



International Vocational Training Organisation

The International Youth Skills Competition for World Class Skills Standards

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COMMUNIQUE (EB Approved 12/11/00)

The WorldSkills Executive Board notes the receipt by the Secretary General of a letter, dated 25 October 2000, from Mr Ali Meihad Al-Suwadi, Assistant Under Secretary for Private and Specific Education in the United Arab Emirates. In the letter, Mr Al-Suwadi states that he wished to officially inform the Secretariat that the UAE withdraws the offer to host the 37th WorldSkills Competition in Dubai in April 2003 and provides some reasons for this decision.

The letter is in reply to a request by the Secretary General for confirmation about the UAE response to the General Assembly decision in June 2000 which authorised the Executive Board to conclude negotiations with UAE about the 2003 Competition by October 2000.

The Executive Board, at a meeting in Zurich on 11 November 2000, carefully reviewed the process of negotiations with the UAE member organisation leading up to the General Assembly decision in November 1999 to approve the UAE's application to host the competition in 2003. It also reviewed the following eleven months of negotiations between officials of WorldSkills and the UAE member organisation to develop a working partnership for 2003.

The Board believes that both WorldSkills and the UAE member organisation were committed to finding a workable solution to the particular difficulties associated with conducting the competition in the UAE.

From the outset it was agreed by both parties that the technical education infrastructure in the UAE did not appear to be adequate for conducting the competition in the way it has been conducted on previous occasions.

Yet the Board believes unrealistic expectations were raised on both sides due to misunderstandings and miscommunications about the respective organisational capacities of WorldSkills and the UAE member organisation to resolve the difficulties.

The Board believes there was always a genuine commitment on both sides to find workable solutions to the significant obstacles which stood in the way. In the end, these obstacles could not be overcome by either the UAE member organisation or WorldSkills, and this resulted in the UAE's decision to withdraw its offer to host WorldSkills 2003.

The Board notes that both WorldSkills and the UAE member incurred significant costs in the process of the protracted negotiations, but in light of the best efforts on both sides, the Board resolved to return the UAE's initial fee payment of SF 37,000 for the right to host the 2003 Competition.

The Board also resolved to establish a sub-committee of the Board to examine the matter further and prepare specific recommendations for the General Assembly to adopt improved guidelines regarding the process of awarding hosting rights for competitions in the future.

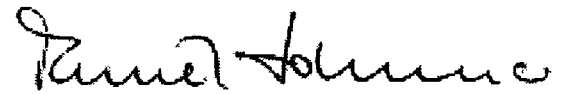
WorldSkills

The President

The Secretary General

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Tjerk Dusseldorp

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Sommer', with a stylized, cursive script.

Daniel Sommer