



International Vocational Training Organisation

The International Youth Skills Competition for World Class Skills Standards

50 years of IVTO in the year 2000

"The Beginning"

After the celebration of various national skills competitions in Spain, the first joint competition between Spain and Portugal was held in Madrid in 1950, to which diplomats from various European countries were invited. They considered the idea so interesting that the organisation - today known as the IVTO - was founded immediately.

In the year 2000, the IVTO will be 50 years old and there are plenty of reasons for making an effort and looking into how this occasion might be commemorated.

Ad hoc working group

The Executive Board repeatedly discussed ideas concerning the anniversary, and finally, various contacts during the 1996 meetings in South Africa led to the decision to set up a small working party to be in charge of the preparations and in due course present its ideas to the IVTO members for their comments.

The meeting of the ad hoc group, one day before the February meetings in St. Gallen, was attended by Mr SCHROPP (D), IVTO Vicepresident; Mr HATTON (US), Deputy Vicepresident; Mr TAN, Technical Delegate (TW); Mr SPADA, Technical Delegate (BR); Mr ESMENIO, Official Delegate (PT); Mr GONÇALVES, Technical Delegate (PT); Mr SHIEL (AU), as substitute to Vicepresident DUSSELDORP who unfortunately was ill; and the Secretary General, with Mr Rupprecht as interpreter.

Tasks

The members of the working party had been asked previously to contribute their ideas on the following issues:

1. Long-term activities on the occasion of the anniversary
2. Activities in connection with the anniversary
3. Proposals on location and general programme for the celebrations

Long-term activities on the occasion of the anniversary

In an extensive paper drawn up by AU (this may be requested from the General Secretariat), the idea of creating International Skill Brigades was presented. The proposal is based on the Copenhagen Declaration made at the "World Summit on Social Development" held between 6 and 12 March 1995. The globalisation of world economy as a consequence of technological developments and improved communications permits countries to share experiences and to learn from one another's achievements and difficulties, in addition to facilitating a cross-fertilisation of ideals, cultural values and aspirations.

The aim of the International Skill Brigades project is to establish teams from among the various IVTO members for particular projects and educational activities. The goal is to encourage young skilled people, their teachers, trainers and employers, to achieve world class standards and competence in commerce, services and industry and enhance the prestige of vocational training. In this way, the IVTO's goals as outlined in the Constitution would be suitably put into practice, far beyond the limits of the skills competitions.

The aim of the project is to

- promote the exchange of ideas and experiences in vocational training through seminars and meetings
- disseminate information on world class standards and competence
- motivate young people to pursue further education and training relevant to their careers
- encourage communication and contacts between vocational training organisations around the world
- encourage the exchange of young professionals among IVTO members
- etc.

The project will not be limited to communication but should be of direct benefit to local communities.

During their discussions, members of the working group reached the conclusion that the goals stated are in accordance with our Constitution and thus should be put into practice. The IVTO should not look for or carry out any projects of its own in third countries but provide, upon request, the necessary personnel. There are numerous worldwide organisations in charge of development projects but frequently they lack adequate personnel at the location. The IVTO can contribute its members' knowhow and provide young people, experts and other specialists. In this respect the working group mentioned the experience of France and New Zealand who organised a youth exchange where only minor linguistic problems arose. The group's opinion is that young people should be directed by young people; nevertheless, at the same time it is also necessary to provide suitable instructors. Basically, assistance could be offered at any location but the aim is to emphasise through these activities that the IVTO membership is valuable, thus promoting the entry of new members.

TN asked the Secretary General whether any members might assist them in the preparations for the St. Gallen competition and, consequently, the working group decided the following:

1. TN is to be supported immediately, since the assistance desired corresponds exactly to the philosophy of the project.
2. As a next step, the International Skill Brigades project is to be discussed by the IVTO members and a basic decision will be taken at the General Assembly meeting in St. Gallen.

With reference to Tunisia, the Technical Committee decided the following:

- CA will provide an advisor who is to attend to all queries
- FR will provide experts for the preparation of trades 21 and 34
- with regard to trades 1, 2, 17 and 19, delegates can contact the TN delegate or the IVTO Secretary General.

TN will pay for accommodation and meals and will inform members whether they are able to pay part of the travelling costs. Projects of this kind are not remunerated.

Activities in connection with the anniversary

BR is preparing a project concerning the publication of an anniversary book which is to have a long-lasting effect and not merely focus on historical events.

