

International Vocational Training Competitions



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International Organisation for the promotion
of vocational training and
International Vocational Training Competitions
for Youth,
Calle de Eugenio Salazar 27,
Madrid-2, Spain, 1979

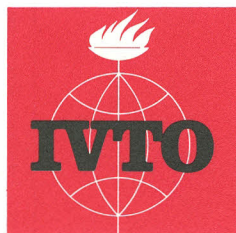
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Printing:

Druckerei Gebrüder Kopp o.H.G., Cologne

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Preface

1979 is a landmark for the International Vocational Training Competitions: for the 25th time, young artisans from all over the world will crowd around their workbenches and once again compete with one another in friendly rivalry. They will thus join the 5000 young people from 21 countries of Europe, Asia, America and Africa who, for the past 30 years, have shown adequate proof of skill and professional competence on an international level.

But it's not only a question of gold, silver and bronze medals. For countries where vocational training is not just an empty word, international skill olympics are a valuable source of inspiration and information. Where else can training specialists exchange their points of view and experiences from years of training practice?

Furthermore, the competitions stimulate and develop economic relations. Behind each young artisan, there is the trade or the industry which employs him and is partially responsible for his training.

The "International Skill Olympics" are promoted by the "International Organisation for the promotion of vocational training and International Vocational Training Competitions for Youth", who wishes to make its various tasks and objectives known in this brochure. The text gives some insight into the history, the reality and the significance of the competitions. They deserve full support but especially ever increasing participation on the part of young craftsmen.

Aims of the organisation

Promotion of vocational training

The main objective of the organisation is the promotion of vocational training in crafts, industrial and service trades. The competitions provide ample opportunity to observe the professional skill of young artisans and stimulate contact between delegates and experts of participating countries on a level where an exchange of experience is enriching.

More intensive exchange of information

Since the adoption of the organisation's new constitution in 1976, this exchange of information has become more intensive. Seminars were organised allowing interesting comparisons of the various vocational training systems and methods in use in the different member countries, trade descriptions were drawn up or revised, etc.



Origin and development

Quite some time ago, one could find a few nations who organised individual contests in different professions themselves. The aim of such competitions was to encourage young professionals, allowing them to evaluate their level of professional knowledge.

First competition in 1950

In 1949, a few Spaniards actively engaged in vocational training, hit on the idea of inviting neighbouring Portugal to participate in a competition, which took place in 1950 with 12 competitors from each country, representing 12 trades. Little did the organisers know then that their idea would fall on such fertile ground.

International since 1953

In their enthusiasm, they went as far as inviting the representatives of the diplomatic corps stationed in Madrid to the very modest second Iberian contest, in order to draw the attention of as many countries as possible to the competitions and to get them interested in possible future participation. This further effort was crowned with success: in 1953 five more countries delegated young artisans to the third competition. One could say that from this day forward, the competitions were firmly established on an international basis.

Spain can thus rightly be called the foster-mother of the organisation and their untiring efforts deserve to be put on record here: eleven competitions have taken place in this country. Right from the start, Spain assumed the heavy tasks of the General Secretariat and bore the cost thereof alone until 1976.

The idea behind the competitions can be compared to that of Pierre de Coubertin, the father of today's Olympic Games, and the expression "great ideas come straight from the heart" can be applied to the pioneers of the present organisation, which has always had its headquarters in Madrid.

**Impressed by
high level
of knowledge**

None who has ever lived through a competition ever fails to be impressed by the level and the extent of the young artisans' professional knowledge and proficiency. They are so obviously proud to be chosen and they so wholeheartedly enjoy making friends with colleagues from other countries in spite of language barriers. It is an experience which must colour their entire life, professionally as well as personally.

Date of admission to the organisation

1950:	Spain
	Portugal
1953:	Federal Republic of Germany
	Great Britain
	Switzerland
	France
	Morocco (withdrew after two competitions)
1954:	Belgium
1956:	Italy
1957:	Republic of Ireland
1958:	Luxemburg
1961:	Austria
1962:	Japan
	the Netherlands
1963:	Denmark
1967:	Republic of Korea
1968:	Liechtenstein
	Malta (withdrew after three competitions)
1970:	Taiwan
1975:	United States of America
	Iran

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25 international vocational training competitions

The following list gives a numerical overview of the development of the competitions.

