



Dear Friends and Participants of the 38th WorldSkills Competition in Helsinki 2005



I take great pleasure in welcoming all the WorldSkills Teams and their supporters and sponsors to the 38th WorldSkills Competition in Helsinki in May 2005.

I am happy to note that the preparations of the WorldSkills Competition are proceeding well. We are expecting some 800 young people from nearly 40 countries to Helsinki next May. Attached to the WorldSkills Competition are many other events, such as International Symposium of Youth and Work Culture 2005, WorldSkills Leaders' Forum and Global Skills Village, where best skilled technicians and craftspeople and interest groups from different countries can exchange experiences and knowledge about skills and their development in a new kind of forum. We hope our colleagues worldwide will actively contribute to the competition and the non-competition activities to kindle a true WorldSkills spirit.

Finland considers it important to take part in all the skills in the next WorldSkills Competition. Team Finland will be selected after our national Taitaja (FinnSkills) competition in January 2005 in Turku. It has come to my knowledge that Taitaja-organisers will also provide a possibility for other WorldSkills Teams to bring their own competitors to Turku. I am glad to hear that 9 member countries have already accepted the invitation and will give their competitors a chance to practice their skills in Turku.

All the young masters selected to represent their countries in their skills are winners, whatever the eventual results. WorldSkills is not just a test of performance and skills. It is an opportunity to explore the dimensions of know-how and success and to grow as a true craftsman. A skills competition is the culmination of long preparation and training. There is an aphorism that says "Who does not take a test cannot pass it". As Minister of Education, I shall do my utmost to ensure the best possible circumstances for these young talents to show their skills in Helsinki 2005.

I give my best wishes to the success of all the WorldSkills Teams in their preparation for WorldSkills 2005 Helsinki! ■

Welcome to Finland! Tervetuloa Suomeen!

Tuula Haatainen

Minister of Education and Science,
Chair of WorldSkills 2005 Helsinki Advisory Committee

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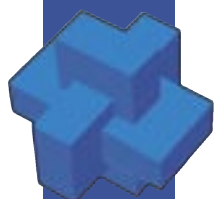
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Master your skills – Master your future

IMPORTANT DATES



3-8 November 2004
Executive Board and
Technical Committee
Meetings, Helsinki



15th November 2004
Final registration of
competitors



25th November 2004
Exhibition space and
hospitality services on
sales



19-21 January 2005
FinnSkills Competition
(Taitaja), Turku



15th February 2005
Full details of
competitors
and experts

Contents

Leader: Minister of Education and Science Tuula Haatainen	1
WorldSkills 2005 Organising Committee	3
Address of Welcome from the Lord Mayor of Helsinki Eva-Riitta Siitonen.....	4
Letter from the WorldSkills 2005 Secretary General Eija Alhojärvi.....	5
Letter from the WorldSkills Official Delegate Timo Lankinen	6
WorldSkills Competition is being developed in an open co-operation	7
President of WorldSkills Jack Dusseldorp: the Man behind the Brand	8
From Switzerland to Japan: Co-operation improves the WorldSkills Competition	9
From Turku to Europe and out into the wider world	10
Preparing the skills demonstration for practical nurses.....	11
In restaurant service the professional skills are learned by doing.....	12
Global Skills Village organised for the first time in Finland	13
Relaxation in the Finnish nature after the competition	14
"Spirit of Helsinki" as the theme of the opening	14
Welcoming party in a classy environment.....	15

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Eva-Riitta Siitonen, Lord Mayor

Dear friends of the WorldSkills and craftsmanship



On behalf of the City of Helsinki, I have the great pleasure to wish you all heartily welcome to our city. We are proud to have the WorldSkills Competition held for the first time in a Nordic country and here in Helsinki in particular.

Helsinki is a vital and modern city. In our vision, it is also strongly a city of the future. Helsinki is a safe and democratic city, where people – men, women and youth equally – have the space to act freely, to study and to pursue their own goals in life. In terms of infrastructure, the city is well-developed and functional, but there will most certainly be a special demand for professional craftspeople in the future.

