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UAE boosts prestige of trades with world competition



Alison Tahmizian Meuse, AFP • October 18, 2017



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A competitor takes part in an aircraft maintenance competition during the WorldSkills Abu Dhabi 2017 gathering in the oil-rich emirate on October 18, 2017

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Abu Dhabi (AFP) - The oil-rich United Arab Emirates, seeking to elevate the prestige of vocational skills among its youth, this week hosted a global trades competition -- the first in the Middle East.

At the Abu Dhabi convention centre on Wednesday, schoolgirls in tartan uniforms followed their teachers past contestants engrossed in aircraft maintenance and hairdressing competitions.

Foreign competitors from as far afield as Norway and China rubbed shoulders with Emirati college students, men in traditional white robes and women in black flowing gowns.

They were some of the thousands of UAE students

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