

OLIMPIA NUZZI

# WORK OLYMPICS

## INTERNATIONAL VOCATIONAL TRAINING COMPETITIONS



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## Chapter 1

### **INTERNATIONAL VOCATIONAL TRAINING COMPETITIONS WORK OLYMPICS**

In 1946, faced with the enormous need for specialised workers, the Executive Director of the OJE (Spanish Youth Organisation), José Antonio Elola Olaso, had an intuition: he needed to convince the young people, their parents, teachers and employers that the success of Spain's social and economic future depended on an effective vocational training system. His initial insight immediately received the active support of the Caudillo Francisco Franco and involved Francisco Albert Vidal, director of the Virgen de la Paloma Institute, Spain's top vocational training centre. It led to the project to set up *championships for vocational skills contests*.

F. Albert Vidal promptly organised the first NATIONAL VOCATIONAL TRAINING CONTEST, in which 4,000 young people from various Spanish cities, including mechanical workshop/laboratory apprentices and students, took part and competed in ten specialities. All the public and private vocational training centres were effectively involved, and some Ministries (Education, Employment and Industry) also collaborated. Numerous businesses (Siemens, Marconi, Generale Eléctrica Española, Renfe, Altos Hornos de Vizcaya, etc.) understood the importance of the initiative and immediately offered a financial contribution in support. The event aroused a great stir and was repeated in subsequent years.

In 1950, the organisers invited Portugal to send a group of young people to compete with the Spanish apprentices. The COMPETITIONS BETWEEN SPAIN AND PORTUGAL were to give the project an international dimension: twelve Spanish youngsters (previously selected in a National Competition) and twelve young Portuguese competed against each other. The competitions were held in Madrid at the Virgen de la Paloma Institute, which used its well-equipped workshops to provide technicians, machinery, tools and materials.

In 1952, many accredited European diplomats in Madrid were invited to observe the International Competition and award the winners. They immediately realised the great advantage of comparing young people's levels of professional preparation on an international scale, where the different training methods, experiences, procedures and work techniques could be compared. The competition would have stimulated and encouraged vocational training for both young men and women in their home countries.

Portugal, West Germany, Great Britain, France, Switzerland and Morocco were the first countries asking to take part in the 1953 Competitions. Within a few years, they were joined by Belgium (1954), Italy (1956), Ireland (1957) and Luxembourg (1958). They were followed by Austria (1961), Holland and Japan (1962), Denmark (1963), Korea (1967), Liechtenstein and Malta (1968). Internationalisation increased considerably during the seventies: in fact, China (1970) also joined, followed by the United States and Iran (1975).

The Spanish organisers of the Competition immediately set about making it possible for the various countries to take part as they requested it. As a result, a set of regulations was drawn up to establish an INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL and a SECRETARIAT GENERAL, based in via Marqués de Riscal 16, Madrid.

The Council included members of all participating countries (each country had an Official Representative and a Technical Supervisor), from among whom the president was elected (with a five-year mandate and possible re-election) and two annually elected vice-presidents (the first, the official representative of the Secretariat General and the other, the official representative of the country hosting the Competition). The Secretary General was the chief executive officer answering directly to the Council, with the task of preparing all the documents required for the various countries to implement and activate the Council's decisions: Francisco Albert Vidal held this post from the beginning of the Competitions for thirty-three consecutive years, followed by another seven years as president of the International Organisation.

In addition to the effective members sent by the various countries, the Council could also choose well-known, authoritative, "honorary members" to become part of the International Council.



Francisco Albert Vidal (1917-1993) was secretary general from 1947 for thirty-three consecutive years, followed by another seven years as president of the International Organisation of Competitions. As recognition for his great work in advocating vocational training, the "Albert Vidal Award" was set up in his memory in the nineties for the contestant, who achieved the highest score in the entire international competition (cf. Chap. 5).



The Virgen de La Paloma Institute in Madrid, better known as La Paloma, opened its spacious premises to the first International Competition in 1950 and to subsequent competitions until 1957. Run from the end of the nineteenth century by the Salesians, it became Spain's most important vocational training centre during the Franco era, where young people received excellent preparation in the various iron, metal, electricity, woodwork and printing trades. The religious order taught side by side with technical experts and some members of the Spanish National Movement.  
<https://www.palomafp.org/>



The visit by the ambassadors of the 1952 International Vocational Training Competition was well publicised in the Spanish newspapers. It was actually the ambassadors who first understood the advantage their countries would have gained from taking part in the International Competitions, where they could compare the preparation of young people in the specialised work sectors so greatly required during the post-war period of reconstruction.



The Spanish Minister for Education and José Antonio Elola Olaso, the national Youth Front delegate, awarded the first prizes to the winners of the 5th International Competition in the great hall of the Palace of the National Council during a very solemn ceremony in the presence of institutional authorities from the countries taking part.



PAYS	Concours	Année	Lieu
Espagne	I	1950	Madrid (Espagne)
Portugal	I	1950	Madrid (Espagne)
Allemagne	III	1953	Madrid (Espagne)
Suisse	III	1953	Madrid (Espagne)
France	III	1953	Madrid (Espagne)
Royaume Uni	III	1953	Madrid (Espagne)
Maroc	III	1953	Madrid (Espagne)
Belgique	IV	1954	Madrid (Espagne)
Italie	V	1956	Madrid (Espagne)
Irlande	VI	1957	Madrid (Espagne)
Luxembourg	VII	1958	Bruxelles (Belgique)
Autriche	X	1961	Duisburg (Allemagne)
Hollande	XI	1962	Gijón (Espagne)
Japon	XI	1962	Gijón (Espagne)
Danemark	XII	1963	Dublin (Irlande)
Corée	XIV	1967	Madrid (Espagne)
Liechtenstein	XVII	1968	Berna (Suisse)
Malte	XVII	1968	Berna (Suisse)
Chine	XIX	1970	Tokio (Japon)
Etats Unis	XXII	1975	Madrid (Espagne)
Iran	XXII	1975	Madrid (Espagne)

Table summarising the year the various nations joined and the place in which the Work Olympics were hosted from 1950, year of the first international edition, to 1975 (Italy's last participation). For the first time in 1953, five nations joined simultaneously. In 1956, Italy took part for the first time. Japan joined in 1962, China in 1970 and the United States and Iran in 1975.

The main aims of the International Competitions were divided into three points:

1. Stimulate vocational training
2. Develop the exchange of techniques and systems/methods of vocational training
3. Encourage young men and women to get to know each other on an international scale.

For these goals to be successful, it was decided that each year one of the member countries would have hosted the International Vocational Training Competition in turn. Prior to holding the Competition, meetings would be held to identify and prepare the technical and professional material required for the tests.

Each organising country had to prepare the accommodation logistics for all the participants, prepare the premises to hold the Competition tests, supply all the material required for the various specialities, prepare the location for the meetings with many typewriters and all the paper material required, provide the translators and interpreters needed during the tests and during the Committee meetings, and create the trophies for the winners. All the countries taking part had to pay for other expenses (participants' travel and accommodation, experts' fees, etc.) depending on the number of people involved (contestants, accompanying persons, technicians, teachers, directors, etc.).

They also chose the Competition logo: a globe, symbol of the contestants' internationality, with a toothed wheel in the right-hand margin indicating work. A torch



burned above a brazier in the background to symbolise the intelligence required to carry out the work. That logo was used on the winners' certificates and publications by the authorities on any official document and correspondence.

The first Competitions had only one trophy for the first and only winner of each

vocational speciality. However, in Modena in 1959, in analogy with the Olympic Games, gold, silver and bronze medals were awarded for the first time as a prize for the top three classified in each category. Subsequently, the name "Work Olympics" was increasingly used to give a better idea of the internationalisation of the Vocational Competitions, even though only European countries belonging to NATO took part. The countries in the Warsaw Pact (e.g. East Germany) were excluded, as was the Soviet Union.

The competition tests for each category had to be prepared by three member countries nominated by the Organising Council: each country sent its test proposal with a list of the materials required to implement the work and a detailed technical explanation. After a careful examination, the International Technical Committee had the task of selecting one of the three proposals sent to the Secretariat General, or of combining two of them, or of preparing a completely new one. The contestants' age limit was first set at 18 and then raised to 21 at the request of Japan, Holland and Germany.

The length of the Competition from the preliminary sessions of the technical experts to the winners' awards was established as fifteen days, unlike the first competitions when everything took place within just one week, as there were few countries taking part and, therefore, few tests to correct and classify.

The three fundamental factors to be assessed were: measurements/precision, quality and time. The time factor could not, under any circumstance, be given a higher mark than quality.

Each country could enter only one contestant for each speciality. The tests were taken individually, never as a team. Before the start of the competition, the participants had three hours to "familiarise" themselves with the machines and equipment required to carry out the work and to dispute any defect or lack of tools, which had to be remedied immediately. If a contestant damaged the material received during the test, he was immediately given new material, but the final assessment would take this into account. The contestants were allowed to use their own small, personal tools. However, the organising country had to provide them for those who arrived without. Each member country had the right to appoint two official observers, who could access the rooms where the tests were held and ask for technical information. However, they were not allowed to speak to the contestants.

The first six INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS were held in Spain, as it was clearly the most expert and best prepared nation to organise them. Then, in 1958, the 7th Competition was held in Brussels, Belgium and from then on the other nations taking part took it turns to accept the honour.

Between one edition and the next, the representatives of the countries taking part and the Secretariat General had to hold preliminary meetings to identify and agree the organisation, the procedures and implementation of the following Competition. It was decided to hold these meetings in cities that had not been chosen to host the Olympics in order to facilitate greater knowledge of the socio-political-economic background of the various nations: Barcelona, Gijón, Madrid (Spain), Duisburg (Germany), Modena (Italy), Dublin (Ireland), Lisbon (Portugal), Glasgow (United Kingdom), Utrecht (Holland), Bern (Switzerland), Seoul (Korea) etc. were chosen each time to host the official and technical representatives for those meetings.

From 1967, new, far more detailed and more specific Regulations were applied, which established that each speciality had to have at least five contestants registered from five different countries. The official languages of the Olympics remained Spanish. However, the number of translations for official documents was increased (English, German and French).

1955, Madrid. Winners' trophy. For the first seven competitions, only one winner for each speciality was awarded a trophy, which varied each year. The winners were presented with gold, silver and bronze medals for the first time in Modena in 1959 in imitation of the Olympic Games.





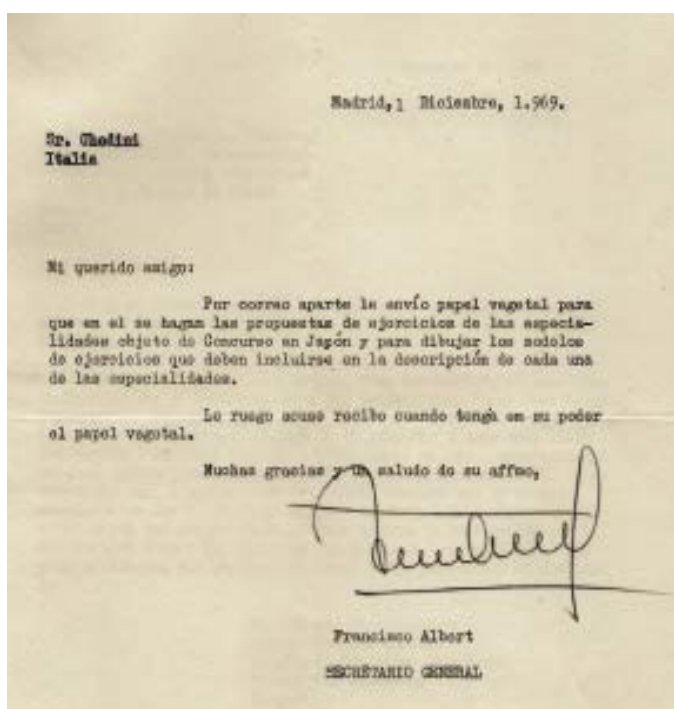
The Competitions had to follow the typical ritual of the Olympic Games. The opening ceremony included: the parade of contestants in uniform holding their national flag, speeches by the authorities, the contestants' oath and performances of folklore with bands playing the various national anthems. The major representatives of the organising country (King, head of state, Prime Minister, Minister for Education and/or Employment) always had to attend, as did the diplomatic representatives of the countries taking part. The closing ceremony was also very formal with the announcement of the winners and the medals awarded on the podium to the top three in each speciality. The young contestants had to wear national uniforms with a badge on their jacket, made especially for the occasion and symbol of their country of origin. It was customary for each contestant to have a certain number of those badges to exchange with participants from the other countries.