For Finland, the WorldSkills Competition is fundamentally a national event. The strong government participation in the planning and organizing efforts is a strong indication of that. These vocational championships offer us a joint challenge, but one that we are more than pleased to take up. The competition gives the highly skilled young people an exceptional opportunity to show their skills and develop them further.

We are expecting around 800 contestants from 40 countries and some 4,000 international visitors to Helsinki. The under 23-year-old top-skilled contestants from all around the world will have a chance to meet each other and open the doors to their future education and careers. WorldSkills is a major international event which offers an atmosphere charged with inspiration and brings the talented young people into the spotlight. ■

Welcome and enjoy your stay in Helsinki!





Eija Alhojärvi, WorldSkills 2005 Secretary General

Dear visitors to WorldSkills 2005!



Next May the young representatives of almost 40 professions will gather to show their best in an international arena of the 38th WorldSkills Competition. We Finns have the honour of hosting this international event and at the same time bringing the competition for first time to Nordic countries.

Like at other big events, such as the WorldSkills, the extra programme alongside the event itself is getting bigger every year. In Helsinki you can also visit the Educational Fair or participate in the International Youth and Work Culture 2005 Symposium. In front of the Helsinki Fair Centre there will be a Sponsor Village where company partners will present themselves.

The new thing in the WorldSkills 2005 is the Global Skills Village, where the WorldSkills member countries can represent the vocational education of their own country. There they can also get new ideas from others. Alongside the stands there are a seminar space and a stage where the member countries can arrange information spots, lectures and shows. We hope that as many countries as possible will take this opportunity.

The visitor goal for the WorldSkills 2005 is set at 150 000. The aim is that 60 000 of these visitors will be young people from general education and vocational schools. These student visitors will be especially well taken care of. Paths are being planned for students in the Fair Centre where they can get to know different professions and skills. Schools will receive material beforehand in early spring so they can prepare for class trips in May. There is a certain concept for reaching school students. A so-called rucksack concept includes a fine rucksack, a ticket to the WorldSkills Competition, some side programme in the traditional class trip sights in Helsinki, material for career planning and guiding in the Helsinki Fair Centre.

Our strength in organising the event has been a broad and motivated network. There are thousands of skilled and enthusiastic people from all over Finland involved in organising. Dozens of vocational institutions, polytechnics and upper secondary schools are participating in arranging the competition skills, the opening and closing ceremonies as well as other additional events.

We hope that the WorldSkills 2005 event has a long-term effect on Finnish vocational education and the economy. It is with these two aims in mind that we want to arrange a unique and unforgettable experience for the participants and visitors. ■

**I warmly welcome everyone to Finland
and WorldSkills 2005!**

Translation: Maaria Virkki



2005, the Year of a Professional and WorldSkills 2005 Helsinki – in the cause of professional know-how

Some challenges of vocational education are, for example, responding to skill requirements that are more individualized than earlier, expanding learning that happens at the work place, deepening globalization, mastering technological change and expanding the prevention of displacement. In Finland the year 2005 will be a theme year of a professional. With that we strengthen the value and attractiveness of vocational education by bringing out the importance of professional know-how to society, working life and individuals.



Special attention is focused on professional skills and the quality and respect of vocational education when society and working life are changing and getting more international. The common opinion about the importance of professional know-how in global competition and at the same time in maintaining social cohesion have created deepening international co-operation in the field of vocational education. There is the so-called Copenhagen Process going on in the European Union. The member countries of the EU are together trying to find ways to improve the quality and appreciation of vocational education. They also want to create a European labour market. Another significant international forum of cooperation is the WorldSkills organization and the WorldSkills Competition for young people organized every other year.

Bringing out young professionals and professional top know-how has a very important role in many countries when they are trying to increase the attractiveness of professional skills in general. Skill competitions are an excellent way to combine many goals related to professional know-how and improving this know-how. Skill competitions have advantages for everyone who is interested in professional know-how and developing it. Competitions aim to improve high quality vocational education and also people interested in seeking one's way to vocational studies. The availability of profes-

sional labour and prerequisites of entrepreneurship are also protected and competitiveness in companies is improved through competitions.

