



Ministry of Education
SINGAPORE



PRESS RELEASE

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TEAM SINGAPORE TO FLY SINGAPORE FLAG HIGH AT THE 43rd WORLDSKILLS COMPETITION

New and enhanced awards for skills mastery announced by Minister Heng Swee Keat at Sending-off Ceremony

The 43rd WorldSkills Competition (WSC) will be taking place in Sao Paulo, Brazil from 11 August to 16 August 2015. Singapore will be sending a team of 22 contestants from the Institute of Technical Education (ITE) and the polytechnics to compete in 20 skills areas. This year's competition will be attended by a record number of 1,230 participants from 60 countries. This emphasis on skills and mastery is in line with the national SkillsFuture movement, where Singaporeans are encouraged to develop deep skills that are relevant to their careers and contribute to an advanced economy based on mastery of skills.

2 During the Sending-Off Ceremony for Team Singapore held at ITE on 29 Jul 2015, Mr Heng Swee Keat, Minister for Education, handed the Singapore Flag to the team captains Mr Chew Rong Kang (Nanyang Polytechnic, IT Software Solutions for Business) and Miss Tan Xin Yi (Temasek Polytechnic, Graphic Design Technology) to mark the sending-off of the team to Brazil.

New Awards for Skills Mastery

3 To recognise the importance of skills deepening and mastery for better careers and future, and build a strong Singapore core talent pipeline, the Singapore Workforce Development Agency and the WorldSkills Singapore Council are jointly enhancing the cash prizes award and introducing a new Skills Commitment Award.

4 The Cash prize award for all WSC 2015 Medal winners will be significantly increased for all categories. For example, winners of Gold Medals will receive \$20,000 in Cash Prize, almost a three-fold increase from the \$7,000 Cash Prize for WSC 2013 Gold Medalists. Please refer to Annex B for more details on the Award.

5 The new Skills Commitment Award will be introduced and open to all medal recipients. The Award aims to encourage these skilled youths to attain mastery of skills and progress in their careers in their respective sectors and contribute to the advancement of the Singapore economy. After five years in the industry, recipients will be given a total of \$5,000 in cash.

6 Mr Heng Swee Keat, Minister of Education, said, "The WorldSkills Competition, with its focus on skills mastery, is very much in line with the SkillsFuture national movement. Our continual support for students participating in the WorldSkills Competition over the years highlights the emphasis we place on developing deep skills. There are 'skills' in all that we do and the WorldSkills Competition is an excellent platform for us to recognise the talent and

the effort it takes to achieve skills mastery in diverse areas ranging from cooking to mechatronics. Team Singapore has put up an outstanding performance in the Singapore leg of the competition. We wish them all the best on the world stage and hope that each individual will continue to master their craft, make learning their passion for life and secure their future based on their skills.”

7 Mr Bruce Poh, Director and CEO, ITE, and Singapore’s Official Delegate to WorldSkills International, said, “We are very excited for Team Singapore. Our competitors have shown commitment and grit in their training. The WSC is an excellent opportunity for them to benchmark themselves against global talents, and grow deeper in their skill levels. This competition is not simply about winning. It is more than that. It is about recognising our young skilled talent, grooming them and giving them the world stage to shine.”

8 Mr Ng Cher Pong, WDA’s Chief Executive said, “WDA has always been a strong supporter of the WorldSkills competition as it promotes skills deepening and mastery among young Singaporeans. With the increase in prizes and the new Skills Commitment Award, WDA hopes to encourage these talented young individuals to continue to deepen their skills after graduation. The award is also part of WDA’s efforts to support industries in creating and retaining a pipeline of Singapore talent. With a skilled workforce, we will strengthen the Singapore core and fulfil the SkillsFuture vision of an advanced economy based on advanced skills.”

About the World Skills Competition

The WSC is the largest-scale vocational education and skills excellence event in the world. There has been rising focus on the value of skilled talent in Singapore, and the WSC is one platform to nurture and recognise our best youth talent. Since Singapore’s debut at the WorldSkills Competition (WSC) in 1995, Team Singapore has done progressively well over the years. At the 42nd WSC in Germany in 2013, our competitors clinched three Gold Medals, two Silver Medals and nine Medallions of Excellence. ITE, in conjunction with the five Polytechnics, organises Team Singapore’s participation at WSC. The Singapore Workforce Development Agency is Team Singapore’s sponsor for WSC 2015.