It was important from a social point of view for young people of different nationalities to lodge together and for two weeks, they easily made friends despite the competitive atmosphere surrounding them and those accompanying them. From a vocational training viewpoint, it was a very profitable opportunity for them to be able to observe and compare work and training techniques from numerous countries, to exchange information on methods, institutions and curricular studies, and compare results of their own professional activity.

Italy joined for the first time in 1956 and organised the Olympics in Modena in 1959. It only took part until 1975, the year in which discussions began on the possibility of introducing a new category for professions in the automobile sector

The other countries continued to organise and take part in the International Vocational Training Competitions, which have been slightly modified and are now called **WORLD SKILLS INTERNATIONAL**. It is now a biennial event alternating with **WORLD SKILLS EUROPE**, where awards are given to the best in each speciality (cf. Chap. 5).

Nowadays, many internationally renowned companies financially sponsor the competitions.



In December 1969, the Secretary General, Francisco Albert Vidal notified the engineer, Giuliano Ghedini, Vice-Principal of the "Corni" and Technical Representative for Italy, that he had sent him an envelope containing the sheets of tracing paper on which to prepare the proposals for the tests of the specialities in the Competition (which was to be held the following year in Tokyo) and to also draw the models of the exercises to attach to the description of each speciality. He asked to be told when the sheets of tracing paper arrived and signed affectionately.

Italy (i.e. the "Corni" of Modena) was always asked to send test proposals for some of the specialities in the Competition



TOTAL DES PARTICIPANTS PAR PAYS ET CONTOUR

PAYS	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII	XIII	XIV	XV	XVI	XVII	XVIII	XX	XXI	XXII	TOTAL
Espagne	12	8	24	25	28	35	30	28	37	30	25	27	26	36	36	48	24	26	26	29	27	525
Portugal	12	8	8	10	9	14	8	12	17	12	16	20	27	18	14	19	21	24	18	20	20	326
Allemagne	-	-	18	19	5	13	13	16	25	32	24	24	20	26	28	32	28	29	30	29	32	471
Royaume Uni	-	-	1	-	7	12	20	23	31	28	31	28	24	27	26	26	23	25	31	17	23	429
Suisse	-	-	4	8	3	-	2	3	-	11	5	10	9	9	15	18	34	27	25	24	27	263
France	-	-	1	3	10	6	10	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	12	57
Maroc	-	-	9	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24
Belgique	-	-	-	2	11	25	25	19	20	19	18	15	19	17	16	15	16	14	15	18	20	320
Italie	-	-	-	-	15	19	15	31	25	19	-	13	11	13	15	10	13	13	9	10	12	254
Irlande	-	-	-	-	-	4	17	14	18	18	16	32	21	28	23	21	21	23	20	19	19	334
Luxembourg	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	-	8	-	9	6	-	4	-	6	9	-	8	-	65
Autriche	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	8	8	-	-	-	-	-	5	4	9	13	69
Hollande	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	13	14	16	30	25	23	25	27	23	20	243
Japon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	14	17	19	20	20	19	23	30	26	27	249
Danemark	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
Corée	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	15	17	29	26	18	139
Liechtenstein	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	5	5	6	29
Malte	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	5	3	-	-	15
Chine	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	11	15	42
Etats Unis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
Irak	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
TOTALES	24	16	65	83	88	128	144	150	173	193	156	227	198	200	221	233	256	266	274	271	285	3,941

1950-1975. Total number of contestants taking part, divided according to nation and year. The first year saw 24 contestants, which rose to 290 in 1975. Overall, 3,941 young people competed against each other, 254 of whom were Italian.

P A Y S	Concour	Partici pants
Espagne	22	585
Portugal	21	326
Allemagne	20	471
Royaume Uni	19	428
Belgique	19	320
Suisse	18	263
Irlande	17	334
Italie	17	254
Hollande	12	243
Japon	12	249
Luxembourg	10	65
Autriche	8	69
France	8	57
Corée	7	139
Liechtenstein	6	29
Chine	4	42
Malte	3	15
Maroc	2	24
Danmark	1	11
U S A	1	9
Iran	1	8

1950-1975

Table summarising the total number of contestants and the number of Olympics in which each nation had participated. Spain, the creator and organiser of the International Competitions, boasted 22 with 585 participants, Italy had taken part in 17 with 254 contestants, whereas Denmark, the USA and Iran (who actually joined in 1975) had only taken part once.



The Italian contestants' badges, made in Arezzo for the 21st Olympics in Munich and for the 22nd in Madrid, with the images of Leonardo and Michelangelo.



Left to right: The badges of Ireland (1963 Olympics, 12th edition), Portugal (1964 Olympics, 13th edition), Holland (1966 Olympics, 15th edition).

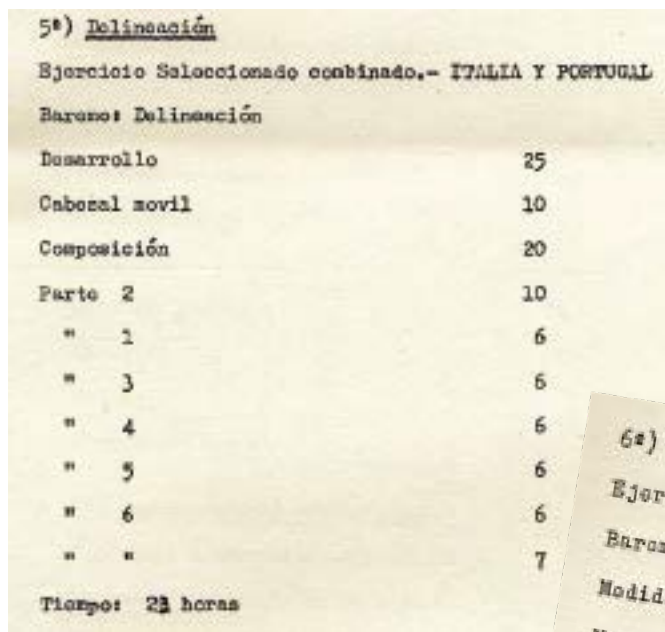
The contestants used to exchange these badges.



## REGULATIONS

The Official Committee and the Technical Committee supervising the International Vocational Training Competitions had different remits. The **Official Committee** (consisting of the official representatives appointed by the member countries) was in charge of organisation and communications, supported by the Secretariat General.

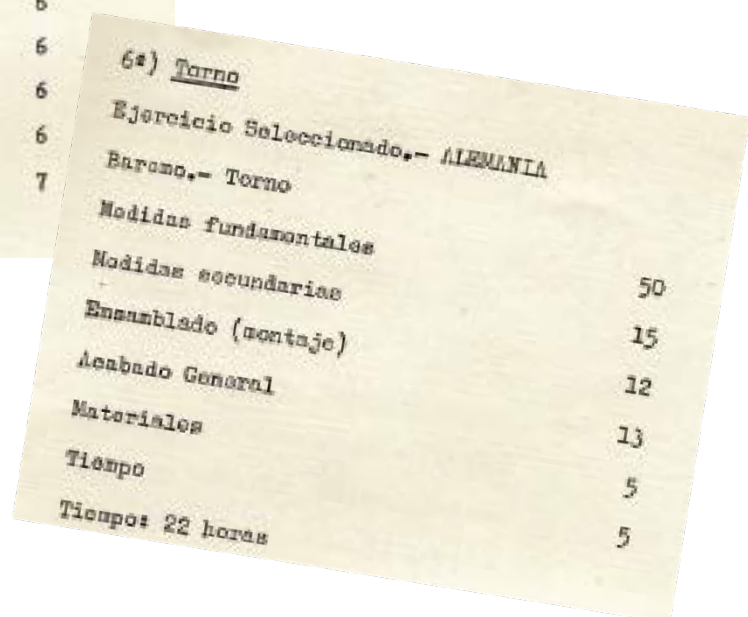
The **Technical Committee** (comprising the technical representatives of the participating countries, the Secretary General and a chairman appointed by the Organising Committee) took part in various preliminary meetings to programme the competition to be held the following year. It selected the three countries, which would have the task of preparing the test proposals for each speciality. Once it had examined these proposals, it had the right to select one of them, or to combine more than one, or prepare a new proposal (cf. the photos below show examples of combined and single tests). Furthermore, it formed the juries for the judging, established the number of technical experts required to check the contestants during the tests and the number of interpreters. It established the operational rules to hold the tests and the qualification procedures to assess the contestants during work hours and at the end of the exercise. It indicated the machines and equipment required for each speciality and set the rules according to which the juries could notify the contestants of the quality of the work they had done, once the assessments had finished.



5\*) Delineación  
Ejercicio Seleccionado combinado.- ITALIA Y PORTUGAL  
Barano: Delineación

Desarrollo	25
Cabecal móvil	10
Composición	20
Parte 2	10
" 1	6
" 3	6
" 4	6
" 5	6
" 6	6
" "	7
Tiempo: 2 1/2 horas	

In 1965, the proposals by Italy and Portugal were combined to set the Industrial Design test. However, Germany's proposal was chosen for the Turning test.



6\*) Torno  
Ejercicio Seleccionado.- ALEMANIA  
Barano.- Torno

Medidas fundamentales	50
Medidas secundarias	15
Ensamblado (montaje)	12
Acabado General	13
Materiales	5
Tiempo	5
Tiempo: 22 horas	

The maximum marks to be given to the various elements under assessment were indicated for each test. This included the time, which could not, however, be worth more marks than quality and precision.

## **JURIES**

A jury was formed for each specialisation. The juries consisted of three expert members for each specialisation in the competition. Each jury worked together with the translators from the Secretariat General and had to examine all the installations, machines, tools, equipment, materials and furnishings before the tests, which the organising country made available to the contestants to implement the tests in the competition. Once it had completed this review, it could ask for any missing materials to be provided or for any considered unsuitable to be replaced.

The judges decided on the work stations with a draw, they supervised the contestants and observed their professional merits and defects, technical skills and qualities. Everything was noted down in order to take it into account at the time of the awards and for the explanations to give the contestants at the end of the competition. It was absolutely prohibited to provide individual information if requested by a contestant. However, if any technical instructions needed to be given, everyone present had to be informed. They authorised the provision of any supplementary material in the event a contestant should spoil what had been provided at the beginning of the test. They noted the time taken by each contestant each working day and asked each one to sign it for approval. They would propose additional time for the test if, during the work, they realised the contestants all required extra hours to complete the exercise. They had to avoid anyone outside the Jury and Organising Council from speaking to the contestants inside the workshops. They took all the necessary precautions to ensure the premises were sealed at the end of each working day. The seals were broken and access to the premises could only occur in the presence of the entire Jury.

If any jury was unable to reach a unanimous agreement on the assessments, the chairman of the Technical Committee appointed a Commission consisting of a minimum of three members from different countries to resolve the problem. Once all the operations had concluded, the juries called the contestants together and gave explanations of the assessments given, so that each person could understand the quality and/or defects of the work created.

The members of the Jury were allowed to take part in the meetings of the Technical Committee with the right to take the floor, but not to vote.

