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TEAM SINGAPORE ALL GEARED UP FOR 44th WORLDSKILLS COMPETITION 2017 *Singapore debuts in two new skill categories*

Singapore will be participating in the 44th WorldSkills Competition (WSC) in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE), come October 2017. Hailed as the 'Youth Olympics of Skills', WSC is the biggest vocational education and skills excellence event in the world. Singapore will be fielding a team of **21 competitors** from the Institute of Technical Education (ITE) and the five Polytechnics, to compete in **19 skills areas** (See [Annex A](#)).

2 Among the 19 skill areas, two new categories - **3D Digital Game Art** and **Freight Forwarding** – will be represented by one competitor each. Known as 'Demonstration Skills', these skill areas represent fields that are most likely to be in demand in the future economy.

3 Organised by Abu Dhabi Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training, the WSC will be held in the Middle East for the first time, from **15 to 18 October 2017** at Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre. The four-day competition is set to attract almost 1,300 participants from 66 WorldSkills Member Countries and Regions, who will compete in over 50 skill areas.

4 The flagship skills championship provides opportunities for youths to pit their skills against the world's best and benchmark their capabilities against international standards. There has been rising focus on the value of skills in Singapore, and WSC is one platform used to nurture and recognise our best skilled youths. ITE, in conjunction with the five Polytechnics, organises Team Singapore's participation at WSC (See [Annex B](#)).

Making of Skills Champions

5 As top performers in the national WorldSkills Singapore competition held last July, our 21 young men and women earned their right to represent Singapore in this renowned global skills challenge. Since then, they have intensified their training to reach their best form. On top of juggling their studies in the respective institutions, they underwent targeted training almost every day, often sacrificing their personal time. They were constantly put through evaluation tests to gauge their level of proficiency. As part of the training, some competitors participated in internships to gain experience in the related industry, while others had a taste of the competition through friendly challenges with peers overseas. Besides honing their technical skills, competitors also participated in camps focusing on communication, resilience and team building.

6 In a Sending-Off Ceremony held at ITE on 22 September 2017, Guest-of-Honour, Dr Janil Puthuchery, Senior Minister of State (SMS) for Communications and Information, and Education, handed the Singapore Flag to the Team Captain, Andrew Tan (Information Network Cabling, Singapore Polytechnic). This symbolised Singapore's hope for Team Singapore to excel in Abu Dhabi, while underscoring the nation's strong support in skills-based pathways for our youth.



Institute of Technical Education

SKILLSfuture SG



Recognition and Support from Home

7 The WSC is a platform that recognises the talent and effort needed to achieve skills mastery. It is aligned with the national SkillsFuture movement, where Singaporeans are encouraged to develop deep skills that are relevant to their careers, and which contribute to an advanced economy based on advanced skills.

8 Competitors can also look forward to receiving cash rewards with every medal earned. Team Singapore's Official Sponsor at WSC, **SkillsFuture Singapore (SSG)** has pledged cash prizes for medal winners (See **Annex C**), to reaffirm the nation's support towards elevating skills excellence among our youth.

9 Mr Ng Cher Pong, Chief Executive of SkillsFuture Singapore and Chairman of WorldSkills Singapore Council, said, "I am confident that our young competitors can do themselves and Singapore proud in the upcoming WorldSkills Competition in Abu Dhabi. Their participation affirms our commitment to recognise the importance of skills in education. They will have our full support, not only for the competition, but also in their journey towards building and perfecting their crafts."

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Annex A

TEAM SINGAPORE AT WORLDSKILLS COMPETITION 2017

S/N	Names of Competitors (by institution)	Institution	Skill Area
1.	Ng Si Si, Khloe	Institute of Technical Education	Beauty Therapy
2.	Zahirah Bte Zainol	Institute of Technical Education	Restaurant Service
3.	Eljer Chua	Nanyang Polytechnic	Mechatronics (<i>Team Event*</i>)
4.	Clarence Lim Yi An	Nanyang Polytechnic	
5.	Fazira Bte Zulkifli	Nanyang Polytechnic	Health & Social Care
6.	Ho Min Li, Rachel	Nanyang Polytechnic	CNC Turning
7.	Li Kangli	Nanyang Polytechnic	IT Network Systems Administration
8.	Low Kin Lin	Nanyang Polytechnic	Graphic Design Technology
9.	Low Wei Ting	Nanyang Polytechnic	Aircraft Maintenance
10.	Muhammad Zafhir Bin Nordin	Nanyang Polytechnic	Visual Merchandising
11.	Ng Jun Xuan	Nanyang Polytechnic	3D Digital Game Art (<i>Demonstration Skill[^]</i>)
12.	Tay Sze Seng, Raymond	Nanyang Polytechnic	Mobile Robotics (<i>Team Event*</i>)
13.	Wong Shu Ting	Nanyang Polytechnic	
14.	Ho Yi Shu, Keon	Ngee Ann Polytechnic	Industrial Control
15.	Muhammad Danial Bin Suboh	Republic Polytechnic	Cooking
16.	Lim Wei Kang, Dylan	Singapore Polytechnic	Electronics
17.	Loy Chen Yi, Lucas	Singapore Polytechnic	CNC Milling
18.	Tan Kai Hao, Andrew	Singapore Polytechnic	Information Network Cabling
19.	Olivia Low Wen Xin	Temasek Polytechnic	Freight Forwarding (<i>Demonstration Skill[^]</i>)
20.	Tay Yan Chong, Clarence	Temasek Polytechnic	Web Design and Development
21.	Teo Jun Yi, Austin	Temasek Polytechnic	IT Software Solutions for Business

**Team Event involves two competitors in the skill area. Other skill areas require one competitor.*

[^]Demonstration Skill refers to a skill area that is new in the competition.

