary? To how far away are the mountains?"

"The Delegates at the General Assembly left knowing that Calgary is ready to host the 40th WorldSkills Competition."

"We had an excellent series of meetings in Vienna. From the General Assembly to one-on-one meetings with Global Sponsors, our Calgary Team was kept busy."

Representatives from WorldSkills Calgary 2009 were also energised by the presentation by the Youth Forum.

"It was great to see some of the past Champions investing so much time and effort into creating ideas that will strengthen the WorldSkills organisation, while at the same time leaving a legacy for future Competitors," said Brian Pardell, Vice-President Operations of WorldSkills Calgary 2009.

For more information on the 40th WorldSkills Competition in Calgary please visit: www.worldskills2009.com



The Board was treated to a "White Hat Ceremony", which important visitors receive as a token of friendship in Calgary



Upcoming WorldSkills events

If 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:
Apr. 11-Dec. 18, 2008	Switzerland-wide, National Skills Competitions - Switzerland	swisscompetence.ch/
Oct. 14-16 2008	National Competition - Stavanger, Norway	www.worldskills.no
Oct. 16-18, 2008	WorldSkills Singapore 2008, Singapore	www.ite.edu.sg/wss
Oct. 26-30, 2008	Portuguese Regional Competitions - Porto, Coimbra, Setúbal, Seixal, Aljustrel, Beja, Faro, Açores and Madeira	http://194.65.119.130/profissoes/Historia.aspx
End Oct. 2008	Local Youth Skills Competition - Hong Kong	youthskills.vtc.edu.hk
Oct. 31-Nov.3, 2008	National Competition, Japan	www.javada.or.jp
Nov. 3-7, 2008	Skilled Trades Week Canada - Across Canada	www.skillscanada.com
Nov. 10-19, 2008	7 th ASEAN Skills Competition - Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	www.kkr.gov.my
Nov. 15-16, 2008	Youth Skills Competition (GHMYSC2008) - Guangzhou/ Hong Kong/ Macau	youthskills.vtc.edu.hk
Nov. 20-22, 2008	Skills London 2008	www.skillslondon2008.co.uk
Nov. 27-29, 2008	National Competition, Bolzano, South Tyrol/Italy	www.worldskills.it
February 2009	Skills on the Hill 2009 - Ottawa, Ontario	www.skillscanada.com
Feb. 5-9, 2009	National finals for France, Lille (Nord Pas de Calais), France	www.worldskills-france.org
Mar. 4-10, 2009	Technical Committee, Chief Experts & Executive Board meetings - Calgary, Canada	
Mar. 5-9, 2009	Skills Masters, National Competitions - Rotterdam, the Netherlands	www.skillsmasters.nl
Mar. 5-9, 2009	Skills Talents, National Competitions - Rotterdam, the Netherlands	www.skillstalents.nl
Mar. 11-13, 2009	National Competition - Santarém, Portugal	http://194.65.119.130/profissoes/Historia.aspx
Mar. 20-23, 2009	Skills Grand Prix, Japan	www.javada.or.jp
Mar. 25 – 27, 2009	National Skills Competition – Vaasa, Finland	www.skillsfinland.com
Mar. 27-29, 2009	National Competition - Brussels, Belgium	www.skillsbelgium.be
Sep. 1-6, 2009	40 th WorldSkills Competition - Calgary, Alberta, Canada	www.worldskills2009.com
Oct. 7-12, 2010	WSI General Assembly, Leaders Forum & Youth Forum - Kingston, Jamaica	www.worldskills.org
Oct. 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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