It is to be noted that, mainly for financial and organisational reasons, promoters of the competitions find it increasingly difficult to accept the heavy responsibilities involved.

If only some countries would agree to spend on vocational training a fraction of the sums set aside for the promotion of sports, there would be no financial problem at all.

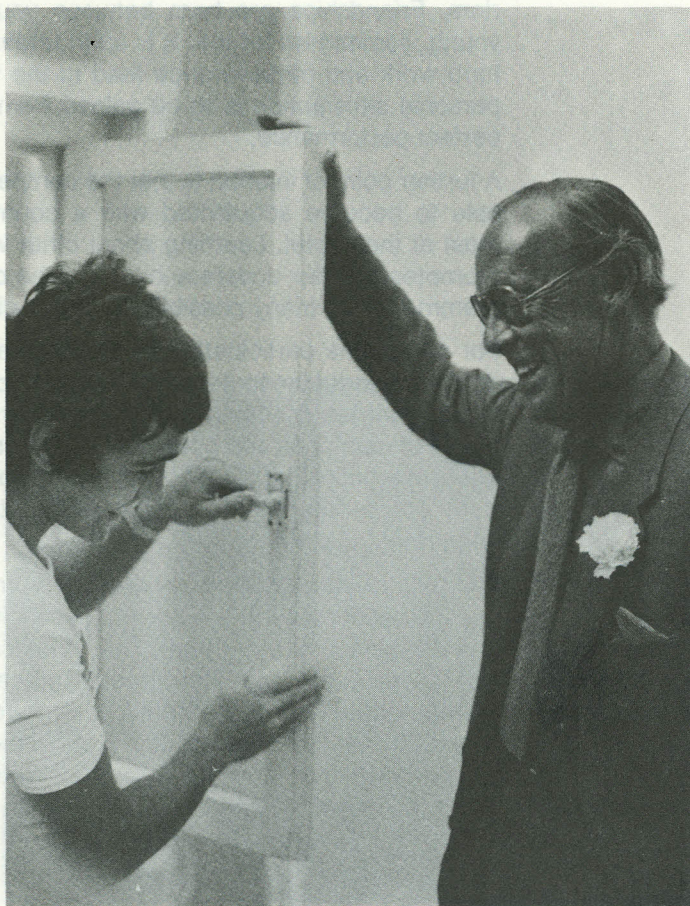
	year	country and place	participating countries	number of competitors
I	1950	Spain (Madrid)	2	24
II	1952	Spain (Madrid)	2	16
III	1953	Spain (Madrid)	7	65
IV	1954	Spain (Madrid)	7	83
V	1956	Spain (Madrid)	8	88
VI	1957	Spain (Madrid)	8	128
VII	1958	Belgium (Brussels)	10	144
VIII	1959	Italy (Modena)	9	150
IX	1960	Spain (Barcelona)	7	173
X	1961	Federal Republic of Germany (Duisburg)	11	193



	year	country and place	participating countries	number of compe- titors
XI	1962	Spain (Gijon)	10	156
XII	1963	Republic of Ireland (Dublin)	13	257
XIII	1964	Portugal (Lisbon)	11	198
XIV	1965	Great Britain (Glasgow)	10	200
XV	1966	the Netherlands (Utrecht)	11	221
XVI	1967	Spain (Madrid)	11	233
XVII	1968	Switzerland (Bern)	14	256
XVIII	1969	Belgium (Brussels)	15	256
XIX	1970	Japan (Tokyo)	15	274
XX	1971	Spain (Gijon)	15	271
XXI	1973	Federal Republic of Germany (Munich)	15	285
XXII	1975	Spain (Madrid)	17	290
XXIII	1977	The Netherlands (Utrecht)	17	278
XXIV	1978	Republic of Korea (Busan)	14	285
XXV	1979	Republic of Ireland (Cork)	15	290

Increased participation

The number of countries and competitors participating in the competitions has stagnated in recent years. It is, however, more than probable that this number will increase in the future as several Asiatic and American states, as well as Australia, are interested in joining the organisation. The future, therefore, looks bright.