Annex B

SINGAPORE'S PARTICIPATION AT WORLDSKILLS COMPETITION SERIES

Overview of WorldSkills Competition

Over 60 years, the WorldSkills Competition (WSC), organised by WorldSkills International, has come to symbolise the pinnacle of excellence in skilled trades and technologies training.

Every two years, hundreds of young skilled people, accompanied by their teachers, coaches and trainers, gather from around the world, to compete in the skills of their various trades and test themselves against demanding international standards. They represent the best of their peers drawn from regional and national skills competitions.

First introduced as a national skills competition in Madrid, Spain, in 1947, to raise the image of vocational training in the country, the WSC became an international competition in 1950 with two participating countries – Spain and Portugal.

From an initial 12 competitors, the Competition has since grown to attract close to 1,300 competitors from more than 60 countries/regions, competing in over 50 skills areas at this year's Competition. It has been hosted by numerous cities and countries around the world, including Dublin (Ireland), Glasgow (UK), Brussels (Belgium), Amsterdam (the Netherlands), Lyon (France), Montreal (Canada), Seoul (South Korea), St Gallen (Switzerland), Helsinki (Finland), Shizuoka (Japan), Calgary (Canada), London (UK), Leipzig (Germany) and most recently São Paulo (Brazil).

The experience and results gained through participating in the WSC provide valuable feedback both to the individual competitors and to their training organisations. For some, it is recognition for outstanding achievement, while for others, it provides the motivation and knowledge to aspire to higher standards. Many competitors have gone on to do well in their careers. For the onlookers, it is an eye-opening experience to see highly competent young skills talents in action. The Competition is particularly effective in the context of providing positive career role models for school-aged youths.

About WorldSkills International

WorldSkills International (WSI) is a 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. There are currently **77 Member countries and regions**. WSI operates worldwide and is politically and denominationally neutral. The WSI Secretariat is currently located in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

WSI provides a unique means of exchange and comparison of world-class competency standards in the industrial trades and service sectors of the global economy. The continued growth of WorldSkills attests to the fact that traditional trade and craft skills, along with the newer technology multi-skilled vocations, make an essential contribution to the economic and social well-being of people everywhere.

As a free-standing, non-political organisation, WSI provides a cost-effective means for international government and industry cooperation in achieving higher standards and status for vocational education and training on a worldwide basis.

Singapore's Participation in WSC

ITE's participation in WorldSkills was initiated in 1992, when then-Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, at the inauguration of ITE as a post-secondary education institution, suggested that ITE raise the image of technical education and profile of skilled professions by taking part in international skills competitions.

In 1993, ITE joined WorldSkills International, a non-profit organisation whose mission is to promote the image of skills and skilled careers through competitions and exchanges for youths. In 1994, ITE organised the first National Skills Competition (now known as WorldSkills Singapore Competition) and led the first Singapore team to participate in the WSC in 1995 held in Lyon, France.

Eleven WorldSkills Singapore (WSS) Competitions have since been organised biennially by ITE, in conjunction with the Polytechnics. The WSS is open to Singaporeans (not older than 21 years old) from secondary schools, Junior Colleges, Polytechnics, ITE, companies and other institutions of higher learning. Top medal winners from the WSS are then selected to represent Singapore at the WSC. The last WSS Competition was held in July 2016.

In 2008, Singapore took part in the ASEAN Skills Competition, a regional version of the WSC, for the first time. The last ASEAN Skills Competition was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in September 2016.

At the 43rd WSC in São Paulo, Brazil, in 2015, our competitors achieved a record number of Medals and Medallions for Excellence in 17 out of the 20 skills areas it participated in. The Team clinched One Silver Medal, Two Bronze Medals and 14 Medallions for Excellence.



Team Singapore's Track Record at WSC

The table below summarises Team Singapore's performance at the WSC from 1995 to 2015:

S/N	Competition	Year	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Medallion for Excellence
1	43 rd WSC, São Paulo, Brazil	2015	0	1	2	14
2	42 nd WSC, Leipzig, Germany	2013	3	2	0	9
3	41 st WSC, London, England	2011	4	1	2	7
4	40 th WSC, Calgary, Canada	2009	3	0	1	8
5	39 th WSC, Shizuoka, Japan	2007	3	0	1	6
6	38 th WSC, Helsinki, Finland	2005	2	0	1	3
7	37 th WSC, St Gallen, Switzerland	2003	2	1	1	5
8	36 th WSC, Seoul, South Korea	2001	2	2	1	2
9	35 th WSC, Montreal, Canada	1999	2	0	0	4
10	34 th WSC, St Gallen, Switzerland	1997	1	1	0	3
11	33 rd WSC, Lyon, France	1995	1	0	1	2

Annex C

REWARDS FOR TEAM SINGAPORE'S MEDALLISTS AT WORLDSKILLS COMPETITION 2017

Background

- Previously, Cash Prizes for WSC Medallists were disbursed through the WorldSkills Singapore Council Fund. In 2015, the value of the Cash Prizes increased due to sponsorship from then-Singapore Workforce Development Agency (WDA).
- This year, **SkillsFuture Singapore (SSG)** took over from WDA as Team Singapore's Official Sponsor. To show continual support in skills, SSG will sponsor the **same value of Cash Prizes** as WDA in 2015.
- On top of the Cash Prize, Medallists will also receive a Medal from the competition organisers.

Cash Prizes for Medallists in WSC 2017

Type of Medal	Value of Award
Albert Vidal Award*	\$30,000
Gold	\$20,000
Silver	\$10,000
Bronze	\$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(s) who 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 will receive \$50,000 in all (\$20,000 for the Gold Medal and \$30,000 for the Albert Vidal Award).

#The Medallion for Excellence is awarded to competitors who achieve above-average scores (more than 700 points out of 800 points).