



XXIII internationale beroepen wedstrijden utrecht 1977

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ADDRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT, MR. VALENTIN GAMAZO, AT THE CLOSURE OF THE XXIII INTERNATIONAL YOUTH SKILL OLYMPICS

Mr. Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The inevitable moment to close these XXIII Skill Olympics has arrived. It is a good moment to recapitulate and consider what has been done up to now and the present situation of our Organisation. Since the previous Skill Olympics held in Madrid two years ago, our Organisation has been active and worked hard. The General Assembly has met twice, the Technical Committee four times, the Administrative Committee three times, the Standing Commission twice and there were three other meetings of special commissions. Bonn, Brussels, Madrid, Liechtenstein, Puerto de la Cruz and Vienna hosted these worksessions held to discuss the daily business of our Organisation. Finally, these XXIII Skill Olympics that have now come to an end close one more cycle of the efficient and enthusiastic activity of this team of men and women dedicated to our competitions. Our Organisation works and works well. The thousands of young people who have competed throughout the year at different levels, from Schools of Vocational Training or Factories to the International Skill Olympics, putting to the test their skill as well as their spirit of co-operation, are the best proof of the efficacy of our labours and the positive result of so many days of hard work and dedication.

This is the reason why I consider it worth while to repeat once more that the International Skill Olympics stimulate the interest of the different Nations in Vocational Training, enable us to compare the level of efficiency of the different educational systems existing in each country, allow us to become acquainted with different methods and techniques of teaching and working, and bring together experts, specialists and leaders in the world of Vocational Training. We are firmly convinced of all this, and this is the reason why we proclaim it in order to further stimulate, if possible, all the institutions and bodies concerned in these matters to obtain their unconditional support.

But, when a Competition has finished, the first thing that comes to our minds is the future, because our organisation is young and alive and always looking ahead. Fortunately, thanks to our experience gained in previous years we do not have to start out from zero. Our activities continue without a break and without haste. We must now start preparing for the XXIV International Skill Olympics, so that

these may be held to the great satisfaction of all in South Korea in a year's time. We must now make every effort to ensure the best results there too.

Looking forward, the General Assembly, the Secretariat and the various Committees continue in their task of increasing the range of our activities, with the purpose of fulfilling the clear objective laid down in our Constitution, according to which the International Organisation for the Promotion of Vocational Training has agreed to take on the wide field of training for the different trades, so that young people may learn skills related to every field of industry, the services and craftsmanship, without forgetting the need to give them an education in depth as men and citizens. We continue, then, along this path, increasing our activities, our contacts and our publications to the limit of our possibilities. In this connection, it is our desire to have new countries among our members when we meet again at the next Skill Olympics. Now that our Organisation has been accepted as an International Body, thus fulfilling the desire of all of us that our activities should be extended, let more countries take advantage of it. Let us be ready to receive young people from all over the world into the clear, enthusiastic and generous world of the Skill Olympics.

Because we live in a problematic world made up, as in every society, of rich countries and poor countries, of nations striving to emerge from a state of underdevelopment and of peoples seeking their liberation through culture and economic and social growth. Between underdevelopment and development lies a whole process of industrial growth and establishment of services that requires something absolutely essential: a block of citizens specialized in the different branches of technology and the services, and, since this cannot be conjured up at a moment's notice, planned and rational systems of Vocational Training are needed.

But in addition to being essential to development, Vocational Training is also an important factor in human and social promotion, because, if it is well given, it enables young people to realise their potential abilities, reach a higher standard of living and enjoy the benefits of a better education. This makes them feel freer and, above all, more useful to their country and to man kind.

The role of our Organisation is closely connected with all this. Our capacity, shown on so many occasions, to coordinate efforts between specialists, teaching centres, state bodies and private companies, puts us in a position to be able to cooperate in this vital task of promoting Vocational Training throughout the

world vis-à-vis the International Bodies and the individual Nations.

Such are our present intentions. We are determined to make them materialize and have every hope that we shall. We have been receiving most valuable assistance to help us in our task. For this reason I would once again emphasize our deepest gratitude to the Dutch Ministries of Education and Social Affairs for the generous support which they have given to this important activity. They may rest assured that their help has reaped excellent dividends. This has been ensured by the exceptional technical conditions, the faultless organisation and the prevailing atmosphere of hard work and efficiency.

All this has been feasible thanks to the splendid work of the Dutch Committee. Once more our Dutch friends have set an example of efficiency and organisation. For all this I wish to express my deepest and most sincere gratitude. But this is not all. Speaking for myself as well as on behalf of the General Assembly, I wish to thank and congratulate the Dutch Committee for the constant atmosphere of comradeship and friendship and for the cheerful spirit that has reigned at all times during the Competition. Once more, thanks to our good friends on the Dutch Committee, these Skill Olympics, bringing together three hundred young people from all over the world, have shown man's capacity to understand his fellows when he joins them with the common purpose of serving others in an atmosphere of whole-hearted and cheerful dedication.

And that is all I have to say. I must stop here. As President of the General Assembly of the Organisation, I want to congratulate all the competitors for the way they have conducted themselves and for the spirit of fair play that they have shown in these Skill Olympics. We are all winners in one way or another when our competition follows the lines of this one.

Soon we will meet again, next year at the XXIV Skill Olympics in South Korea. I am sure that once more in Asia we shall encounter the same friendship and cheerful comradeship thanks to the help of the Korean people and the efficacy of their International Committee.

Until we meet again I wish to all of you prosperity and happiness, as well as a pleasant journey home and a greeting to your families. Good luck to all of you. Thank you very much and "hasta la vista".