Not only in pursuit of medals

It is more important to play the game than to win

Deep in the heart of every competitor lies the hope of winning a medal and in every country this tangible proof of skill is always much appreciated.

Nevertheless, for International Vocational Training Competitions as for the Olympic Games, . . . "it is more important to play the game than to win!" It should not be forgotten that before competing on an international level, there must be success in regional and national selections, so that a country can really send its best artisans to the competition.

To attend the International Skill Olympics is an unforgettable experience. Contacts are easily made, ideas and experiences freely exchanged, unhindered by nationality barriers. Friendships are born between young and not so young, sometimes for life. It is soon understood that only hard work and perseverance lead to the top and that no personal satisfaction is to be gained from anything but a perfect performance.

A further point of interest is that the competitions allow people to become acquainted with a country unknown to most at the outset. Learning about other ways and habits promotes a better understanding and the competition programme offers many possibilities in this direction.

Contacts on an economic level

For all nations participating in the competitions, there is ample opportunity to establish economic relations with other countries. It often happens that contracts for the purchase of machines and other equipment are signed during the competitions. Much valuable information can be gained from comparing the different levels of technical development in various countries.

Vocational training pillar of prosperity

It is also of interest for each and every one to be able to see the vocational training system used in his own country in a different light and to draw the necessary conclusions from there. Every country will readily agree that vocational training is the pillar of prosperity. A quick comparison of results brings to light the pros and cons of the different training systems, thus allowing a more objective judgment of one's own system.

The idea of bringing young artisans from all parts of the world together to compete with one another in a friendly contest, is now generally accepted, which is very positive. At a time when young people often feel that they have no alternative but to be "productive", spontaneous contact with others is extremely valuable. It is to be hoped that the favourable evolution of the competitions will enable many more young people to share similar experiences.



What happens at the competition

Duties of the organising country

The decision to hold a competition is incumbent on the Member Assembly, after one of its members has put forward the necessary proposal, following which the country promoting the competition accepts the responsibility of organising this important event. Amongst others, accommodation has to be provided for competitors, delegates, experts and observers. For each trade section, workshops, machines, tools and materials for the competition work have to be supplied, the cost of which also provides workshop masters and interpreters to help with language problems between candidates and experts. The organisers are also responsible for the production of certificates and medals which are to be distributed to competitors and for the organisation of all events which form part of the competition programme.

Decisions of the international organisation

One year before the competition, the various committees within the international organisation, decide on the following:

- Place and duration of the competition
- Programme of the competition
- Trades admitted to the competition
- Nomination of juries for the various trades
- Approximate number of competitors per country

One competitor per trade

Each country has the right to assign a masculine or feminine competitor per approved trade. A competitor should not be older than 21 but may complete his 21st year during the competition year. A candidate cannot be nominated for two consecutive contests.

The selection of candidates is left to the discretion of every participation country. Competitors must be enrolled six months before the start of a competition. Travelling and board and lodging expenses are borne by the country delegating the candidates and experts in question.

**To the
competition
with own tools
duties of
the Technical
Committee**

Candidates are allowed to take their own tools and auxiliary products and there are no limits as to number or type.

Six months before the competition, the Technical Committee takes care of the following:

- Selection of three test projects per trade, chosen from the proposals submitted by the experts of the participating countries
- Definition of marking criteria and time limits within which the work has to be carried out for each trade
- Laying down the requirements regarding materials, machines and tools
- Approval of measures taken by the organising country
- Final nomination of competitors and experts.

The decision as to whether a trade is admitted to the competition depends on the number of candidates. Where fewer than 5 candidates are announced for a given trade, the trade in question is not admitted.

The number of experts per country is also limited and must not exceed half the number of competitors registered for the competition.

Start of the competition

Members of the Technical Committee must report to the competition site five days before the start of the contest. During this time, all preparations must be finalised, i.e.:

- Final selection of test projects for each trade
- Final definition of marking criteria
- Final check of enrolment forms (to see whether they comply with requirements, e.g. age limit, etc.)
- Inspection of workshops and machines. Check whether they qualify for the competition work
- Check security measures for competitors
- Preparation of materials and tools for each candidate
- Translating of all forms and documents necessary for the competition work, into the candidate's mother tongue. All documents must be easily understood by competitors and experts.



