

Dear all

The withdrawal of the offer to host the 2003 competition in Dubai has created a terrible problem. We therefore nervously awaited your suggestions to a possible solution to this problem. We can now see that you suggest a split-up of the competition into maybe 8 events of a smaller scale, and we want to let you know what our position is.

As you know we are a very small organisation with only 5 trade committees as members. We have sought funding for a campaign to recruit more members, which we have been granted, so 2001 is the year where we will embark on demonstrating the value of participating in World Skills Competition for the rest of the trades. We realise that it will be too late for any new members to enter candidates for the Seoul competition, so we had hoped for Dubai in 2003. The fact that it might now end up with 8 events instead of one is a catastrophe for us for several reasons:

1.

Many of the trades we are proposing to already have their own world championships. This goes for the cooks, the waiters, the pastry cooks, the hairdressers and several others. They find it hard to understand that they should pay a lot of money to enter yet another competition unless there is a real difference - and that's what we won't have if we split up the competition! It will not be a worldwide event to promote vocational education and training as such, but "just" another trade competition.

2.

We do not understand how it will reduce costs for the participating countries. As we see it it will be very expensive for the members, because they will have to send the technical delegate (or another representative) to all the events if we maintain that this is the World Skills Competition and not just a local invitation to join a national competition.

We are therefore not too happy with your suggestion as it puts us in a very weak position to negotiate with potential new members of DK-Skills. We also realise that we are probably the smallest fish in the pond, and we cannot offer to help out in any concrete way, but this is a real threat to our organisation's life. Has it been tried to push forward the Finnish competition to 2003?

We hope that there will be a constructive debate in Seoul in March, and till then:
Merry Christmas and a happy New Year

Yours sincerely
Pia Hegner
Technical delegate Denmark

Pia Hegner
Cirius
Hesseløgade 16
DK-2100 København Ø

Tel. : +45 33957060
Fax : +45 33957001