## **WORKSHOP SUPERVISORS**

The workshop supervisors, appointed by the organising country, had to collaborate with the juries and be available to help them during the tests. Their task was to prepare the premises with the equipment required and keep it perfectly clean during the tests, so that the doors could be sealed at the end of the day. They were not allowed to talk to the contestants, or express opinions or judgements during the work processes, or even when the assessments were being drawn up, unless requested to do so by the Chairman of the Jury.

## **MACHINES - EQUIPMENT - TOOLS**

The organising country of the competitions had to ensure all the rooms and work stations required for every speciality in the competitions were equipped, and to set up the machinery and work devices for all the contestants in equal measure. It had to send the specifications of the machinery to the countries taking part two months before the competition start date. The juries had to examine and authorise the minor work tools, which the contestants could bring along with them.

## **QUALIFYING SYSTEM**

The contestants' tests had to be assessed according to the following rules:

- o An evaluation of the quality of the work and the time taken
- o Each jury had to establish the "time" value according to their speciality
- o Under no circumstance could the "time" be given a higher mark than the "quality of the work"
- o Each jury had to establish the marks for "the use of material", taking into account the material provided to the contestant and the material returned unused

It also had to bear in mind the validity of the material provided and note whether the contestant's request for more material was due to his/her inexperience or to defects in the

material received. In the former case, a reduction would be made in the marks awarded in the test assessment. In the latter case, if inefficient material forced the contestant to start again from scratch, this had to be taken into account when assessing the "time" factor

- o The maximum assessment score could not exceed 100 marks
- o In the specialities (e.g. goldsmiths, hairdressers, tailors) where the artistic qualities influenced the test assessment considerably, a more detailed table for the scoring system was required to avoid any subjective judgement as far as possible.

## ***MANDATORY CONCEPTS IN ORDER OF IMPORTANCE IN THE SKILLS ASSESSMENT TABLES***

### **1. FITTERS:**

- o Main dimensions
- o Quality of the fittings and operation
- o Secondary dimensions
- o The angles, normality, parallels according to the dimensions

### **2. DIE ENGINEERS**

- o Basic dimensions of the piece obtained
- o Basic test measurements and tool
- o Quality of the piece obtained
- o Operations
- o Secondary dimensions
- o Finishes

### **3. PRECISION MECHANICS**

- o Basic dimensions
- o Quality of the fittings and operation
- o Finishes
- o Secondary dimensions

### **4. TECHNICAL DRAUGHTSMEN**

- o Quality of the drawing and application of the standards
- o Development
- o Drawings of curves and cross-sections
- o Free-hand sketch
- o Overall quality of the writing

### **5. FOUNDRY PATTERN MAKERS**

- o Basic dimensions
- o Technical quality of the model and surface finishes
- o Template drawing
- o Secondary dimensions

### **6. TURNERS**

- o Main dimensions
- o Secondary dimensions
- o Fit of pieces and operation
- o Finish

They also had to judge: eccentricity, female screw quality, thread taper and other specific operations for the speciality.

### **7. MILLERS**

- o Basic dimensions and angles

- o Surface finishes
- o Secondary dimensions

The jury added another four elements of assessment each time according to the specifications of the assigned test.

## **8. METALWORK**

- o Basic dimensions
- o Joints of the parts (welding, riveting, screws, etc.)
- o Oxy-fuel cutting
- o Secondary dimensions
- o Finishes

## **9. OXY ACETYLENE AND ELECTRIC WELDING**

- o Spot welding
- o Beading (preparation of the edges)
- o Quality of the joints

The judges had to have the means to check the weldings with x-rays and for the pressure tests.

## **10. INDUSTRIAL ELECTRONICS AND RADIO AND TV REPAIRS**

As this involved two specialisations for which, in order to qualify, the tests depended on very varied, different assembly diagrams and an assessment table had to be studied case by case. However, the main concepts had to include the following:

- o Operation
- o Layout
- o Weldings
- o Wiring
- o Mechanical feed system

## **11. PLANT ENGINEERS**

- o Operation
- o Insulation and protection
- o Fastening and adjustment of the wires and the equipment
- o Connections
- o Equipment layout
- o Dimensions

## **12. ELECTRICAL FITTERS**

- o Operation
- o Protection and insulation
- o Adjustment and fastening of the wires and the equipment
- o Connections
- o Equipment layout

## **13. SHEET METAL WORKERS**

- o Sheet metal beating
- o Basic dimensions
- o Test complies with the drawing
- o Joining of the parts (welding, etc.)
- o Finishes
- o Secondary dimensions

## **14. PLUMBERS**

- o Technical execution and layout of the parts
- o General dimensions
- o Quality of the joints (welding, sleeve fastenings)
- o Junction plates

- o Finishes and cleaning
- Tests in copper, lead and plastic had to be classified separately.

## 15. JEWELLERS

- o Material forming
- o Quality of cutting and settings in which to place the gemstones
- o Test quality and artistic aspect
- o Surface cleaning
- o Test complies with the reference drawing and dimensions
- o Test complies with the shape in the drawing

## 16. CABINET MAKERS AND CARPENTERS

- o Basic dimensions
- o Surface and corner finishes
- o Internal and external connections
- o Quality of the full-scale drawing
- o Secondary dimensions
- o Function

The assessment tables for certain specialities (construction carpenters, bricklayers, stone masons, plasterers, decorators, hairdressers, tailors, upholsterers) have been omitted here, as Italy never took part in them. The assessment tables for all specialities also included the defects to be highlighted, e.g. excess penetration or defect at the top, or lack of fusion, cracks, overflow, excess thickness, distortion, marginal incisions, etc.

169) <u>Electronique industrielle</u>			
Exercice sélectionné.- ESPAGNE			
Dessin du circuit imprimé	15	points	
Problèmes	15	"	
Montage mécanique, circuit imprimé, ajustage et description du fonctionnement	65	"	
Temps	5	"	
	100		Temps = 17 h.
170) <u>Réparation Radio et T.V.</u>			
Exercice sélectionné.- ESPAGNE			
Réparation de Radio	18	points	
" de T.V.	32	"	
Montage	10	"	
Réalisation du schéma	10	"	
Mesures et mise au point	15	"	
Théorie - Questionnaire	5	"	
Utilisation du matériel	5	"	
Temps	5		
	100		Temps = 12 h.

Assessment tables drawn up by the International Technical Committee for the skills in the 1975 competition in Madrid.



XII INTERNATIONAL VOCATIONAL  
TRAINING COMPETITION

General Secretariat  
Calle Marqués del Riscal, 16  
MADRID 4 - (Spain)

I INSTRUCTIONS POUR LES CONCURRENTS

- 1.- Demande au technicien auxiliaire de ton atelier et à ceux qui lui sont agrégés où tu dois garder tes outils, tes vêtements de travail, les pièces de ton ouvrage, etc.
- 2.- Tu remettras le dessin de ton ouvrage avec les pièces de celui-ci à la fin de chaque journée de travail. Le dessin doit être laissé à l'atelier. Tu pourras l'emporter quand tu auras terminé ton épreuve.
- 3.- Les tourneurs et les fraiseurs NE pourront employer ni des limes, ni de la toile émeri, ni d'autres matériaux semblables pour le finissage. La pièce achevée doit être livrée telle qu'elle sort de la machine.
- 4.- Les ajusteurs n'emploieront pas de grattoir, étant donné qu'il est défendu d'ajuster les pièces moyennant des procédés incorrects (tel que le refoulage).
- 5.- Les forgerons n'emploieront que la forge et l'enclume, c'est-à-dire qu'ils n'utiliseront pas de limes ni d'outils de finissage.
- 6.- Les mouleurs fondeurs exécuteront deux exercices: le premier pour laisser observer la qualité du moulage; le deuxième pour faire voir la qualité de la pièce obtenue.
- 7.- Les soudeurs ne devront pas commencer les différentes phases des exercices sans l'autorisation du Jury, c'est-à-dire pour continuer une soudure horizontale après en avoir terminé une verticale, par exemple, ils devront consulter les Membres du Jury.
- 8.- Demande au Secrétaire la liste de détails pour lesquels on donnera des points dans chaque cas. Demande-lui aussi de t'indiquer, sur ton plan ou dessin, les cotes fondamentales dont le Jury tiendra compte pour ses qualifications.
- 9.- Prends soin de bien garder ton ouvrage pendant les intervalles d'une période de travail à l'autre.
- 10.- Dès que tu auras terminé ton ouvrage fais appeler le Secrétaire du Jury pour le lui remettre.
- 11.-,Tâche de ne pas effacer les signes spéciaux ou les numéros apposés par les auxiliaires techniques. Si le procédé de travail entraîne la disparition de ces signes, informes-en l'Auxiliaire pour qu'il les remette.
- 12.- Il est défendu de parler pendant le travail avec des personnes étrangères au Comité d'Organisation. Tu n'entameras jamais de conversation avec tes camarades de travail pendant que tu es en train d'exécuter ton épreuve.
- 13.- Si tu as quelque doute sur l'interprétation du dessin, s'il te manque quelque outil adresse-toi au représentant du Jury ou aux auxiliaires.
- 14.- Si tu abîmes les matériaux reçus, tu peux demander qu'on les remplace, mais une fois seulement. On tiendra compte de ceci au moment de la qualification.
- 15.- Copier intentionnellement le procédé d'exécution d'un autre concurrent, le manque de discipline, et les fautes contra l'ordre établi pendant le travail entraîneront le déclassement comme sanction. Enfin, tu es obligé de respecter les ordres et les dispositions du Comité d'organisation.

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Instructions for the contestants included no talking during the tests, mandatory good behaviour, no copying another contestant, ask the fundamental details of the test only from the chairman of the jury (i.e. the details the jury would have taken most into account in their assessment), not to make marks on the sheets of drawings handed out for the test or any special marks on the finished piece of work.

Turners and millers were not allowed to use either a file or emery paper or other object for the finish: they could only use a machine to create the work piece. Fitters were not allowed to sand. Forgers were only allowed to use the forge and anvil, with no file or anything else. Millers had to complete two tests: the first in order to observe the quality of the milling, the second in order to judge the quality of the piece obtained. During the phases of their test, welders had to consult with members of the jury in order to move from vertical to horizontal welding.





## Chapter 2

### ***1956 - ITALY AND MODENA AT THE WORK OLYMPICS***

In the mid-fifties, Spain encouraged European countries which had not yet joined to take part, including Italy.

However, the Ministry of Education in Rome paid little attention and considered the Vocational Training Competitions of little importance. By mere chance, Mr Armando Malagodi, Principal of the “Corni” institutes in Modena, was actually in the Ministry offices for other problems in vocational schools in February 1956, where he heard it was something to be archived and they were once again deciding to ignore the encouragement from Madrid. However, he wanted to go into the question, found it extremely important and offered to organise Italy's participation from Modena.

They were out of time to hold national trials, so the director Malagodi resolved the problem by telephoning some colleagues, Principals in other towns and in 1956, 14 contestants represented Italy: 7 pupils from the "Corni", 4 from two vocational institutes in Milan, 3 from the vocational institute in Legnano and 1 from Orvieto (for an ineligible skill). At the time, the Competitions were held in April with very close deadlines to send documentation and names of participants to Madrid. Mr Malagodi used his customary managerial expertise to get to grips with the matter and promptly resolved all the bureaucracy and organised the "expedition" to Spain, which those taking part remember as truly groundbreaking. The Italians were the last to register and arrived without any work tools. However, they proved to be a match for the foreign contestants. Eight countries competed in these Olympics with eighty-eight young people taking part.

Leaders of the Italian group were the Principal Mr Armando Malagodi and Mr Nino Fochi from the technical institute “Corni”. The train journey Modena-Barcelona-Madrid was remembered as never-ending. The worst part was in Spain: in carriages with no windows and with wooden seats. The area of the Spanish Meseta and the means of transport reminded the youngsters of western adventure films that were very popular at the time. As there was no Internet, e-mails or SMS, the Corni" secretarial office let the children's parents know of their safe arrival and accommodation. The tests lasted for four hours every morning for twelve days, whereas the afternoons were spent visiting museums and other cities. The Principal was always attentive, ready to respond to any requests by the students.