Official opening

The competition is then officially opened, in a ceremony attended by competitors, delegates, experts and observers as well as the official representatives of the host country and the representatives of the diplomatic missions of the participating countries.

Preparation of competitors

Half a day before the start of the competition work, competitors can visit the workshops and inspect the machines, and become familiar with their surroundings. Workplaces are then allotted and personal contact made with experts and workshop masters.

Marking according to points system

The juries are composed of 3 to 5 experts per trade, depending on the number of competitors, and come from different countries. Each jury is presided by a technical delegate, who acts as referee in case of controversy.

Competition work is marked according to a pre-determined scheme, whereby a maximum number of points is attributed to each marking criterion. In each profession, experts mark according to a points system, with maximum 100. No expert can judge the work of his own country's competitor.

24 hours to carry out a project

The competition work begins with the distribution to competitors of the project selected for the trade in question. The candidate studies the set tasks and gets to work. He has 3 1/2 days to carry out his project, an average of 24 hours.

Whilst the work is in progress, the experts supervise the competitors and take note of individual performances. These notes are taken into consideration for the final marking up. Once the maximum time allowed has elapsed, the jury meets in order to start marking. Basing themselves on the points calculated by the experts, the chairmen of the juries communicate the results to the Technical Committee, where they are checked. They are subsequently passed on to the Member Assembly. The Chairman of the Technical Committee makes recommendations where necessary, and the Member Assembly then decides where to award prizes.

**Medals for
the first
three places**

In each profession, a medal is awarded for the first three places. An honourable mention is given for exceptional merit. Independently of his results, each competitor receives a certificate of participation.

The International Vocational Training Competition ends with the official closing ceremony, during which medals and certificates are distributed. A vote of thanks goes to all those who contributed towards making the competition a success.

A farewell party attended by one and all provides the finishing touch. Here young and old meet for the last time, have fun together and ... say goodbye. A typical aspect of this event are the spontaneous vocal and theatrical productions of the young competitors themselves.



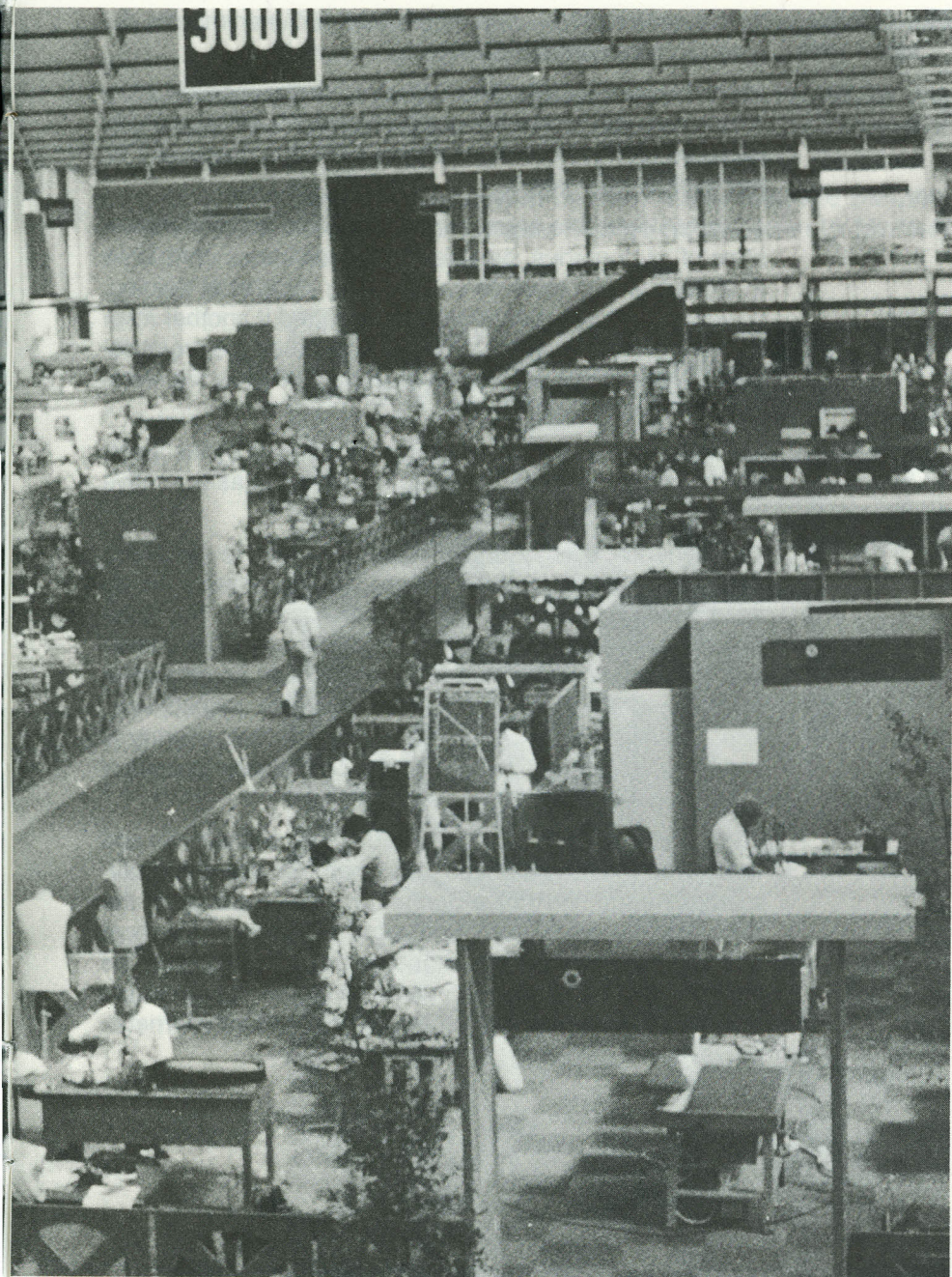
Competition trades

Through the years, the International Vocational Training Competitions have incorporated 33 trades, i. e.:

Fitting	Industrial wiring
Press tool making	Bricklaying
Instrument making	Stone masonry
Watch making	Painting
Engineering drawing	Plaster work
Turning	Cabinet making
Milling	Joinery
Constructional steel work	Carpentry
Gas welding	Jewellery
Electric welding	Tailoring
Wood pattern making	Ladies' Hairdressing
Panel beating	Men's Hairdressing
Sheet metal work	Ladies' Dressmaking
Plumbing	Upholstery
Industrial electronics	Automobile mechanics
Radio & TV repairing	Cookery
House wiring	







**Constitution
after 1976**

At the end of 1976, all member countries unanimously decided to adopt a new constitution.

Madrid was chosen as head office of the organisation, partly because the competition originated in Spain and partly because the Spanish organisation has done practically all the work in past years.

Membership of the organisation is open to national institutions of all countries, provided such institutions contribute in a positive way towards encouraging vocational training. In principle, a member cannot be admitted if another institution of the same country has already joined the organisation. All exceptions to this rule must be ratified by the Member Assembly.

**Member
Assembly
and Standing
Commission**

The international organisation is administered by the Member Assembly, with the Standing Commission as executive body.