The book will contain:

- an introduction by the IVTO President
- the IVTO's history with particular reference made to the evaluation of competition results, including cross comparisons; structure of the organisation and its members
- the history and evolution of the IVTO
- - a two-page contribution from members describing their training system, their national organisation's structure and further details which will be requested from the members who, **should they so wish, are also free to determine the set-up**. The report is not meant to be circulated to members only but should be directed at other readers as well, thus enabling them to make individual cross comparisons by using the statistic competition results mentioned above.
- detailed information, names, number of competitors per competition, etc. set out in tables. The report is to show the various members' evolution. For example: When TW started, their competition results were rather poor, but as time passed, TW improved and finally achieved top results. Other members had similar experiences.
- appendix including addresses, etc.

The book will be written in close liaison with Mr Spada and the Secretary General. It will be edited as an IVTO book and a limited number is to be submitted to members. The IVTO will not be charged for the basic work involved and members are to pay a fee for any additional book orders.

The book might consist of some 120 to 150 pages including the two-page reports submitted by each member. It could be edited in two parts, since the various readers might be interested in different issues. The idea is not to represent ourselves but to arouse readers' interest and, in particular, encourage potential members (government officials) to collaborate with the IVTO.

In addition, the IVTO will look into the possibility of introducing part of the information into Internet or providing it on CD ROM.

The working group supports the procedure and has prepared a schedule which includes discussions on the two-page members' contribution during the St. Gallen competition. The aim is to prepare various chapters of the book for the General Assembly meeting in Sao Paulo and complete them before the anniversary meeting. A further part of the book, to be included at a later date, is to contain a summary of all test projects carried out at the 1997 and 1999 competitions in order to present an overall picture of the IVTO's work.

Proposals on location and general programme, for the anniversary

PT presented a proposal for taking charge of the event in the year 2000 and discussed the matter with President Beuk at a meeting in January.

In 1998 a World Exhibition will take place in Lisbon which is to last six months. 110 countries are expected to participate and it is assumed that the IVTO will have an information booth at the exhibition stand of our Portuguese member. Our booth would be attended by PT. The World Exhibition installations would provide the necessary infrastructure for our celebrations and the buildings available would ensure that the event ran smoothly. At the time of our celebrations, PT intends holding its national skills competition and inviting young people from various countries considered as potential members. This would benefit our organisation in such a way that countries contemplating entry into the IVTO could assist under real conditions without great expense. In addition, our usual meetings could be held and an anniversary celebration could be organised to which political leaders from all over the world would be invited. The event would focus more on the future than on our past.

It is planned to hold a gastronomical competition concurrently, to include an exhibition.

A major item would be to invite countries interested in membership, and a further important aspect to be contemplated would be the media's attention over a long period. In this respect, various

concrete proposals have been presented and PT has already reserved a credit of SFr 2,600,000.-

Members would be charged the usual daily expenses during the event, which would last five days. No further costs would be incurred.

Other possibilities and procedures

The working group welcomes all proposals for promoting the IVTO image and induce further countries to consider and apply for membership. Every IVTO member can contribute to this goal.

Moreover, at the anniversary celebrations or perhaps also in the book mentioned above, former competitors should have a say and explain what has happened to them (thanks to their participation in the competition). In this respect, members should help actively and provide addresses of former competitors who have been successful in their subsequent professional life.

In addition, the idea was mentioned of organising a competition to choose an anthem for the IVTO.

Summary

After detailed discussion of the various activities (the original papers may be requested from the General Secretariat in English), the working group presented the following concrete proposals which are to be dealt with at the forthcoming General Assembly meeting, as details have been discussed already by the Executive Board:

1. The activities mentioned are to promote the image of the IVTO. They are to demonstrate the IVTO's present and future work and should encourage numerous countries to join our organisation. The IVTO will reserve funds of SFr. 50,000.- until the year 2000, with the aim of inviting financially weak countries to the event by granting them special reductions.
2. The International Skill Brigades project is to be laid down as a regulation. The IVTO will immediately commence work with members who wish to benefit from concrete support.
3. The anniversary book is to be written taking into account the ideas mentioned above. In due course members will receive various texts to examine in order to ensure the correctness of all information given. In addition, members may submit a two-page description of their own organisation. Some details will be requested which should be answered.
4. The anniversary meeting will be held in Lisbon in the autumn of the year 2000 and is to last for five days. PT will provide the necessary infrastructure and prepare the procedure in collaboration with the Executive Board.
5. The year 2000 is to be declared Year of Vocational Training Qualification (EU, ILO, UNESCO).
6. The proposal concerning the organisation of a competition to select an IVTO anthem to be used at the competitions is to be studied.
7. All proposals contributing to the promotion of our philosophy, such as media conferences, Internet, CD ROM etc., are to be considered.
8. All countries are to be invited to the anniversary meeting and the corresponding celebrations. Members will be requested to invite as many educational experts as possible. In addition, all honorary members and various former competitors, as well as the general public, are to be invited.