In the WorldSkills Competition there is a wide gamut of occupations on view. The event is a versatile scene of professional know-how. It offers information and experience to everyone. Yet the actual competition event is the tip of the iceberg – a culmination of professional know-how, a showcase and a celebration. Preparation for the competition and making use of the gained experience after the competition is as important as the event itself. Our goal is to improve skill competitions, developing them so that they could be a way of advancing the appreciation and standards of professional know-how.

Welcome to the WorldSkills 2005 Helsinki event – You are in the cause of professional know-how! Thinking and acting have a common source: feeling. The philosopher Epiktetos wrote that in the year 100 A.D. Skill, will and emotion combine in professional know-how. ■

Translation: Marianne Reunamäki



Timo Lankinen
Government Counsellor
WorldSkills Official Delegate



The workgroup of WorldSkills Technical Committee visited Helsinki in the beginning of October.

WorldSkills Competition is being developed in an open co-operation

Veijo Hintsanen had just started working with WorldSkills when Finland took part in its first competition in Birmingham in 1989. In 15 years occupations and skill competitions have changed and developed enormously. Surely there are still things to develop in competition arrangements. Hintsanen, the Vice Chairman of the Technical Committee in WorldSkills, believes that next spring in Helsinki we will see a successful competition as a result of hard work.



At the beginning of November the Executive Board and the Technical Committee of WorldSkills are going to hold meetings in Helsinki. "Reviewing of the competition rules and accepting the competition organisation are on the agenda," Hintsanen describes the field of work in the meetings. The Technical Committee will define the preparation responsibilities of the test projects, skill-specific juries and other duties given to each country. "At these meetings every single skill category will be nailed up," Hintsanen convinces.

During the last couple years the Technical Committee has worked for openness of the competition organisation. "Earlier the skill-specific expert teams were not allowed to communicate with each other, but now the situation is the opposite and cooperation is open," Hintsanen says. The teams exchange information through the In-

ternet. This way they are already well prepared when they arrive to the competition site and the event will be started up better than in the earlier competitions.

Keeping the selection of skill categories up to date is, according to Hintsanen, a big challenge for the Technical Committee. Outdated working methods and old techniques will have to give way to new ones according to working life's requirements. Along with the updating of technology they have added new IT-categories to the competition program and modernised metal working. Like in working life, in competition categories of even more diversified skills, both thinking and manual, are also required.

Wood still lives after tooling, measures change and the surface's right degree of roughness is given by the palm of the judge. Beauty of a hairstyle is in the eye of the beholder, despite the strict criteria. "The judges have to know the ropes and act honestly. Part of the skill categories are difficult to measure and in some skill categories preferences have an effect on evaluation," as Hintsanen describes the complexity of evaluation. The Technical Committee wants to increase the capability of measuring and the objectivity of evaluation. "Everything can not be measured metrically, but competitors need to be able to consider the event fair," Hintsanen says.

The Vice Chairman of the Technical Committee does not lose sleep when the world championships come near. Hintsanen sees the competition in Helsinki as a big opportunity: "Different trades and the know-how of young people will come into view with a flourish in a big international event." ■

Text: Panu Sivula

Translation: Marianne Reunamäki



The man behind the brand



Jack Dusseldorp, President of WorldSkills Organisation, says most people in Australia associate Finland with Nokia and ice hockey. From a promotional point of view Mr. Dusseldorp sees advantages as Finland does the honours and hosts next year's WorldSkills Competition in the Helsinki Fair Centre.



"The special feature it has for me as a host country is that Finland will help promote WorldSkills image and brand in the Nordic region which is still quite new to the concept of skill competitions as a key part of vocational training", Mr. Dusseldorp confers.

The Helsinki Fair Centre will face a true test as it gets ready to provide the environment for 40 different skill categories many of which involve sophisticated equipment and technology. Young professionals from 39 countries will occupy nearly 800 work stations that will be set up in the Fair Centre.

Growth is the word

WorldSkills is an international brand that has a need to grow to fulfil its purpose in uniting the world of vocational training and education. As the organisation is also expanding its operations in terms of acquiring new

member countries, the latest of which Brunei, there is a hunger for new funding and sponsors.

