

PRESS

RELEASE

WORLDSKILLS LEIPZIG 2013



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OPENING CEREMONY OF WORLDSKILLS LEIPZIG 2013

Leipzig, 2.7.2013: A spectacular show of music, dance and entertainment accompanied the opening ceremony of WorldSkills Leipzig 2013. At the 42nd WorldSkills Competition, more than 1,000 young professionals from more than 50 countries and regions will compete in 46 different Skills. Most of them already qualified in national competitions and are now selecting the best in the world.

In a video message, the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, Dr Angela Merkel welcomed and congratulated the participants: "It is an honor to even only participate in the WorldSkills Competition. Vocational Education is the key for a promising career. Qualified junior employees are worth a mint for every company."

Dr Theodor Niehaus, President of WorldSkills Leipzig 2013 put it straight when he stated: "We are not talking about Education, but we are acting." Simon Bartley, President of WorldSkills International, was highly impressed by sheer size of the Competition: "You are part of the greatest WorldSkills Competition of all times. Every one of you is a champion already. I congratulate you on what you have achieved and what you are going to achieve on these following days."

Professor Dr Johanna Wanka, Federal Minister of Education and Research pointed out in her speech, that the basis of a successful country is youth education: "The prosperity depends to a major extent on the labour of its people and how they are educated."

Sven Morlok, Deputy Minister President of the Free State of Saxony as well as the State Minister for the Economy, Labour and Transport referred to the Saxonian tradition in skilled labour and service and signified his wish for every participant to take a piece of Saxony home with them.

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The soiree was framed amongst others by the performance of the world-famous St Thomas' Chour and an acrobatic performance by Flying Steps. At the colorful "Parade of Nations", the participating countries and regions entered under great applause from the international audience, which was concluded by the "WorldSkills Oath" for a fair competition, sworn by the participants.

Under the patronage of the German Federal Chancellor Dr Angela Merkel, WorldSkills Leipzig 2013 will take place at the Leipziger Messe, July 2-7. At the Competition, more than 1000 skilled youth up to the age of 22 from all over the globe compete for the world title.

Find out more at: www.worldskillsleipzig2013.com. Contact for Journalists: Werner Kipp, Kipp@worldskillsleipzig2013.com

WorldSkills Leipzig 2013 is funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, the Saxonian State Ministry of Economy, Technology and Transportation and the European Social Fund.

WorldSkills Germany is the national Member organisation of WorldSkills International. WorldSkills Germany supports top performance and creates platforms for successful careers by hosting regional and national skills competitions. The organisation was founded in 2006. WorldSkills Germany is also a member of WorldSkills Europe.

Find out more at: www.worldskillsgermany.com. Contact for Journalists: Jörg Wehrmann, Wehrmann@worldskillsgermany.com

WorldSkills International is a global not for profit membership association open to agencies or bodies which have a responsibility for promoting vocational education and training in their respective countries/regions. WorldSkills International operates worldwide in 67 countries/regions and is politically and denominationally neutral.

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WorldSkills International provides a unique means of exchange and comparison of world-class competency standards in the industrial trades and service sectors of the global economy.

Find out more at: www.worldskills.org. Contact for Journalists: Michelle Bussey, michelle.bussey@worldskills.org

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