Everything was paid for and the students received fifty Liras a day for personal needs and to buy Spanish souvenirs or other things. Not everyone, though, spent the money. On the contrary, Silvano Silvestri remembers that one of the friends saved that "pocket money" in order to take a tiny sum home to his mother, who needed it.

We would like to thank Silvano Silvestri for providing all the photos, documents of the period and personal memories, which have enabled us to reconstruct the first time Italy took part in the Work Olympics.

The "Corni" distinguished itself: it won first prize in the Foundry Pattern Makers' category with the pupil Stefano Silvestri himself. Second came Pietro Pavarotti (fitting), Paolo Drusiani (cabinetmaking) and Dino Corradini (radio installation) and third place was won by Aramis Miani (electrical systems), Ferdinando Zanetti (turning) and Romano Filandoli (motor winding).



In 1939, Mr **Armando Malagodi** was appointed Principal of the Technical Institute "Corni" and director of the Technical School (which became IPSIA) and the School of vocational preparation "Corni" (closed to become a joint junior high school). A graduate in electro-technical engineering, author of technical manuals and numerous articles on the problems of education and talented manager, he played a decisive role in the development and success of the "Corni" Institutes, which he led until the autumn of 1969. He considered them as a single school and used the various teaching departments according to the requirements and skills of each member of staff, regardless of their official status.

He was nationally renowned in the field of technical and vocational education and was regarded highly as consultant for the Ministry of Education for everything concerning systems and programmes for the industrial and technical schools that were gradually appearing in Italy. Thanks to him, the "Corni" Institutes were often selected for teaching and training experiments as a pilot school in Italy and they were often appointed for special initiatives, such as organising the Italian team for the International Vocational Training Competitions. He was elected as member of the Supreme Education Council and he was also offered major posts in the Central Department for Technical Education. However, he declined in order to remain Principal of the school he loved and where he lived all day, as his home was in the school building, next to the offices, classrooms and workshops. For further information cf. O.Nuzzi, *Il Corni e Modena*, AdC 2003



The 1956 trophy for the Competition winners.

The widely publicised Cup in the Spanish press was won by Silvano Silvestri of the "Corni" for the category of foundry pattern makers. Silvestri remembers the emotional moment when he returned to school and showed his certificate and the cup to his foundry pattern teacher, Aurelio Godeas, who enthusiastically made him go round all the departments for his colleagues and students to admire the well-deserved award. He then accompanied him to the Principal's office and Silvestri generously gave the cup to the "Corni" Institute. The Principal Malagodi gratefully displayed it in full view in the bookcase behind him, so that anyone entering his office could see it.

ESTE ES EL TROFEO PARA LOS MEJORES.—Por este objeto de arte y de recuerdo se están quemando muchas horas de trabajo, de incesante vigilia en resolver cuestiones básicas de acabado trabajo, y de limpieza perfecta en su presentación. Un puñado de muchachos de diversos países, aspira a conquistarlo. Nosotros lo traemos aquí como reclamo y premio, para cada uno de los que, en su oficio, hayan sabido ser el mejor entre los mejores, de los noventa atletas del trabajo juvenil



Madrid 1956. The young winners of the first prize in the Competitions show their cups and certificates. Silvano Silvestri is in the second row, indicated by the arrow. Silvestri Archive



The student Silvano Silvestri had attended the three preparatory years in the carpentry section at the "Corni". He then attended the three-year Foundry Pattern Making course in the Vocational High School under the excellent teacher Aurelio Godeas (first right). The arrow indicates the pupil Silvestri. Silvestri Archive





Madrid 1956, Certificate of the 5th International Vocational Training Competition, in which Silvano Silvestri was awarded the title of international "champion" in the foundry pattern making speciality.  
Silvestri Archive



Collage of Spanish articles kept by Silvano Silvestri. The Spanish press published the news of Italy's last-minute participation saying: *Ten days before their arrival, the Italian youngsters knew nothing about it.* They gave the Italian team a great deal of publicity, with special praise for the "Corni", which they considered *"el mejor organizado en los aspectos técnico, moral y humano, en el mas amplio sentido de la palabra"* (the best organised from a technical, moral and human point of view in the widest sense of the word).



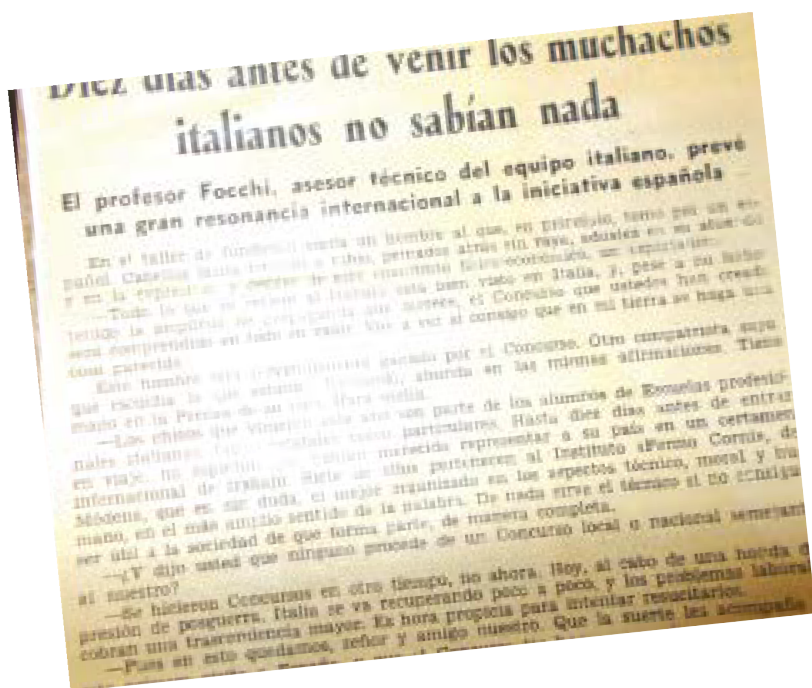
1956. The Italian ambassador's visit during the tests of the Work Olympics. The contestant from Modena, Silvano Silvestri, shows the work he is preparing for the foundry pattern test, based on the drawing provided, to make a water pipe elbow joint.

The first on the right is Mr Nino Fochi. The typical IPI badge worn by "Corni" students is visible on Silvestri's overalls and the Italian flag on his arm. This proves the Italians arrived in Madrid without the time to prepare a uniform. Silvestri Archive



1956. The Italian ambassador in Madrid congratulates the contestant Silvano Silvestri of the "Corni", as the Principal Armando Malagodi looks on proudly at his pupil. With his back to the camera is Mr Fochi. The ambassador has signed the photograph and written a dedication with the words: *In memory of the Italian success at the 1956 Work Olympics in Madrid. Best wishes Giulio del Balzo Italian Ambassador* Silvestri Archive



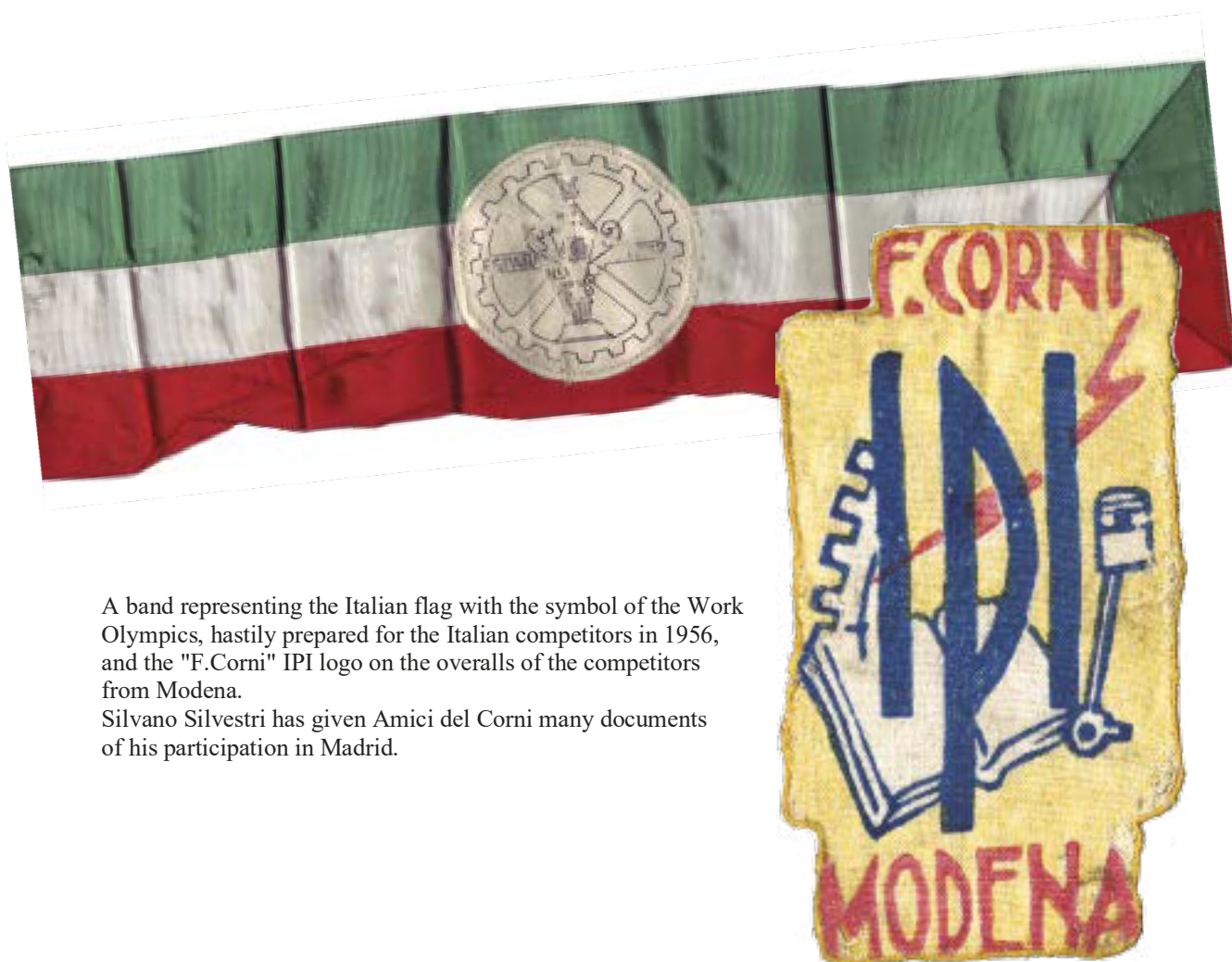


April 1956. Article from a Spanish newspaper with an interview with Mr. Nino Focchi (misspelt Focchi) with the most significant extracts summarised below.

*The foundry workshop is under the careful eye of a man who, at first sight, I mistake for a Spaniard. Smooth, blondish hair, combed backwards without a parting, with an attentive expression in his eyes...*


The journalist is especially happy with the interview in which Nino Focchi states that, on his return to Italy, he will be speaking highly of the Spanish initiative as Italy gives great importance to employment. Italy is still affected negatively by the post-war period, although it is gradually getting back on its feet. Taking part in the Competitions will without doubt help to revive it.

Silvestri Archive



A band representing the Italian flag with the symbol of the Work Olympics, hastily prepared for the Italian competitors in 1956, and the "F.Corni" IPI logo on the overalls of the competitors from Modena.

Silvano Silvestri has given Amici del Corni many documents of his participation in Madrid.