"It is really a catch 22 situation, as until WorldSkills brand becomes better known there will be a continued reluctance of global sponsors to contribute, and until we acquire more global sponsors we will lack the financial resources to properly promote WorldSkills."

The cooperation between each host country and WorldSkills organisation itself has been somewhat blurry in the area of promotion. The mother organisation has two long-term sponsors Festo and Fluke but the host organisation of each venue has been on its own in promoting the competition, until now.

"A real breakthrough with Finland has been the agreement to brand the competition as a WorldSkills event whereas before each host organisation had their own local brands", Mr. Dusseldorp admits. Having a separate brand did not only confuse things in finding sponsors but also weakened the process of promoting the WorldSkills brand globally.

It takes a village

The whole of WorldSkills 2005 Helsinki Competition spans two weeks with all the meetings, welcoming celebrations and other processes that go along with an international event of this magnitude. The actual competition lasts for four days after which a few days are reserved for post-competition activities for the participants. Mr. Dusseldorp with the rest of the mother organisation encourages activities related to the competition.

"We are working on the concept of a Global Skills Village to accompany the competition in Helsinki", Mr. Dusseldorp reveals and continues, "There will be opportunities for sharing and exchange between the member country delegations beyond the confines of the competition."

A "village" such as this is tailor-made for helping the people interested in vocational education and training to get new ideas and tools in guiding the young professionals into the changing environment of today's work life. But the Global Skills Village will only be a small part of next year's diverse and, in Finland, unseen vocational extravaganza.

"Effectively the Helsinki Fair Centre will be transformed in a matter of days into one of the world's largest, leading edge skills centres. It's something you have to see to believe!" Mr. Dusseldorp concludes. ■

Text: Kaius Karlsson



Swiss Secretary General Armin Mühlematter gave valuable information on the WSC 2003 to Finnish Secretary General Eija Alhojärvi in October 2003 in Helsinki.

Co-operation improves the WorldSkills Competition

Co-operation between the WSC host countries has been considerably increased. The goal is to pass on information on how to organise the competition and guarantee its continuity, as well as to improve the quality of the arrangements.



"The co-operation benefits not only the competition, but also vocational education and training in general," **Eija Alhojärvi** says. She is Executive Director of Skills Finland and Secretary General of WorldSkills 2005 Helsinki. "We much appreciate the tradition of co-operation started by the Swiss Organising Committee in 2003, and already co-operate with the Japanese."

Personal contact is important

According to **Armin Mühlematter**, OC President of WSC 2003, the members of the Finnish delegation were very well prepared and keen to see all the details in St. Gallen.

"Some of them arrived when we started to build the work stations. Until the start of the competition they could enter the work stations and talk with our shop

masters. We offered them some working places in our head office, and the personal contact was for both sides very important." Since the end of WSC 2003 three delegations of the Swiss OC have visited Helsinki. "We discussed technical problems as well as questions concerning for example the accommodation and the opening and closing ceremonies."

In Mühlematter's opinion the co-operation between the Organising Committees is important.

"When the new OC does not begin at point zero, a lot of money can be saved and the quality of the organisation will be better. If the standard of the organisation is high, also the reputation of WorldSkills will get higher. I propose that one or two members of the last OC should be members of the WorldSkills board until the next competition."

The Japanese Organising Committee has already been in contact with their Finnish colleagues in the WS meetings where both the Finnish and Japanese delegations participated in. They also visited for example the Finnish national Skills Competition in January 2004.

"We profoundly appreciate the co-operation of Skills Finland with us even though they are occupied with the next WorldSkills Competition in Helsinki. There has been lots of communication between the members of the secretariats via e-mail. We have a particular interest in all technical aspects of the competition, hotels and transport situation in Helsinki," **Yoshika Okubo** says. He is Official Delegate of Japan and Vice President of Japan Vocational Ability Development Association.

Networks will remain

According to Eija Alhojärvi, there is now more co-operation than before not only between the host countries, but between other member countries of the WorldSkills Organisation as well.

"The Technical Committee of WSO sent a working group to Finland in March 2003 to work with us, and together with UKSkills we have developed the concept of Global Skills Village, which will be launched in Helsinki. It is a place where professionals in vocational education and training can meet and exchange information on the educational systems in their respective countries."

The Finnish Organising Committee wishes to create new kinds of networks that will remain even when the competition is over. "I believe that when we concentrate on the co-operation, it will take a stride forward and deepen," Eija Alhojärvi says. ■

Text: Leena Castren



From Turku to Europe and out into the wider world

Common international technical descriptions in industrial skills are developed with the EU's support. Finland invests in improving Europe's competitiveness.



This year the EU's Leonardo da Vinci-programme is financing 14 Finnish development projects. The goals of the projects are to find common methods of working and new views on the development of vocational education and training. Finland did well in applying support for the projects this year; altogether 4.28 million euros were given to financing.

Turku Vocational Institute's Modvoc Plan is one of the financed projects. The purposes of the project are to develop technical descriptions of mechatronics, electronics and polymechanics and to create a process model to develop those descriptions. "Polymechanics is especially interesting because it is still a relatively new skill," **Olavi Lähteinen** tells. He is a specialist in electronics and the leader of the project. Polymechanics is industry maintenance in which, for instance, mechatronics and electronics combine.

The aims of the development of technical descriptions are to increase the international unity of vocations and to reform and keep WorldSkills skill categories in the fast development of industry. "We also want to emphasize the European viewpoint," **Matti Haapanen**, the other leader of the project says.

Working methods and the emphasis of vocations are different around the world. Rapid line production work

is appreciated in Asian countries, while in Finland and in Europe speed in general is not the priority. "This is why it is important to be able to affect the technical descriptions from the start," Lähteinen adds. New process models are important regarding both European competitiveness and vocational competition. Through the development of technical descriptions and co-operation European know-how requirements can be achieved.



From competition to unifying vocational education

The aim of the project is also to enhance co-operation in international vocational education. The co-operative countries are Estonia, Denmark, Lithuania, Liechtenstein and England. The most important co-operative partner is UKSkills, but smaller countries should not be underestimated either.

"For big countries it is more difficult to give up their traditional views," Haapanen states. "Co-operation is the way to affect the education systems of small and new countries and also those countries which are not so developed in these skills," Lähteinen adds.

In practice Finland is the leader of the project, but expertise and know-how requirements are gathered from all the co-operative countries. Meetings are held in every project country and there are groups of European top-companies and professionals involved. The aim is to affect the national curricula and degree requirements with the help of competitive tasks and research results. "Behind the project there is the development of vocational education as a whole," Haapanen concludes. ■



The leaders of the Modvoc Plan: Matti Haapanen (left) and Olavi Lähteinen. Photo: Hanna Miettinen

Text: Tiia Lappalainen
Translation: Eeva-Liisa Ripatti



Preparing the skill demonstration for practical nurses



Sirkka Wiman is excited about the possibility to demonstrate the vocation of practical nurse in an international environment.

Photo : Heidi Lämsä

The vocation of practical nurse is demonstrated in the WorldSkills Competition in Helsinki. It is one of the national skill demonstrations.



Practical nurse education has been organised and developed in Finland for over ten years. "Basic degrees of welfare and health were combined," tells **Sirkka Wiman**, the principal of Espoo Institute of Health and Social Care. The institute has the main responsibility for organising the skill demonstration. Wiman is excited about the possibility to demonstrate the vocation in an international environment. Altogether six Finnish educational institutes work in co-operation to create the skill demonstration to WorldSkills.

A practical nurse education takes three years. It includes extensive theoretical studies, which are completed by practical work. The students of the institute in Espoo have done practical work in Great Britain, Ireland, Canada, Sweden, Estonia, Kenya and India.

One year of the education is used for free-choice studies. The choices are health care, work with the aged, care of children and adolescents, mental health and intoxicant work, work with the disabled, paramedical work, dental care, rehabilitation, customer service and data management.

In Helsinki the contestants plan and perform three tasks in pairs. The given tasks may be, for example, controlling children's playtime in a day-care centre environment, a visit to an elderly person's home or assisting a disabled person.

The English speaking students of the institute also carry out the skill demonstration in English. In addition, during the breaks, the audience is shown short glimpses of the work of practical nurses. It has been planned that children, amateur actors and people in rehabilitation play the roles of customers in demonstrations. The final competition tasks are being planned at the moment.

The practical nurse vocation concentrates on human relations. "The features of the vocation and how it could be demonstrated have been discussed earlier when national competitions have been planned," Wiman tells. The challenge is to construct the competitive environment to be as real as possible.

The judges of the competition evaluate interaction between contestants and customers, abilities in co-operation and problem solving, working methods and customer orientation. ■



Text: Heidi Lämsä

Translation: Eeva-Liisa Ripatti



Professional skills are learned by doing

The training organised by Altia and Royal Restaurants is training young experts in restaurant service, not only for the WorldSkills 2005, but also for the future.



Miia Sironen and Henrik Willberg studying wines



In Restaurant Sipuli a group of young people is paying attention to a lecture on the origin, quality and optimal cultivating conditions of various grapes. Four of them are participating in the training with their goals set to getting the chance to compete for the title of World Champion in Restaurant Service.

"The cooperation began when the WorldSkills Organisation asked Altia for a sponsor. They decided to give it as training," **Jussi Laakso**, the manager of Restaurant Sipuli, tells. The trainees were selected via tryouts and they represent the very best of their schools. Three of the four trainees are presently working at Restaurant Sipuli. One is still studying in Helsinki Culinary School Perho.

High level of basic knowledge

Laakso considers the chance to work in a quality place as one of the most important aspects for the trainees. "It is important to learn in normal working conditions where the standards are high. When the level of basic knowledge is high, it is enough to do your tasks in the competition like your normal routines," Laakso says.

Restaurant Sipuli is an ideal place due to its diversity. "We have a bar, a lunch, dinner and à la carte restau-

rant and a restaurant that is open on request," Laakso lists. "It depends on the trainees how much they will learn. Here the sky is the limit," he continues.

The training takes place not only through learning by doing but also in the more traditional way, studying. The wine training of today is a good example. The trainees are supposed to put the theory they have learned into practice, on the basis of the lecture and the material. At the end of the class there will be a blind test where the trainees are going to recognise different wines.

Benefit for the future

The training has been going on for a couple of weeks and it will go on till Christmas. The main aim is the try-out in January. There the representative of Finland and his/her substitute will both be chosen for the WorldSkills 2005 held in May. Although there are no representative posts for all four, it is planned that the training will continue in the spring. All four will fit in; just enthusiasm is needed.

Last year's Finnish Champion **Sina Siltanen** thinks that she will continue with the training even if she is not chosen. "The training is not in vain. This is something useful for the future," Siltanen states.

Siltanen describes the training as an intensive effort of six months. "There is not much time for other things." Nevertheless Siltanen points out that the main goal is in WorldSkills 2005. "Everybody is in with all their heart," she says.

Laakso has been very satisfied with this kind of training. Restaurant Sipuli is a part of Royal Restaurants and they want to develop the Finnish restaurant service. "Let's hope that cooperation deepens and continues in the future," Laakso says. ■



Mr. Jussi Laakso, the manager of Restaurant Sipuli

ALTIA
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AKATEMIA

Text and photos: Hanna Miettinen
Translation: Maaria Virkki



Global Skills Village organised for the first time in Finland

In the WorldSkills Competition there will be for the first time an additional event organised, Global Skills Village. It is a meeting point for professionals in vocational education and training who come to see the competition from all over the world.



The Global Skills Village is organised on this scale for the first time in the history of the competition. The idea to arrange this event came from the Skills City organised in the United Kingdom. "UK Skills and Skills Finland have developed the idea together and they presented it in May 2004 at a meeting of the WorldSkills Organisation, arranged in Hong Kong," tells **Eija Alhojärvi**, who is responsible for the event.

A large number of professionals will arrive from almost 40 countries to watch the competition. In the Global Skills Village they can exchange information and experiences of vocational education and training in different countries and make international contacts. "The central target groups are members of the WorldSkills Organisation and their guests, the media, the official competitors and the professionals of vocational skills and education from companies, educational institutions

and administrative institutions. There is something to see for every audience," Alhojärvi explains.

In Finland the objective has been set on the internationalization of vocational education. Teachers especially have been taken into consideration in the planning of the programme. The aim is to develop co-operation networks for vocational skills and education with the help of the event. At the same time the Global Skills Village offers the WorldSkills Organisation and its member countries an opportunity to develop professional skills competition activity as a whole.

Specifically, the Global Skills Village consists of an exhibition area, where the members of the WorldSkills Organisation can introduce themselves and tell about their national skills competitions and vocational education. There is also a stage in the village, where a short-course culture-weighted programme can be performed and a seminar space, where it is possible to arrange lectures and workshops, etc.

Skills Finland together with WSO and the Finnish National Board of Education are responsible for the planning and implementation of the Global Skills Village. Other international Skills organisations can also produce programmes for the Village. The aim is to make the Global Skills Village a permanent concept that continues from one competition to another. Each country hosting the WorldSkills Competition brings its own colourful addition to the Global Skills Village. ■

Text: Elina Hakola

Translation: Heidi Lappalainen

The use of WorldSkills 2005 Helsinki logo in printouts, textiles and promotion products

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Approval of printing products

The graphic guidelines of WorldSkills 2005 should be followed when using the logo and name. You can find the guidelines in English at www.wsc2005helsinki.com at Image Bank. You can download, for example, electronic logos, a WorldSkills 2005 banner, models for advertisements and brochures. All printing products (e.g. advertisements, brochures and publications) used with the WorldSkills 2005 Helsinki logo should be approved by the official advertising agency of the Competition, Viestintä Oy Viisikko.

Contact information for Viisikko: Executive Director Pertti Knuuttila, tel. +358 (0)9 6803 0311, fax +358 (0)9 6803 0315, pertti.knuuttila@viisikko.fi



Relaxation in the Finnish nature after the competition



The WorldSkills competition is a strength-demanding performance both for the competitors and the experts. Almost 2000 official guests from 40 countries are expected at the competition and we wish to show them much more of Finland than only the Helsinki Fair Centre. When the competitors and experts have finished the competition, they can enjoy relaxing excursions in the Finnish nature. The vocational college in Porvoo, Amisto, has accepted the challenge to arrange a programme for two days for almost two thousand guests.



The excursions will be arranged on the 30th and 31st of May 2005. Everyone from Amisto is involved in the planning of the excursions, as well as the practical arrangements. The project involves students and teachers both from Helsinki and Porvoo, representing different vocational fields. Each teacher has his or her own area of responsibility and students will receive instructions for their assignments along with their studies.

Different fields of expertise are well considered and the WorldSkills Competition gives students an excellent opportunity to try out their skills in practise. The catering students supply the excursionists with provisions, the programme services students are involved in arranging the programme and everyone involved has a chance to practice their language skills.

There are 300 teachers and students from Amisto actively arranging the excursions and there are approximately a thousand persons involved in the planning and arranging of them. **Tarja Hämäläinen**, a teacher at Amisto Porvoo unit, and her team have the overall responsibility for the excursions.

Sirpa Nuutinen, event manager of WorldSkills 2005, is very confident about the excursions. "The project stands

on a very firm base because the students have been involved in the arrangements from the beginning. This is a good and excited group," says Sirpa Nuutinen about the students and teachers at Amisto.

The competitors get to go on an excursion a day before the experts, and the programmes for each of the two days are a bit different. The aim is to make the competitors' programme more youthful, because all the competitors are less than 23 years old. Both excursions are directed from Helsinki to Porvoo and back, and travelling is done both by bus and boat. In Porvoo guests can become familiarized with the Finnish nature and different cultural events. For example, different musical performances, playful contests and sight-seeing can be expected. The guides speak mostly English, but the guided boat tour, for example, will also be given in German and French.

The arrangers of the excursions met on Thursday the 16th of September 2004 on a cruise outside Helsinki. The basic information about the WorldSkills 2005 Helsinki event was revised and the arrangements of the excursions were officially started. The atmosphere was relaxed and excited, and the common goal was clear: to give the guests unforgettable experiences in Finland. ■

"The Spirit of Helsinki" as the theme of the opening



Vesa
Ruotonen



Lassi
Ikäheimo



"The Spirit of Helsinki means that here in Finland we solve problems together. The performance shown in the opening describes that. In the performance a problem is given to young people all over the world and they try to solve it by themselves. When this does not work they all come to Helsinki where the problem is solved cooperatively."

Vesa Ruotonen gives a foretaste of upcoming opening of the WorldSkills 2005 Helsinki competition. Ruotonen is the director and the producer of the opening and enthusiastically tells more about the forthcoming program: "In the performance there will be over 300 young people from all over Finland and the young people specifically bring motion and life to the performance. Different visual means are used in the performance and everything will be expressed without words."



Lassi Ikäheimo works as the scriptwriter of the opening and the closing ceremony. He came to organise the event at the request of the producer of the opening, **Vesa Ruutonen**, and the Event Manager, **Sirpa Nuutinen**. "Sirpa saw the opening of the Skiing World Championships in Lahti in the year 2000 for which I had done the script. That might have affected this order," says Ikäheimo.

The programs for the opening and the closing ceremony have already been finalized so the script has been completed and given to students who will put it into practice. According to Ikäheimo this is exactly the way this project differs from earlier ones: "Students are a huge resource. For once I am being asked when can we start and don't have to be the one rushing others."

On the other hand it makes things more exciting in form of risks that the responsibility is divided into several parts. Ikäheimo says that doing the program is like "collecting a big puzzle", meaning the way of making all the pieces fit together. Ikäheimo has worked, for example, as the co-ordinator of the military music Tattoo-tours of the Finnish Defence Forces in 1999 and 2001.

When asked about the forthcoming program Ikäheimo starts to speak enthusiastically: "In addition to the main stage we are going to have four smaller round stages on which students will make the Finnish seasons. Awards will be received and performances given on these stages". It has been planned that there could be, for example, a basin on the big stage, fireworks, balloons, flamenco, accordion music, etc. On the other words we are expecting fantastic opening and closing ceremonies. "The intention is to bring out some Finnish competence, as well as performers that the general public does not know."

The Helsinki Pop & Jazz Conservatory and The Conservatoire Association of Finland are responsible for the music at the opening and the closing ceremony. The decoration will be designed and realised by Pirkanmaa Voca-

tional Skills Centre, and Mäntsälä College will be responsible for floristics. The proficient students of Helsinki City College of Culinary Art, Fashion and Beauty will do the costumes and hairstyles of the performers. They will also do the make-up for the performers, together with the students of Espoo Institute of Health and Social Welfare. Oulu College of Culture and Technology will carry out the staging and the projecting. Savo Vocational College will take care of transportation. ■

Welcoming party in a classy environment

WorldSkills 2005 is also a showcase for the city of Helsinki. The city takes care of arranging the Ladies' & Men's Hairdressing and Ladies' Dressmaking skills, training 500 guides, supplying the IT-infra to the Helsinki Fair Center and throwing a welcoming party for the competitors at Kalastajatorppa in Munkkiniemi.



Kalastajatorppa is located in a beautiful location by the sea. With its old surroundings and traditions it is a significant part of Helsinki. "A private café opened at the beginning of the 19th century has become Hilton 2, one of the finest restaurants," **Eeva Penttilä** from the Educational Department of the city of Helsinki tells us. Penttilä, the Head of International Relations, is taking care of the planning of the party.

The welcome party is to be held on Monday the 23rd of May 2005 at 6:00pm. The hostess will be the Lord Mayor of Helsinki, **Eva-Riitta Siitonen**. The guests will be arriving from 39 WorldSkills member countries. There will be the board members of the WorldSkills Organisation and the Advisory Committee and both domestic and international partners. The representatives of different Ministries, the Finnish National Board of Education and the members of WorldSkills 2003, 2005, 2007 and 2009 organising committees will also be attending.

"Both the park and the mansion of Kalastajatorppa are in our use. There will be some programmes outside as well as inside with the theme of Finnish nature and culture," Penttilä promises. Penttilä comments on the programme, saying that there will be music and dance played and performed by youngsters. ■

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Translation: Maaria Virkki



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