About Singapore Workforce Development Agency

The Singapore Workforce Development Agency (WDA) enhances the competitiveness of our workforce by encouraging workers to learn for life and advance with skills. In today’s economy, most jobs require not just knowledge, but also skills. WDA collaborates with employers, industry associations, unions and training organisations, to develop and strengthen the Continuing Education and Training system that is skills-based, open and accessible, as a mainstream pathway for all workers - young and older, from rank and file to professionals and executives - to upgrade and advance in their careers and lives.

For more information, please visit www.wda.gov.sg.

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TEAM SINGAPORE FOR WSC 2015

S/N	Names of Competitors (by institution)	Institution	Skill Area
1.	Farisha Dhamiera Bte Bohari	Institute of Technical Education	Restaurant Service
2.	Loh Fook Lee	Institute of Technical Education	Cooking
3.	Vanessa Quek Hui Min	Institute of Technical Education	Beauty Therapy
4.	Elaine Sz Hui Min	Institute of Technical Education	Hairdressing
5.	Wong Chun Siong	Institute of Technical Education	Electrical Installation
6.	Chew Rong Kang	Nanyang Polytechnic	IT Software Solutions for Business
7.	Dinesh Mangalanathadurai	Nanyang Polytechnic	Mobile Robotics
8.	Lee Wei Meng, Daniel	Nanyang Polytechnic	IT Network Systems Administration
9.	Lim Ling	Nanyang Polytechnic	Health & Social Care
10.	Lin YongQiang	Nanyang Polytechnic	Mobile Robotics
11.	Muhammad Miqdad Bin Mazlan	Nanyang Polytechnic	Mechanical Engineering Design-CAD
12.	Ng Ming Yang	Nanyang Polytechnic	CNC Turning
13.	Ng Wei Xin	Nanyang Polytechnic	Electronics
14.	Poh Yong Han	Nanyang Polytechnic	Mechatronics
15.	Peh Xian Bin, Eugene	Nanyang Polytechnic	Mechatronics
16.	Amanda Chan	Temasek Polytechnic	Web Design
17.	Muhammad Bin Mahmoud Abdullah Ng	Republic Polytechnic	Information Network Cabling
18.	Joell Thng Chong Shu	Singapore Polytechnic	Industrial Control
19.	Ong Zheng Jie	Singapore Polytechnic	CNC Milling
20.	Phang Ying Xian Bryan	Temasek Polytechnic	Aircraft Maintenance
21.	Quek Wen Hui, Josephine	Temasek Polytechnic	Visual Merchandising
22.	Tan Xinyi	Temasek Polytechnic	Graphic Design Technology

**NEW REWARDS FOR TEAM SINGAPORE'S MEDALLISTS
AT THE 43RD WORLDSKILLS COMPETITION**

(I) INCREASE IN AMOUNT OF CASH PRIZES

Background

- To signal the **rising importance of skills**, the Cash Prizes for Team Singapore's WSC 2015 Medalists will be increased.
- The **Singapore Workforce Development Agency (WDA)** as Team Singapore's sponsor for their participation in WSC 2015 is contributing the Cash Prizes.
- Previously, Cash Prizes were funded by the WorldSkills Singapore Fund.
- Aside from the Cash Prize, Medallists will also receive a Medal from the competition organisers.

Cash Prizes for Various Medalists in 2013 and 2015

Type of Medal	WSC 2013	WSC 2015
	Value of Award	Value of Award
Albert Vidal Award*	\$3,000	\$30,000
Gold	\$7,000	\$20,000
Silver	\$5,000	\$10,000
Bronze	\$3,000	\$5,000
Medallion for Excellence	-	\$1,000

**The Albert Vidal Award is a prestigious award named after the founder of the WorldSkills international. In memory of Albert Vidal, this Award recognises the Competitor that achieves the overall highest score out of all Competitors in all Skill categories. The winner of the Albert Vidal Award would also be a Gold Medal winner, and hence receive \$50,000 in all (\$20,000 for the Gold Medal and \$30,000 for the Albert Vidal Award).*

(III) SKILLS COMMITMENT AWARD

- The WorldSkills Singapore Council will introduce a new Skills Commitment Award, which is sponsored by WDA.
- Under this scheme, winners of the Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals, will be encouraged to work in the same industry as their competition Skill Area, for at least five years after graduation.
- \$1,000 will be given to those who work in the same industry, over a five-year period. This will add up to \$5,000.
- This would encourage these skilled youths to continue in their respective career sectors where they will be able to deepen their skills even more, mentor other workers and contribute to a skilled workforce.