**ISTITUTO TECNICO INDUSTRIALE "FERMO CORNI"**  
SCUOLE TECNICHE E DI AVVIAMENTO INDUSTRIALI

Modena, 16 Aprile 1956  
Cassa Corrispondenza R.  
Telefonat. | Presidenza 74-812  
Segreteria | 77-525

Prot. N. \_\_\_\_\_ Pos. \_\_\_\_\_


Risposta al foglio N. \_\_\_\_\_

del \_\_\_\_\_

**Oggetto:** \_\_\_\_\_

Al Sig. SILVESTRI NINO  
Via C. Costa, 274  
MODENA

La informo, per comunicazioni pervenute stamane che Suo figlio Silvestri Silvano attualmente partecipante al concorso di Madrid, dove è giunto felicemente, non sarà di ritorno prima del 30 Aprile p.v.-  
Tanto Le comunico per di Lei tranquillità.  
Distinti saluti


IL SEGRETARIO-ECONOMO  
(Reg. M. Gavioli)  


Modena, 16 April 1956. The "Corni" Institute announces the return of the competition contestant, Silvano Silvestri, is expected on 30 April. Silvestri Archive

Modena, 24 August 1956 The "Corni" Institute informs Silvestri that the Provincial Administration has awarded him a prize of ten thousand Lira for his victory at the International Competition in Madrid.

Modena 24 Agosto 1956

Sei invitato a presentarti alla Segreteria di questo Istituto munito di una marca da bollo ordinaria da L. 20.= per riscuotere un premio di L. 10.000.= elargito dalla Amministrazione Provinciale di Modena ai partecipanti al Concorso Internazionale di Madrid.

IL PRESIDE  
(Dott. Ing. A. MALAGODI)  




Partecipando al Concorso Internazionale di preparazione professionale in Spagna hanno colto una significativa affermazione

La scorsa notte è stato dato in Italia la nostra rappresentazione di *Comunque*. Incontrammo a di proporzioni proporzionale spinta, vennero a Madrid dal 14 al 26 aprile n.s.

Al Concorso, che riguardava diverse specializzazioni, hanno partecipato nove Paesi, cioè: Italia, Spagna, Portogallo, Messico, Francia, Stati Uniti, Belgio, Germania e Inghilterra, con 12 concorrenti.

L'Italia ha partecipato con 19 allievi, di cui uno per ferro battuto, ginnastica, tiori, canottaggio.

Dal 14 cominceranno infatti l'appuntamento all'istituto Pre-sociale Corni 4 a via: Istituto di Milano e 3 all'Istituto di Legnano. Il partecipante sarà tenuto a di Ossido.

L'Italia si è affermata in modo molto brillante davanti ai giudici fra le navi stante partecipanti, prima in tre specialità, secondo in due e terza in 5. Tale affermazione italiana è particolarmente significativa, in quanto gli atleti della fo-

altre aziende professionali si sono trovati a dover competere con concorrenza tanto elevatissima da specializzati dell'industria, i quali per altro, in dove sono rimasti a aspettare gli italiani, non è stato in generale per una più perfetta esecuzione dei lavori, bensì solo per il fattore tempo, che ha visto l'industria de-

Dei sette multicarichi, restano sei e sono classificati primo in classifica per somma punti. Sono: GASTONE DI CORRALDO (1.000 punti); GASTONE DI CORRALDO (1.000 punti); GASTONE DI CORRALDO (1.000 punti); GASTONE DI CORRALDO (1.000 punti); GASTONE DI CORRALDO (1.000 punti); GASTONE DI CORRALDO (1.000 punti).

L'ufficialmente italiana, che ha grande orgoglio, ha la stessa importanza per la storia americana, anche perché, insieme a altre mostre hanno parlato, più ai precedenti congressi, anche questo è quanto, e le loro rappresentazioni sono il risultato di uno sforzo collettivo. Insieme, Italia ha partecipato al congresso con una mostra che non solo ha rappresentato che il Premio del nostro Istituto Comi tra Mascheri, delegato all'ufficio per l'Italia, concludendo del Delegato Tirocinio prof. Pochi Nino della stessa Italia, ha tenuto dovuto rappresentazione alla sua istituzione. Il presidente

În Spania, în curtea, la  
buclele în jurul răspândirii  
de alinații sau de alinații  
și în jurul răspândirii  
în jurul răspândirii

sternamente e per i riflettori della notorietà, a un prestigio del Paese in nome e del lavoro qualificato e particolare, che l'Italia non debba mai più a dispetto, rimpiandendo della esistenza tra di questa terra particolare, dove, provata a sorgere nel suo momento per la provvidenza.

1

In the cen

overalls),  
with a cor  
and the te

The article of 30 April 1956 gives the news of the successful "Corni" students.

The first prize in the foundry pattern makers' category was awarded to Silvano Silvestri. In second place came Pietro Pavarotti (fitting), Paolo Drusiani (cabinetmaking), Dino Corradini (radio installation) and in third place Aramis Miani (electrical systems) with a mark of 94.24 as opposed to 94.80 for second place, Ferdinando Zanetti (turning) and Romano Filandoli (motor winding).

Spain held a national trial for 17,000 students and young workers.

Silvestri Archive

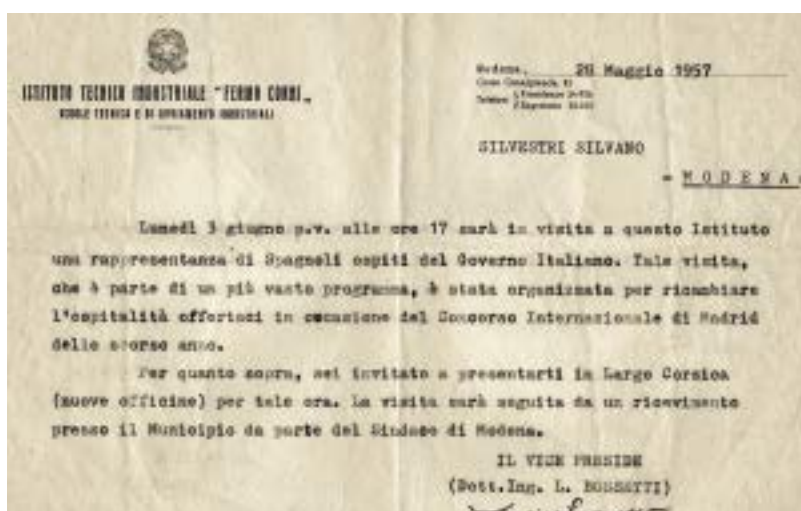
In the centre, Paolo Drusiani (wearing the "Corni" overalls), second place in the Cabinetmaking category, with a contestant from Milan (wearing dark overalls) and the technicians checking the tests.

Silvestri Archive



In May 1957, to pay back the hospitality received the previous year in Madrid and to consolidate the friendship, Mr Malagodi suggested the Ministry should invite a group of Spanish organisers and contestants to visit some of Italy's technical and vocational training schools and the most famous cities of art. The Ministry welcomed the proposal and gave the "Corni" the task of organising everything from the invitations to the welcome, from the accommodation to the tours. The Spanish group arrived with 23 youths and 3 accompanying persons. The Municipal Administration offered a reception, to which the champion, Silvano Silvestri was also invited.

The Principal Malagodi, Mr Nino Fochi and an interpreter accompanied the Spaniards: they left Genoa on 29 May and toured the most famous cities as far as Paestum and with a trip to Capri. The guests were given the opportunity to tour the Fiat plants in Turin, the technical schools in Modena, Bergamo and Milan. They were received by the Education Minister and were granted an audience with the Pope. They returned to Genoa on 11 June.



In May 1957, the Italian government invited a Spanish delegation to Modena. The "Corni" invited the 1956 winner, Silvano Silvestri, to take part in the reception offered by the Municipal Administration

In August 1957, the "Corni" notified Silvano Silvestri he had once again been selected to take part in the International Competitions. This time, however, Silvestri was a former pupil, who had already passed his final exams and was working at the Valdevit foundry. The "Corni" was not breaking the rules, as other countries were also sending school leavers and the trials in Spain had also included workers aged under 18. Silvestri remembers that the "Corni" was very well-known and popular in Italy and requests for foundry pattern makers arrived continually from certain industries in the north. The "Corni" believed collaboration between school and industry extremely useful training and invited its best pupils to carry out a brief work experience in the summer, before they had completed their cycle of studies: Silvestri went to Alessandria, a friend of his to Tortona.



In 1957, the countries taking part in the sixth edition of the Competitions were Spain, Portugal, France, West Germany, Belgium, Great Britain, Ireland and Italy, and the number of participants rose to 128. The competitions were held in October and the Ministry of Education had appointed the Principal Malagodi beforehand as official representative for Italy at the Olympics and the "Corni" in Modena as the place to hold the national trials for contestants from other Italian towns for all the subjects and specialities taught in Modena. Mr Nino Fochi from the Technical Institute "Corni" was appointed Italy's official representative in the International Technical Committee.

There were sixteen contestants from Modena, Milan, Legnano, Arezzo and Apuania and they all came between first and fourth place. However, the "Corni" was extremely successful, as it was the only school to be awarded three first places (U. Boccaletti, M. Cova, R. Cuoghi), one second place (Silvano Silvestri), one third place (P. Drusiani) and two contestants (F. Martinelli and R. Alleghetti) who came fourth. Taking part was the technical institute of Legnano (a second and third place), the vocational institute "Settembrini" in Milan (one second place), the vocational institute "Correnti" in Milan (one fourth place) and the Institute of Art in Apuania (second place). The contestant G. Rossi from the jewellers' course at the vocational institute of Arezzo produced work that was not judged, as there were no other participants in that speciality. However, he received an award for his excellent chasing.



The article kept by the winner from Modena, Silvano Silvestri, also reports the successes achieved by the students from the "Corni" at the 1957 Olympics. The Italian delegation was hosted by the Spanish government and assisted by the Italian Embassy, which arduously saw to every bureaucratic need or institutional commitment. The award ceremony was held at El Pardo before Francisco Franco, the Spanish authorities and the Diplomatic Corp.





Madrid 1957. This time, the Italian contestants turned up at the Work Olympics wearing a uniform clearly bearing the Italian flag and no longer the "Corni" workshop overalls.

Right to left: Umberto Boccaletti (turner-Gold medal), Silvano Silvestri (foundry pattern maker-Silver medal), Paolo Drusiani (Cabinet maker-Bronze medal) and a German contestant wearing a far more elegant uniform for the dinner at the hotel restaurant. Silvestri Archive



Madrid 1957. The team of Italian contestants on a tour of the Valle de Los Caidos, a large monumental complex, built for the victims of the civil war and where the Caudillo Francisco Franco was buried on his death in 1975. The Spanish organisers had always planned this stop as part of the city tours during the Work Olympics. The arrow indicates Silvano Silvestri. Silvestri Archive



Madrid 1957. Silvano Silvestri at work with various tools and machines, in three phases of the test. On the bench lies the sheet with the drawing of the object to be made. The countries competing in the category of foundry pattern makers were: Portugal, Germany, Belgium, England, Italy and Spain. Silvestri Archive



In 1957, Silvestri was only awarded a certificate to say he had taken part in the 6th International Vocational Training Programme with second place out of six contestants. The prizes were as yet only for the winners.

**El Secretario del Consejo Organizador del VI Concurso Internacional de Formación Profesional Obrera**

CERTIFICO: Que el Concurante SILVESTRI SILVANO,  
nacido en Italia el 16-10-38,  
participó en el VI Concurso Internacional de Formación Profesional Obrera celebra-  
do en Madrid (España) en el mes de Octubre de 1957, en la especialidad de  
Modelista categoría A, habiendo sido clasificado en 2º lugar  
entre 6 concursantes de los siguientes países: Portugal, Alemania,  
Bélgica, Inglaterra, Italia y España.

V.º S.º  
El Presidente del Consejo Organizador,

Madrid, 30 de octubre 1957.

Registrado: N.º 73

## ***THE 1959 WORK OLYMPICS IN MODENA AND THE NATIONAL TRIALS***

After numerous competitions organised only by Spain, in 1958 it was Belgium's turn and the event was held in Brussels. In 1959, Italy, and therefore Modena, was given the task of holding the Eighth Edition of the Work Olympics. The "Corni" Institute held all the national trials, followed by the phases of the International Competition, including the specialisations not taught at the school in Modena (jewellery, tailoring, mosaics, etc.). That year, eight countries took part. 150 young contestants arrived with about a hundred adults, including accompanying persons and technicians, who were accommodated in facilities across the city.