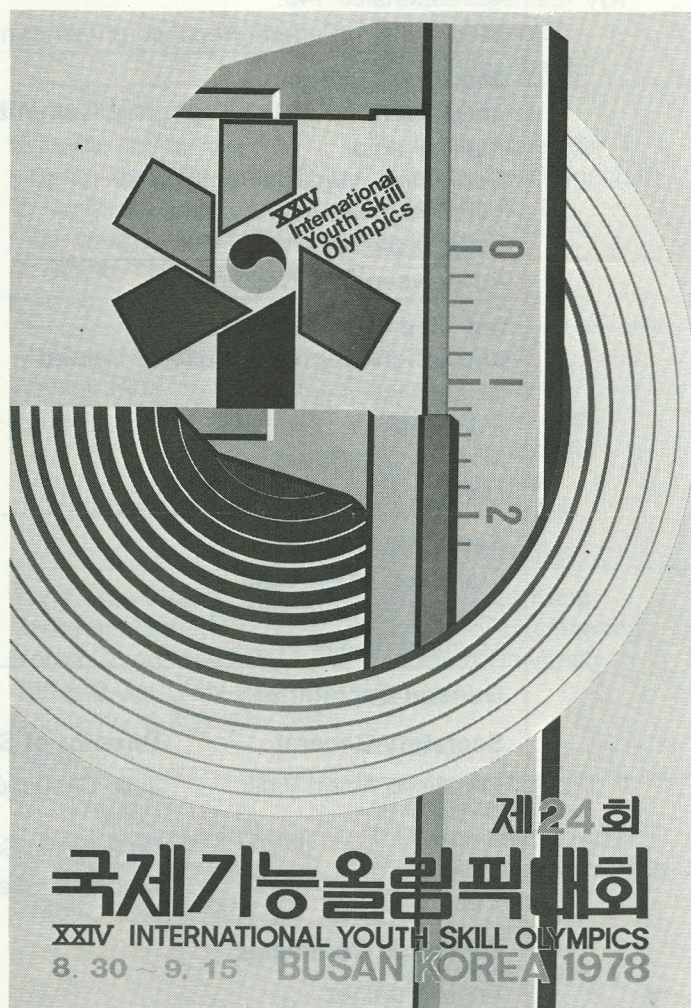
Each country delegates two representatives to the Member Assembly as supreme body. In order to prepare the resolutions to be taken by the Member Assembly, two committees are appointed, i.e.: the Administrative Committee and the Technical Committee, to which each country delegates an official and a technical delegate respectively. These delegates simultaneously represent their country in the Member Assembly. Both these committees appoint a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman.

The Standing Commission is composed of a Chairman and three Vice-Chairmen. These Vice-Chairmen are: the Chairman of the Administrative Committee, the Chairman of the Technical Committee and one representative of the host country. Members of the Standing Commission must be chosen from different countries in order to assure a just and fair representation of other members on an international level.

The Chairman of the Member Assembly represents the international organisation abroad.

The organisation's current affairs are settled by the Secretary-General, in accordance with the requirements of the various committees and commissions.

Expenses are covered by membership fees and contributions, the exact amount of which is laid down by Member Assembly.



Member Assembly and International Organisation

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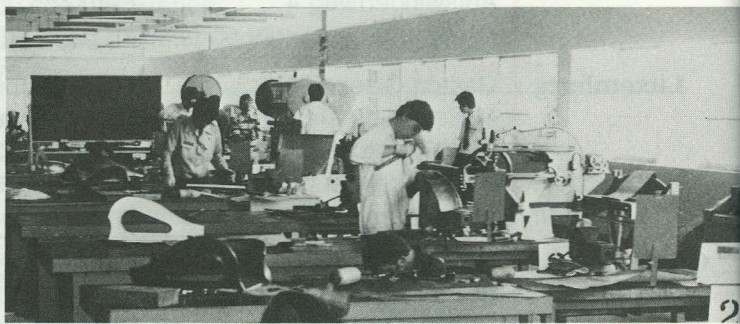
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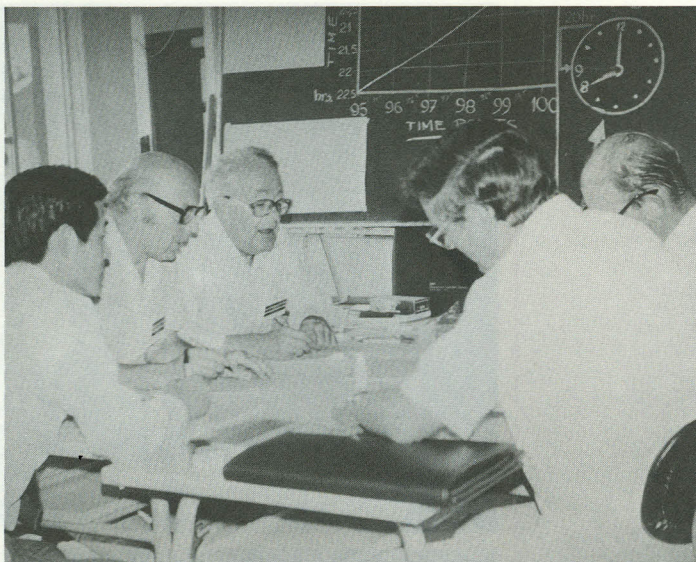
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