

United Arab Emirates

Ministry of Education & Youth

Private & Specific Education

Asst. Undersecretary's Office



دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة
وزارة التربية والتعليم والشباب
التعليم الخاص والنوعي
مكتب الوكيل المساعد

25th October, 2000

General Secretariat
International Vocational Training Organisation
Im Zentrum 11, CH-8604 Volketswil
Switzerland

Dear Sir,

37th World Skills Competition - Year 2003

It is interesting to note that for 35 times when the World Skills were held, it was the responsibility of the hosting country to make the necessary arrangement towards preparation of this event. We as members go to the site of the hosting country, 3 to 6 months before the competition and make sure that all the arrangement are in place. This is what we are going to do in Seoul in March 2001.

In our invitation speech in Montreal in Nov. 1999, we invited IVTO members to come to the UAE in the year 2003 to hold the 37th Competition. We clearly mentioned that the 37th Competition would not be a one-country event (UAE) but a collective effort of all the members of IVTO towards its preparation and success. The invitation was accepted wholeheartedly by all members. AE immediately started taking necessary steps in the preparation of this great event.

AE is not in North America or Europe or Far East; it is situated in the Arabian Gulf. World Skills Competition is a new terminology for the majority of the people in this part of the world. It is our first task to educate the authorities on the activities of the IVTO and the competition and our first step was to invite some of the authorities to come with our delegation to Lisbon. Surely everything was new to them and difficult to digest. IVTO Executive members instead of extolling to our guests the virtues of hosting the WorldSkills Competition and enumerating the advantages which a hosting country would achieve in helping the development of its technical and vocational education, they frighten them with figures of undecoded cost of hosting such an event and its manpower needs. We immediately felt that the new Executive Board had another idea. Our doubt was confirmed when we were contacted by different parties from Nordic states stating that they were informed by responsible official from the WorldSkills Executive Board that AE would not be able to host the competition!

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Only two months after Lisbon, we received a message from IVTO President asking AE for an unprecedented demand to provide IVTO with 'evidence of a realistic source of funds needed to implement the plan'. Is this demand in the checklist? Or was it demanded from all members who have up to now hosted these events?

In the meantime, what did AE get from IVTO up to now as a follow up for this competition in the year 2003 – nothing except an invoice for the first installment!

AE feels that IVTO Board and may be other members have reconsidered their decision to come to UAE and are indirectly forcing us to declare our inability to host the 37th World Skills Competition.

In these unfortunate deplorable circumstances, AE wishes to officially inform the Secretariat that we are withdrawing our offer to host the 37th World Skills Competition in the UAE in the year 2003. We thank all members for their support and respect their decision for the betterment of World Skills

With best regards

Ali Meibad Al-Suwaidi
Assistant Under Secretary for
Private and Specific Education