The "Corni" Institute's technical and administrative staff spent months feverishly preparing the machinery for the tests, all the spaces for the juries and the logistics and accommodation of the guests. It was extremely successful, but whereas the mass media of the other nations highlighted these International Competitions, in Italy, little (or almost nothing) was known of what was taking place in Modena. The Olympics lasted from 8 to 24 September.



Medal produced for the 1959 Work Olympics in Modena. The medal portrays the Ghirlandina bell tower as the symbol of Modena.

The Latin motto *Vitam excolimus per artes* (we ennoble life by discovering the arts) was chosen to reflect the millennial tradition of Italian skills and, naturally of the people of Modena. This elegant, erudite motto is taken from Book VI of Virgil's Aeneid (line 663).

The word CULTURE comes from the Latin verb *colere* which, in this case, refers to technical culture, which is so important for our social and economic development. The Latin word ARTES indicated all human activities, from the simplest to the most sophisticated, without distinguishing between artists and craftsmen as we do today, because the essence of art is rooted in the unity of thought and manual work. The philosophy behind the Work Olympics interpreted that idea in full and helped raise awareness of the importance of skilled know-how among young people.



1959, Modena staffroom –  
"Corni" Institute.  
Meeting of the International  
Technical Committee for the  
Work Olympics.





Left to right: the Education Minister, Giuseppe Medici and Mr Armando Malagodi with other authorities visiting the stands in the "Corni" institutes equipped to hold the tests in the competition. Behind the Minister, indicated by the arrow, is Mr Ludovico Aggazzotti, chairman of the BoD of the "Corni" institutes.

The specialities in the competition also included the category of millers. The "Corni" Institute did not have a sufficient number of milling machines. The Principle Armando Malagodi solved the problem by asking the company SAIMP to lend the machines needed for the period of the International Competition.

In 1959, the Education Minister was Senator Giuseppe Medici (economist, born in Sassuolo), who was also present at the closing event and award ceremony. He congratulated the Principal and staff of the "Corni" for the efficient departments and the equipment and technical resources available. Mr Malagodi explained that the milling machines did not belong to the "Corni" and once the Olympics had finished, they had to be returned to the company, which had so generously lent them. Senator Medici immediately promised funding ad hoc to enable the Vocational Training Institute "Corni" to purchase some milling machines.

Thus, in the academic year 1959-1960, the Course for Millers was established, which the Principal Malagodi entrusted to the engineer, Giuliano Ghedini (a recent addition to the staff teaching Mechanical Technology at the "Corni" where he had also studied). He immediately prepared design and technology programmes and practical tests with the collaboration of members of the Technical Department, and with the teachers Arrigo Paradisi, Gianni Bertocchi and the new arrival Mr Gandolfi. The latter was a highly regarded workshop manager at Fiat, who Mr Malagodi was able to convince to leave that job and come to work in the school to prepare and train young people. The first millers were awarded their school leaving certificate in 1963 and one of them, Argeo Reggiani, actually won the Silver Medal that year at the Work Olympics in Dublin (cf. Chap. 3 p. 50).



Modena 1959. The Education Minister, Giuseppe Medici, welcomes the members of the International Council during a reception in Modena. The Principal, Armando Malagodi, is standing behind the Minister. Photo published by a Spanish newspaper.

Modena 1959. The Employment Minister, Benigno Zaccagnini, gave out the awards to the winners, who the Spanish press referred to as "International champions". Photo published by a Spanish newspaper.



The school leavers of the first milling course established at Ipsia "Corni" in 1959. To the right of Mr Gandolfi is Argeo Reggiani (in grey overalls), who was awarded the Silver medal in Dublin 1963 (cf. Chap. 3). Reggiani Archive



It was in Dublin that Mr Giuliano Ghedini took over from Mr Nino Fochi (who had left teaching for a more attractive job in the automobile industry) and took part for the first time as Technical Representative for Italy in the International Organisation of the Competitions, where he remained until 1975, when Italy participated for the last time. In 1970, the Principal, Ennio Ferrari, took over from Mr Armando Malagodi (retired) as Official Representative for Italy. Franco Galassi, accountant and bursar, and Renzo Parenti, secretary, were there to organise and resolve all the bureaucracy.

With the exception of B. Bini, a goldsmith from Arezzo, all the Italian members of the International Juries were teachers at the "Corni":

- from 1963, they included Giovanni Benassi (fitters), Arrigo Paradisi (draughtsmen), Onelio Pellacani (electrical systems), Claudio Frigieri (millers)
- from 1967, they were joined by Ferdinando Zanetti (millers), Walter Guerzoni (radio technicians), Luigi Menziani (foundry pattern making).



1963 Dublin - 12th edition of the International Competitions. Arrival of the group from Modena at Dublin airport. Right to left: the interpreter, Mr G. Ghedini (International Technical Committee), Arrigo Paradisi (jury for Draughtsmen), Giovanni Benassi (jury for Fitters), Onelio Pellacani (jury for Electrical Systems).

July 1968, Bern – 17th edition of the International Competitions.

Trip to the Jungfrau, Swiss Alps.

Right to left: Renzo Parenti (secretary), Franco Galassi (bursar, accountant), Giuliano Ghedini (engineer).



1964. Lisbon, Portugal

13th edition Work Olympics.

ID badge for the members of the International Technical Committee.



1963 Dublin - 12th edition of the Work Olympics. The Irish President, Eamon De Valera, welcomes the representatives of the thirteen nations taking part. Third from the right is Mr Giuliano Ghedini, Technical Representative for Italy.

Madrid 1967. Closing Ceremony of the 16th Work Olympics. Mr Giuliano Ghedini greets the Caudillo Francisco Franco. In the centre, Eugenio Lopez y Lopez, president of the International Organisation.



After studying at the "Corni", Giuliano Ghedini graduated in mechanical engineering and returned to the "Corni" as a teacher. Shortly afterwards, the Principal, Armando Malagodi, appointed him as Vice-Principal of the two institutes (technical and vocational), which had combined at that time.

In the early eighties, the new Principal, Mr Ennio Ferrari, successfully asked for the two institutes to be separated to facilitate their management, as both had a very high number of pupils registered. Mr Giuliano Ghedini was appointed as Principal at IPSIA.

As Principal, Ghedini developed the Vocational Training Institute even further, by focusing on the technical and practical subjects. He was helped by his in-depth knowledge, experience and professionalism. He was Technical Representative for Italy in the International Technical Committee for the Work Olympics from 1963 to 1975 and was considered highly by his foreign colleagues and by the Secretariat General for his competency. He kept photographic and technical material from that period, which he donated to Amici del Corni. He has always remained extremely fond of the "Corni", where he spent so many years.

DATE ET LIEU DE REUNION DE CHACUN DES 22 CONCOURS ORGANISES

Con- cours	Annee	Ville	Pays	Nº pays partici- pants	Nº total des parti- cipants
I	1950	Madrid	Espagne	2	24
II	1952	Madrid	Espagne	2	16
III	1953	Madrid	Espagne	7	65
IV	1954	Madrid	Espagne	7	83
V	1956	Madrid	Espagne	8	88
VI	1957	Madrid	Espagne	8	128
VII	1958	Bruxelles	Belgique	10	144
VIII	1959	Módèna	Italie	9	150
IX	1960	Barcelona	Espagne	7	173
X	1961	Duisburg	Allemagne	11	193
XI	1962	Gijón	Espagne	10	156
XII	1963	Dublin	Irlande	13	257
XIII	1964	Lisbonne	Portugal	11	198
XIV	1965	Glasgow	Royaume Uni	10	200
XV	1966	Utrecht	Hollande	11	221
XVI	1967	Madrid	Espagne	11	233
XVII	1968	Berna	Suisse	14	256
XVIII	1969	Bruxelles	Belgique	15	266
XIX	1970	Tokyo	Japon	15	274
XX	1971	Gijón	Espagne	15	271
XXI	1973	Munich	Allemagne	15	285
XXII	1975	Madrid	Espagne	17	290
		14	10	17	3.941

Time line for the Olympics from 1950 to 1975. The 1972 and 1974 editions are missing: Ireland and Portugal were supposed to organise them, but for various reasons were unable to do so.



Italy took part in varying numbers and with varying results from year to year. At the 1960 Olympics in Barcelona, for example, the Italian contestants took part in 23 specialities and won 2 Gold medals, 7 Silver, 3 Bronze and another 7 came in fourth place. The best results were usually achieved in the specialities taught at the "Corni" Institute: foundry pattern making, mechanical draughtsman, miller, mechanical fitter, electrical systems.

The Secretariat General in Madrid gave copies of all the tests proposed and those selected for the Competitions as useful material for the Vocational Training Institutes in the various countries taking part. Modena always sent that technical material from the Olympics to the Ministry of Education, so it could be sent to all Italian vocational training institutes, but without any guaranteed success.

The fact that the "Corni" of Modena organised and managed the national trials and above all, the fact that often in these competitions the Italian winners were from Modena, began to arouse jealousy and a few complaints, as a result of which the Ministry of Education established inter-regional trials in order to give a national list of candidates.

It is true that the tests had to be assessed according to the criteria set by the Ministry. However, these were often followed very leniently for pupils of the town holding the inter-regional trials, with the intention of making them look good across the country. As a result, some of the national winners were no match for the contestants in the International Competitions. The "Corni" Institute had until now held Italian prestige high at the Olympics and successfully suggested that the national winners should come to stay for a few days in Modena to better prepare for the test procedures in the Competitions, as the various teachers who were taking part as accompanying persons and technicians in the juries were experts in the field. They gave the young people a detailed plan of preparation to follow at their school. Even this method proved ineffective, as some pupils were sure of taking part in the International Competitions and of a trip abroad all expenses paid and together with their schools did not follow the instructions given by the "Corni".

The example of Japan, which joined for the first time in 1962, excited the "Corni" even more: the Japanese students were very competitive and well prepared by businesses which also provided them with avant-garde instruments. Their contestants and accompanying persons had to follow strict rules of conduct during the tests: in the morning, they had to get up before the other contestants and do half an hour of gymnastics to be fully fit. At the end of the day, the entire team met to comment on how the tests had gone and to give advice and make suggestions. The careful organisation of the Japanese group was due to the fact that, as their vocational schools were not state-run, but managed by individual companies (the industrial trades) or by groups of companies (for the crafts) under the control of the Ministry of Employment, all the participants and accompanying persons felt it their duty to give their very best, as they had to report back to the company they depended on. The contestants were often apprentices and a good result at the Olympics meant they were certain to obtain a better post in the company. The latter exploited and advertised the success of its worker, as the Japanese media, unlike the Italians, were very interested in these Competitions and reported them widely.

The Japanese experts/technicians, members of the juries, scrupulously observed and paid close attention to the work conduct of their pupils, but also to that of the other contestants, and were very interested in the work procedures. Some of the other European countries were far less organised and the Americans were very relaxed and enjoyed their holiday.

In 1974, West Germany suggested including a new speciality in the Competitions: any type of automobile mechanics and repair, including trucks. The Technical Committee

discussed this at length, as this new category meant including not one but several categories, as the automobile sector includes metal working (welding, sheet metal cutting, checks), the engine, the electrics, the tyres, the interiors, etc. At the German delegation's insistence, it was decided to implement a preliminary demonstration just for the Technical Committee and the Secretariat General the following year in Strasburg. This would show the automobile techniques and technology, which would have entered the international competitions in 1976, to give the various countries taking part time to get organised and participate. Which Italy did not do, as 1975 was its final Work Olympics (Cf. Chap. 4).

The photos of 1975 show the award ceremony in Rome for the winners of the 22nd edition of the National Competitions. At the time, the Education Minister, Franca Falcucci, praised the work and commitment of the "Corni", which had made that competition feasible. The uniforms for all the Italian contestants selected had also been prepared in Modena.



Standing, the winners of the National Competition. Seated, the executive staff of the Ministry of Education and the minister, Franca Falcucci in the centre.

## Chapter 3

### ***THE "CORNI" OF MODENA IN EUROPE AND THE WORLD***

#### ***1963 – DUBLIN (IRELAND) – 12th EDITION***

From 29 June to 6 July, only the members of the Technical Committee, the Juries and the Secretariat General were involved. However, Ireland also prepared moments of relaxation for them to get to know the typical aspects of the country. There were boat trips around Dublin Bay, a tour of Limerick with an overnight stay and mediaeval lunch at Bunratty Castle, followed by an excursion through the region of Connemara and a dinner with live entertainment in Galway.

The official opening ceremony was held on 7 July. The young Italian contestants actually arrived in Dublin on the morning of 7 July, although they had left the square behind the "Corni" on 2 July. After a stop for dinner and an overnight stay in Lausanne, they stopped the following night in Paris, where they remained for the entire day of 4 July for tours and excursions in the city. On 5 July, they travelled from Paris to Calais where they set sail for Dover. They continued the journey via Canterbury, Gillingham and London, where they stayed the night. The following day, 6 July, they made a brief stop in Birmingham before going to Liverpool. After a tour of the city, they boarded the ferry, where they had dinner and slept overnight in the cabins. On 7 July, they arrived in Dublin at 7.30 a.m. and went to Gormanston College, where a religious service was held, followed by the opening ceremony of the International Competitions in the presence of the Education Minister. In the afternoon, they moved to the College of Technology in Bolton Street, where the work stations were drawn and the contestants could look at the machines and equipment.

The tests began on Monday 8 July and lasted a week, during which the contestants worked from nine until twelve. After the lunch break, they began once again at 2:00 p.m. and finished at 5:30 p.m.

Once the pieces of work were completed, the contestants were accompanied on tours of nearby towns or industrial hubs, while the Technical Committee and Juries corrected and classified the tests. The award ceremony for the winners was held on Thursday 18 July. All the delegations left Dublin between Friday and Saturday.

The symbol chosen by Ireland for the 12th edition of the International Competitions was a gear wheel surrounding the globe.





Domenica, 7. 7. 1963		Comitato d'apertura
		Festività religiose (si vedano gli avvisi nei tabelloni d'informazione presso l'Hotel e presso il Gormanston College).
8.30		Prima colazione dei concorrenti al Gormanston College.
10.00		Partenza dall'Hotel Intercontinental per il Gormanston College.
		È l'inaugurazione solenne del XXI Concorso Internazionale di Formazione Professionale, da parte del Ministro dell'Educazione d'Irlanda, avrà luogo al Gormanston College, alle 11.30. Pranzo al Gormanston College, alle 13.00.
14.30		Partenza dei pullman dal Gormanston College per la visita al College of Technology, in Bolton Street.
		Assaggiatura degli strumenti, consegna dei piani, istruzioni sul Concorso Internazionale, consegna dei braccialetti, ecc.
		Spettacolo ai reparti.
		Smistaggio dei posti di lavoro, dei macchinari e dei materiali.
		Periodo concesso ai concorrenti per constatare le macchine e gli utensili.
		Conversazioni fra gli Assistenti, i Capi dei vari Gruppi, gli interpreti ed i Concorrenti, al College of Technology.
19.00		Cena all'Hotel Intercontinental ed al Gormanston College, seguita da interessanti spettacoli speciali.

Lunedì, 8. 7. 1963	
7.30	Prima colazione al Gormanston College.
8.10	Partenza dei pullman dal Gormanston College per il College of Technology.
8.30	Partenza dei pullman dall'Hotel Intercontinental per il College of Technology.
9.00	Periodo di lavoro, con rinfresco sui posti di lavoro dalle 11.00 alle 11.15.
13.30	Pranzo al College of Technology per i Concorrenti, per i Capi dei vari Gruppi, per gli Assistenti e per gli interpreti.
12.35	Partenza dei pullman dal College of Technology per l'Hotel Intercontinental — Pranzo all'Hotel per i Rappresentanti Ufficiali e per quelli Tecnici.
14.00	Partenza dei pullman dall'Hotel Intercontinental per il College of Technology.
14.00/17.30	Periodo di lavoro, con merenda sui posti di lavoro dalle 16.00
17.45	Partenza dei pullman dal College of Technology per il Gormanston College e per l'Hotel Intercontinental.
19.00	Cena al Gormanston College e all'Hotel Intercontinental.
20.00	Servizio libero per i Rappresentanti e servizio speciale per i Concorrenti al Gormanston College.

Martedì, 9. 7. 1963	
7.30	Prima colazione al Gormanston College.
8.10	Partenza dei Concorrenti per il College of Technology.
8.30	Partenza dei Rappresentanti dall'Hotel Intercontinental per il College of Technology.
9.00	Periodo di lavoro, con rinfresco dalle 11.00.
10.00	Ritorno del Consiglio Organizzatore Internazionale.
10.30	Pranzo al College of Technology.
11.30	Partenza dei pullman dai Rappresentanti per l'Hotel Intercontinental.
12.35	Partenza dei pullman dall'Hotel Intercontinental per il College of Technology.
14.00	Periodo di lavoro, con merenda dalle 14.00.
17.45	Partenza dei pullman per il Gormanston College e per l'Hotel Intercontinental.
19.00	Cena al Gormanston e all'Hotel Intercontinental.
20.00	Servizio speciale per i Concorrenti al Gormanston College e servizio libero per tutti gli altri.

Martedì, 09. 7. 1963	
7.30	Prima colazione al Gormanston College.
8.10	Partenza dal Gormanston College per il College of Technology.
8.30	Partenza dall'Hotel Intercontinental per il College of Technology.
9.00	Periodo di lavoro, con rinfresco dalle 11.00 alle 11.15.
12.15	Programma speciale per il pomeriggio.
	Partenza in pullman dal College of Technology.
	Pranzo, seguito da visite e fabbriche a due giri.
	Resto della giornata : libero.

Giovedì, 11. 7. 1963	
7.30	Prima colazione al Gormanston College.
8.10	Partenza dei pullman dal Gormanston College per il College of Technology.
8.30	Partenza dei pullman dall'Hotel Intercontinental per il College of Technology.
9.00	Periodo di lavoro, con rinfresco dalle 11.00.
12.30	Pranzo al College of Technology.
12.35	Partenza dei pullman per l'Hotel Intercontinental.
14.00	Partenza dei pullman dall'Hotel Intercontinental per il College of Technology.
14.50	Periodo di lavoro, con merenda dalle 14.00. Classificazione dei pezzi ultimati.
17.45	Partenza dei pullman dal College of Technology per il Gormanston College e per l'Hotel Intercontinental.
19.00	Cena al Gormanston College e all'Hotel Intercontinental.
20.00	Servizio speciale per i concorrenti al Gormanston College e per i Delegati. Il resto della serata, libero.

Venerdì, 12. 7. 1963	
7.30	Prima colazione al Gormanston College.
8.10	Partenza dei pullman dal Gormanston College per il College of Technology.
8.30	Partenza dei pullman dall'Hotel Intercontinental per il College of Technology.
9.00	Periodo di lavoro, con rinfresco dalle 11.00. Continuazione della classificazione dei pezzi ultimati.
12.35	Pranzo al College of Technology.
12.35	Partenza dei pullman dei Rappresentanti Ufficiali per l'Hotel Intercontinental.
14.00	Partenza dei pullman dall'Hotel Intercontinental per il College of Technology.
14.00	Periodo di lavoro, con merenda dalle 14.00. Continuazione della classificazione dei lavori terminati.
17.45	Partenza dei pullman dal College of Technology per il Gormanston College e per l'Hotel Intercontinental.
	Ci sarà un pullman, che partirà più tardi per coloro che desiderano rimanere a Dublino. I Capi dei vari gruppi si preoccuperanno per fare le sistemazioni del caso.
19.00	Cena al Gormanston College e all'Hotel Intercontinental.
20.00	Partenza degli autobus da BUNRATS per il Gormanston College.

Sabato, 13. 7. 1963	
7.30	Prima colazione al Gormanston College.
8.10	Partenza dei pullman dal Gormanston College per il College of Technology.
9.00	Periodo di lavoro, con rinfresco dalle 11.00. Continuazione della classificazione dei lavori terminati.
	Macchine libere per quei Concorrenti che abbiano finito i loro lavori.
12.30	Partenza dei pullman dal College of Technology per l'Hotel Intercontinental.
12.30	Pranzo al College of Technology per i Concorrenti, per i Capi dei vari Gruppi e per gli interpreti.
	Pranzo all'Hotel Intercontinental per tutti gli altri.
15.00	Continuazione della classificazione dei lavori terminati.
	Programma speciale per il pomeriggio e per la sera, per i Concorrenti e per i Rappresentanti Ufficiali.

Domenica, 14. 7. 1963	
	È festa cattolica e funzioni non cattoliche (si vedano gli avvisi nei tabelloni d'informazione presso il Gormanston College e presso l'Hotel Intercontinental).
8.30	Prima colazione.
10.00	Partenza dei pullman dall'Hotel Intercontinental per il College of Technology, per i Rappresentanti Ufficiali, per quelli Tecnici e per gli Assistenti.
10.15	Continuazione della classificazione dei lavori terminati.
12.45	Partenza dei pullman dal College of Technology per l'Hotel Intercontinental.
13.00	Pranzo all'Hotel Intercontinental.
14.15	Partenza dei pullman dall'Hotel Intercontinental per il College of Technology.
14.30	Continuazione della classificazione dei lavori terminati.
18.30	Partenza dei pullman dal College of Technology per l'Hotel Intercontinental.
12.30	Pranzo al Gormanston College per i Concorrenti, per i Capi dei vari Gruppi e per gli interpreti.
13.00	Pranzo all'Hotel Intercontinental per i Delegati, per i Rappresentanti Ufficiali, per quelli Tecnici e per gli Assistenti.
14.15	Partenza dei pullman dal Gormanston College per il Croke Park.
17.00	Ritorno di tutti i pullman dal Gormanston College per il Croke Park.
18.00	Cena internazionale a concorso all'Hotel Intercontinental, per i Delegati, per i Rappresentanti Ufficiali, per quelli Tecnici, per gli Assistenti, per i Concorrenti, per i Capi dei vari Gruppi, per gli interpreti, ecc.
	Dopo il Concorso, ritorno dei pullman dall'Hotel Intercontinental al Gormanston College.

Detailed programme of the Olympics handed out to all participants.

<b>Lunedì, 15. 7. 1963</b>		<b>1° Gruppo</b>
8.45	Partenza dei pullmans dall'Hotel Intercontinental per il College of Technology per i Rappresentanti Ufficiali, per quelli Tecnici e per gli Assistenti.	
9.00	Continuazione della classificazione delle prove, con sospensione dei lavori dalle 11.00 alle 11.15 per un rinfresco.	
12.45	Partenza dei pullmans dal College of Technology per l'Hotel Intercontinental.	
13.00	Pranzo all'Hotel Intercontinental.	
14.15	Partenza dei pullmans dall'Hotel Intercontinental per il College of Technology.	
14.30	Continuazione della classificazione delle prove, con sospensione dei lavori dalle 16.00 alle 16.15 per una merenda.	
18.30	Partenza dei pullmans dal College of Technology per l'Hotel Intercontinental.	
		<b>2° Gruppo (Tutti coloro che non sono inclusi nel 1° Gruppo)</b>
7.30	Prima colazione al Gormanston College.	
8.10	Partenza dei pullmans per la Stazione ferroviaria.	
8.15	Partenza dei pullmans dall'Hotel Intercontinental per la Stazione ferroviaria.	
		Pranzo sul treno in marcia per Cork.
13.45	Visita del Porto di Cork.	
19.30	Ricevimento e cena per i Rappresentanti Ufficiali.	
		Cena e spettacolo per i Concorrenti.
23.00	Partenza dei pullmans da Cork per l'Hotel Intercontinental e residencias.	

<b>Martedì, 16. 7. 1963</b>		<b>1° Gruppo</b>
8.45	Partenza dei pullmans dall'Hotel Intercontinental per il College of Technology, per i Rappresentanti Ufficiali, per quelli Tecnici e per gli Assistenti.	
9.00	Continuazione della classificazione delle prove.	
12.45	Partenza dei pullmans dal College of Technology per l'Hotel Intercontinental.	
13.00	Pranzo all'Hotel Intercontinental.	
14.15	Partenza dei pullmans dall'Hotel Intercontinental per il College of Technology.	
14.30	Continuazione della classificazione delle prove.	
		<b>2° Gruppo (Tutti coloro che non formano parte del 1° Gruppo)</b>
8.00	Prima colazione.	
8.30	Gite a Cork ed a Kerry.	
19.00	Ritorno a Cork.	
	Cena seguita da serata libera.	

<b>Mercoledì, 17. 7. 1963</b>	
8.00	Prima colazione.
8.30	Partenza dei pullmans per la Stazione ferroviaria.
9.00	Ritorno a Dublino.
	Pranzo e cena sul treno.
	Visite a fabbriche, ad impianti di combustibili derivati dalla turba e ad impianti generatori di elettricità, durante il percorso di ritorno.
20.00	Arrivo a Dublino.
	Partenza dei pullmans dalla Stazione ferroviaria per l'Hotel Intercontinental e per il Gormanston College.

<b>Giovedì, 18. 7. 1963</b>	
8.00	Prima colazione.
10.00	Partenza dei pullmans dal Gormanston College.
13.00	Pranzo all'Hotel Intercontinental per dei Concorrenti.
15.30	Distribuzione dei Premi.
19.00	Ricevimento e banchetto di chiusura all'Hotel Intercontinental.
23.00	Partenza dei pullmans dall'Hotel Intercontinental per il Gormanston College.

The formal award ceremony for the winners was held on Thursday 18 July. At the end of the Competition, all the delegations left Dublin between Friday and Saturday.



The Italians' return journey was much shorter than the outward trip as there were no city tours or excursions. The route touched different locations (Dunkirk, Fontainebleau, Dijon, etc.), although the ferries and coach journeys still took five days: they arrived as expected on 23 July.

11	CONVENTRY, BIRMINGHAM.....	178	178	12.45 - 13	Sesta di 10 min. a Coventry - 2° Colai a Birmingham in ristorante da destinare
	BIRMINGHAM - LIVERPOOL.....	145	323	18.20	Escurione in città-Imbarco ore 20 - Cene a bordo - Partenza ore 22 - Pernottamento in cabina.
7	DUBLIN O.....			7.30(0.3.0)	Arrivo + sbarco
19	<u>VIAGGIO DI RITORNO</u>				
19	DUBLIN.....	-	-	18.15	Imbarco - Partenza Ore 20 - Cene a bord Pernottamento in cabina
20	Liverpool.....	-	-	7 (0.2.6.)	1° Colazione a bordo. Partenza ore 7.30
	Birmingham, L O N D O N.....	323	323	13.30	2° colazione al MOUNT ELIZABETH HOTEL visita città - Cene a pernott. al yedof
21	LONDON (Partenza).....	-	-	8.15	1° Colazione ore 7.45
	DOVER.....	116	116	11.20	Imbarco 11.25 - Partenza 12.25 - 2° Colazione a bordo.
	BRONLON.....	-	-	15.35 - 16.00	
	Arras, Borg. P A R I S.....	272	388	21.30	Cena + pernott. Gr. Hotel du Pavillon
22	Paris..... (Partenza).....	-	-	7	Prima colazione 6.45
	Fontainebleau, Auxerre, Avallon, DIJON.....	323	323	13.30 - 15.00	2° Colazione al Ristorante de la Poste.
	Dijs, Salins, Fontaine, Vallée.....	197	400	18.30 - 18.50	
	Agona, MONTREUIL.....	68	248	20.20	Cena + pernott. HOTEL MONTREUIL - Grand Rue
23	Montreuil.....	-	-	7.30	1° Colazione ore 7
	Briga.....	123	123	10.20	
	Faseo del Sempione, DOMODOSSOLA.....	99	182	12.45 - 14.00	2° Colazione Ristorante Terminus.
	Sesta Calanda, MILANO.....	127	309	17 + 17.20	Sesta alla Stazione Centrale.
	M O D E N A.....	178	487	20.30	Arrivo.

## INTERNATIONAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE

President: EUGENIO LOPEZ LOPEZ - Organ. y Gest. 75 Unidad  
Vice-President: FALUTINO RAMOS DEEZ - Organ. y Gest. 71, Madrid

Secretary: FRANCISCO ALBERT VIDAL - Organ. y Gest. 71, Madrid

AUSTRIA  
FRANZ PROCHAZKA - Official Representative - National Committee of the Austrian Republic - Vienna - Austria - Vienna 11, Vienna 11

FRANCE  
FRANÇOIS LÉONARD - Official Representative - Section Industrielle des Entrepreneurs du Comité National Français - Paris - France - Paris 11, Paris 11

GERMANY  
KLAUS DETMANN - Official Representative - Deutscher Industrie- und Gewerkschaftsrat - Bonn - Germany - Bonn 11, Bonn 11

IRELAND  
JOHN WATSON - Technical Representative - 11 Rue des Victoires - Paris - Ireland - Paris 11, Paris 11

ITALY  
NINO FOCHI - Official Representative - 11 Rue des Victoires - Paris - Italy - Paris 11, Paris 11

NETHERLANDS  
C. E. LAMMERS - Official Representative - Groothedendijk - Rotterdam - Netherlands - Rotterdam 11, Rotterdam 11

PORTUGAL  
CARLOS ALBERTO DEAS PEREIRA - Official Representative - Ministério da Educação Nacional, Ministério Português - Lisboa - Portugal - Lisboa 11, Lisboa 11

SPAIN  
FALUTINO RAMOS DEEZ - Official Representative - Organ. y Gest. 71, Madrid

SWITZERLAND  
ALBERT MULLER - Official Representative - Direction der Gewerbe- und Handelskammer - Bern - Switzerland - Bern 11, Bern 11

UNITED KINGDOM  
PAUL FRANK - Technical Representative - British Educational Association - London - United Kingdom - London 11, London 11

UNITED STATES  
EUGENIO LOPEZ LOPEZ - President, International Organising Committee, Madrid

UNITED STATES  
EUGENIO LOPEZ LOPEZ - President, International Organising Committee, Madrid

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C. E. LAMMERS - Official Representative - Groothedendijk - Rotterdam - Netherlands - Rotterdam 11, Rotterdam 11

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FALUTINO RAMOS DEEZ - Official Representative - Organ. y Gest. 71, Madrid

SWITZERLAND  
ALBERT MULLER - Official Representative - Direction der Gewerbe- und Handelskammer - Bern - Switzerland - Bern 11, Bern 11

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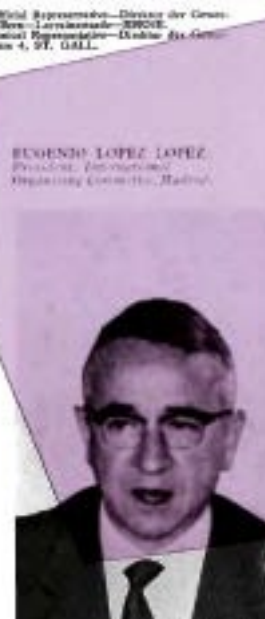
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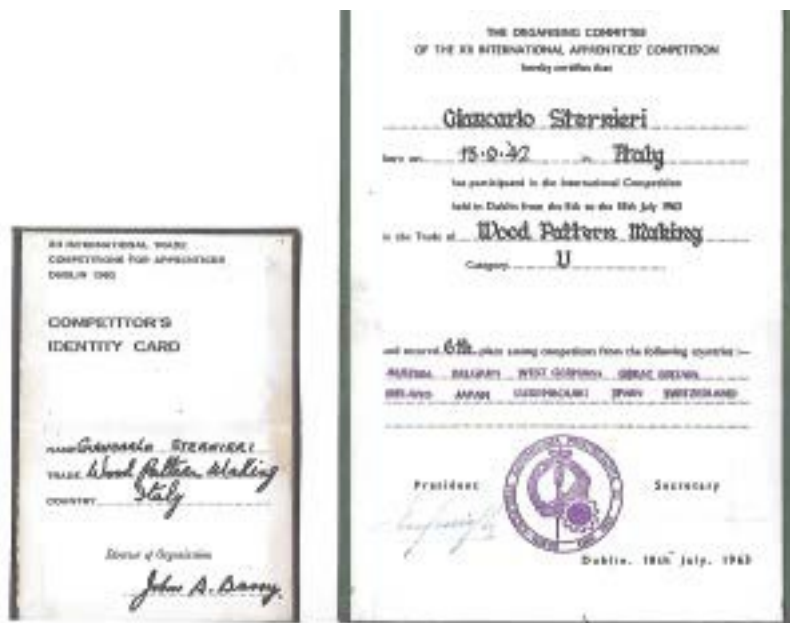
1963. The names of the members of the International Organising Committee of the 13 countries taking part. In the photo, Eugenio Lopez y Lopez, president of the International Committee. The name of Nino Fochi still appears for Italy, even though he was replaced in 1963 by Mr Giuliano Ghedini. It was corrected when Dublin had already printed all the brochures.





1963, Dublin.

Right to left: Mr Giuliano Ghedini and the Italian ambassador in Ireland with a contestant (Francesco Caniello? Giannicola Pinto?), who is demonstrating his electrical systems test. The ambassadors would visit the stands and stop for a moment with their co-national contestants.



Giancarlo Sternieri from the "Corni" at work during the Foundry Pattern Making test and his ID badge in Dublin.

XII INTERNATIONAL VOCATIONAL TRAINING COMPETITION			
TRADES IN DIFFERENT LANGUAGES			
Spanish	French	Italian	German
Ajustadores Torneros Fresadores Modelistas Moldeador fundidor Forja Soldadores de Oxiace tilenica Soldadores de electrica por arco Ebanistas Carpinteros de Taller Carpinteros de armar  Electromontador  Instaladores de construccion  Tallistas en piedra Albañiles Orfebres Joyeros Delineantes Fontaneria Chapista Caldereros Carpinteria Metalica Pintores	Ajusteurs Tourneurs Fraisieurs Modeleurs sur bois Mouleurs fondeurs Forgers Soudeurs a l'oxyacetylene Soudeurs a l'arc electrique Ebanistes Menuisiers Charpentiers  Installateurs Monteurs  Installateurs de batiment  Tailleurs de pierres Majors brigsetteurs Orfèvres Joailliers Dessinateurs Mecaniciens Plombiers Toliers Chaudronniers Charpentiers en fer Peintres en batiment	Aggiustatori Tornitori Fresatori Modellisti di fonderia Formatori fonditori Forgiatori Saldatori autogeni Saldatori elettrici ad arco Ebanisti Carpentieri in legno Carpentieri per armatura edile in legno Installatori montatori di quadri Installatori Montatori di impianti elettrici Scalpellini in pietre Muratori Argentieri Gioiellieri Disegnatori Idraulici Baffilastra Caldereria Carpenteria in ferro Imbianchini	Maschinenschlosser Dreher Universalfreser Modelltischler Formen Schmiede Autogenschweisser Elektroschweisser Möbeltischler Bau und Geractet Zimmerleute  Starkstromelektr  Elektroinstallat  Steinmetzer Maurer Silberschmiede Juweliere Technischer Zeic Klopner Kasseneriebau Kesselschaid Stahlbauschloss Malen

The 23 specialities competing in Dublin, The tests were held at the College of Technology, Bolton Street. 257 contestants from 13 nations took part.

Left to right:

The Italian ambassador, the interpreter, