

INTERNATIONAL VOCATIONAL TRAINING ORGANISATION

NOTES OF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING IN SAO PAULO 30TH AUGUST 1998 TO 1ST SEPTEMBER 1998

1. Welcome to Belgium, Denmark, Morocco and possibly Romania as new members. Also to a number of new technical delegates.

Glen Brazier (AU) and Ivan Bagetter (LI) gave a presentation about International Skill Volunteers and the pilot project in Zimbabwe. (Separate notes attached)

2. Minutes of St. Gallen meeting agreed.
3. **Results of St. Gallen competition.** Don Hatton explained that the error had occurred because of a wrong input sequence (human error) not prevented by the software. He had made a number of detailed recommendations to prevent a recurrence, namely:

- that all competitors scores should be based on the 0-100 scale.
- all scoring entries to have a maximum of two decimal points.
- dual entry of all scores.
- the possible use of two different types of software.
- hardware/software combination once selected not to be changed.
- software modifications only to be undertaken if formally authorised.

Further proposed consideration that in future the jury should determine the results simply on the 0-100 scale with a simplified version of the BIC system used to select Diplomas and the "best of country" award.

Although Cees Beuk argued against the use of raw scores, and in favour of the continuation of normalised scores on the old 400-600 scale, a number of delegates spoke against the complexities and non-transparency of the BIC system. Others including myself argued in favour of the retention of the existing scales provided the software and procedures were tightened up, not least in order to continue the series of results which were all now based on the 400-600 scale. Those arguing in favour of abandoning normalisation pointed out that the use of small marking groups eliminated the need to identify deviant markers and would be simpler to manage.

The Chairman (Franz Schropp) who was clearly in favour of simplification, said that detailed proposals for the use of a simplified system which provided for the identification of Diplomas and possible "Ex Aequo" awards would be prepared before the end of the year for debate at the Montreal meeting in April 1999.

I asked that the paper equally presented the advantages of retaining the old system so that a clear judgment could be made.

4. **Final report on St. Gallen competition.** Armin Muehlematter, Kurt Kern, Edwin Naef and De Acquer then gave their final report which in each case was constructively critical. Principal points made by AM were:

- the VTO was too little known which caused problems with obtaining sponsors, media interest and the co-operation of the authorities.
- the marketing group should take the advice of those involved at Lyon and St. Gallen.
- total cost had been SFr 11,000,000 with the event attracting 14 TV teams and 400 accredited journalists.
- the secretariat should take the initiative in organising meetings between the current and next organising committee.
- visitors did not know what the competitors were meant to be doing and I subsequently commented that we should agree to make both isometric drawings and, where appropriate, models of the intended output available for the public to see.
- the event must be more attractive, both for the public and TV, for instance by posting daily interim results.

KK emphasised the importance of a proper marketing strategy by those who are expert in the field:

- the importance of larger financial contributions from members to support the central organisation.
- better co-operation from official delegates and members in meeting request for information and deadlines.
- more disciplined approach by technical delegates to specifying correct entries and not having last minute withdrawals.
- the use of English as the sole language to reduce the effort and cost of translation.
- the need to avoid the embarrassment of the organisers issuing 6,000 tickets when only 4,000 people appeared at the opening and closing ceremonies, having refused seats to many local supporters.
- "do something brave - be professional".

EN emphasised the importance of technical descriptions being correct, up to date and available at least one year in advance:

- translations leading to inconsistencies.
- in the matter of equipment demanded that this be on an optimum, not on a maximum basis.

- that appendices to technical descriptions should be as detailed as possible in specifying the sizes, materials, finishes etc.
- the crucial importance of the infrastructure list.
- the importance of preparing the project before the competitions so that it is state of the art, complies with the technical description and enables the materials to be made available.
- the incompetence of certain of the experts
- the need to avoid too many people, including translators, being within the working area.
- the need to take a tough line on those who broke rules, including giving advice from outside the enclosure.

DA commented on the detailed costs of the competition which are in fact set out already in the public version of the final report.

The Chairman particularly supported the Swiss comments on the importance of marketing, the need to make the event more attractive and the need for experts to be professional. He also raised the long term possibility of combining trades 1, 2, 3, 6 and 7 into a single CNC machining trade.

5. **Changes in competition rules.** All the changes in the competition rules were accepted with a few minor amendments:

para 2.4.3. was amplified so that each day the Jury Presidents would meet to deal with problems in individual trades and this would be separate from a subsequent daily meeting of the technical delegates as such to deal with administrative matters, particularly in relation to their own teams.

para 3.2.3 the first paragraph was withdrawn in view of the intention to bring forward new proposals on possible move away from the 400-600 normalised score base.

A discussion on whether to value award scores for gold, silver, bronze and Diploma as 7, 5, 3, 1 or 4, 3, 2, 1 was deferred, although the general assembly subsequently delegated this matter for discussion and decision by the Technical Committee at its meeting in Montreal in April 1999.

6. **35th IYSC Montreal 1999.** Please see table of entries to main competitions and demonstrations attached. Agricultural mechanics and tin smithing are deleted because of insufficient entries. Graphic design (44), confectioner (pastry cook) (46), beauty care (47), landscape gardening (48) and IT PC and Network Support (50) would all run as demonstration trades with the UK registered as participating in 46, 47 and 50.

It was emphasised that we now had a financial commitment to ensure that a competitor appeared and if we did not do so, would be responsible for CA's nugatory costs which would start now.

Butchery (43) and heavy vehicle maintenance (49) did not receive sufficient support and will not run.

Canada raised the problem of trade names which if personalised, had to show both the male and female version. In fact in English, all could be stated in terms of the trade rather than the tradesperson, but even if the person were used, no male or female duality was necessary. CA to make further proposals in respect of French and German.

The Chairman commented on the need to review the names of trades generally and their relevance to the actual technical descriptions.

- 6.1 **Team entries.** Norway spoke to its proposal which received minimal support, although AU suggested that the cooking and restaurant service trades could come together on the fourth day. The Chairman suggested that whether a trade should be represented by an individual or a team would be a matter for consideration case by case in the future.

The Norwegian technical delegate subsequently told me privately that his intention had not been to promote more team competitions but to question the need for a team in the case of Mechatronics where both competitors had the same skills!

- 6.2 **Test projects for 1999.** Introducing the discussion, the Chairman emphasised the value of a modular approach to project. This would increase interest in the competition by having interim daily results and assist marketing as well as shortening the final evaluation time. Australia suggested that the modular approach reduced the demand for planning skills and EIR once more proposed that all projects should be circulated three months in advance. I spoke forcefully against this since planning is an essential part of the skill for most trades.

Arrangements for the preparation of test projects for the 1999 competition were then discussed trade by trade, although noted here are only decisions in respect of those trades in which the UK will participate.

Trade 4 (Mechatronics)	Frank Williams (DE expert) to be asked to prepare a project.
Trade 5 (CAD)	Each expert to bring a one day module for selection in Montreal
Trade 6 and 7 (CAC turning and milling)	Austria made a presentation about the proposed procedure (copy attached) each expert is asked to bring one, two or three one day modular projects for final selection to Montreal. The chief expert for trade 7, Mr. Zoescher (?) (CH) will give further guidance to member countries participating in trade 7.
Trade 9 (Information Technology)	Modular. The NZ chief expert will, in conjunction with Don Hatton, develop project guidelines on the development of daily modules for agreement at Montreal
Trade 11 (Pattern making)	Not modular. Chairman will modify the end project.

Trade 12 (Tiling)	Three projects are available in the bank but experts are invited to bring additional projects which make use of the materials proposed in the material list (when available) for ultimate selection in Montreal. Not modular.
Trade 13 (Autobody repair)	CA to prepare the final project trying to arrange for a modular approach.
Trade 15 (Plumbing)	Not possible to make it modular but there is one project in the bank which could be modified to create some surprise. As before, I suggested the possibility of changing the instructions on the second or third day and this may be considered.
Trade 16 (Industrial Electronics)	Experts will bring projects in accordance with the agreement reached at St. Gallen where members were allocated different modules. I objected to the fact that the new technical description had eliminated these arrangements which had been carefully reached in St. Gallen and the TD is to be revised and re-issued so that member countries know which parts of the project they are responsible for.
Trade 17 (Electronic Application)	Similar arrangements? Each expert preparing part of the project.
Trade 18 (Commercial wiring)	Non-modular. One to be chosen of those banked by CA, JA and LI.
Trade 19 (Industrial wiring)	CA to select one of the six projects banked.
Trade 20 (Bricklaying)	Non-modular. CA to select one and adapt it.
Trades 21-25	In each case CA to select one of those banked.
Trade 26 (Carpentry)	Non modular. CA to select from those banked.
Trade 27	CA to select from those banked.
Trade 28	Modular. Each expert to prepare a half day? one day? project taking the season into account. CA to give guidance on materials available at that time.
Trades 29 and 30 (Ladies/Mens Hairdressing)	Jury projects exist in both trades and these will be circulated to all competitors three months prior to the competition.

Trade 33 (Auto mechanics)	Six projects have been selected, although CA has not yet provided details of the vehicles to be available. If UK wishes to include specific tasks it should submit the project as soon as possible to the Irish Jury President for onward transmission.
Trade 34 (Cookery)	Modular. CA to select from the various banked projects and send them to participants three months prior to the competition.
Trade 35 (Restaurant Service)	Modular. CA to select from the banked projects.
Trade 36 (Car painting)	Modular. CA to select based upon the material list. Note: UK has offered to submit a project and should do so as soon as the material list becomes available.
Trade 37 (Agricultural Mechanics)	Deleted.
Trade 38 (Refrigeration)	UK to prepare a project as promised as soon as the material list becomes available.

In the case of the demonstration trades in which UK is to participate, namely confectioner (pastry cook), beauty care and IT PC and Network Support, the traditional arrangements will apply with each expert bringing a number of modular projects. In the case of IT PC and Network Support it may well be that additional guidance and co-ordination will be necessary and this will involve co-operation between the promoters of the trade, namely UK and AU, since no Jury President or chief expert has as yet been appointed.

6.3 **Documentation.** CA presented its documentation and described the arrangements. The Chairman asked that the vehicles required for trade 33 be specified as well as the control systems and equipment to be used in trades 6 and 7 and the PLC system to be used in trade 19 be notified as soon as possible. CA explained that sponsors were still being sought but that they would make every effort to supply the information by the 11th November 1998 when their Internet site would open.

6.4 **Appointment of Jury Presidents and Chief Experts.** Following a suggestion from CA and FR that Jury Presidents be appointed by lot, it was decided that in the case of particularly difficult trades such as hairdressing, automechanics and electronics, Jury Presidents should be selected and appointed with the remainder of the trades having Jury Presidents appointed by lot. New technical committee members would act as assistants to Jury Presidents. I had already offered to act as Jury President for the two hairdressing trades provided I was given two assistants and this was agreed.

Chief Experts would be selected at the April 1999 meeting, nominations including experience and qualifications being submitted in advanced.

6.5 **Training of Jury Presidents and Experts.** Training sessions would be held for Experts as at St. Gallen and on this occasion there would also be a training session for Jury Presidents.

- 6.6 **Revision of technical descriptions.** Again this will be an important role for experts at Montreal. In response to my request, Daniel Sommer will revise the technical description for trade 16 incorporating the amendments requested by the Experts but which had been deleted. I also proposed a small amendment to the technical description of trade 18 to make it clear that as in the case of trade 19, the installation would be powered up for tests. Both matters were subsequently confirmed again in writing.
- 6.7 **Appointment to Disciplinary Appeals Committee.** Francois Ortolani (LU) and Ellen Dubois (AU) appointed with Mr. Lee (KO) as Deputy.
7. **General Issues About Competitions.** President's paper on assessment systems was not discussed as he was unwell at the time.

The Chairman reiterated that a revised programme on the 1-100 scale with the ability to identify Diplomas to calculate the daily results of modules and to make "Ex Aequo" awards would be developed before the end of the year for discussion at the Montreal April 1999 meeting.

Every Expert is invited to bring to Montreal a project for the year 2001 competition in Korea, if possible in the three official languages. Only one copy should be brought together with a model and/or photograph is relevant.

Some members will be required by the technical delegate to provide projects in three languages, but volunteers to do this will presumably be called for at the April 1999 meeting.

8. **Miscellaneous Points**

1. In answer to a question the Chairman reassured Japan that there would be an opportunity to amend projects selected by Canada provided this did not require additional materials.
2. LI has prepared a 45 minutes video about the St. Gallen competition available at a nominal price.
3. Brazil proposed the use of a complementary ranking system by economic sectors (see paper attached but no details were circulated).
4. Draft trade descriptions in respect of computer control and gem lapidarying were tabled by Korea and Afro ladies hairdressing skills by South Africa, but no presentations or details were given (see drafts attached). They should be passed to relevant UK Experts for comment.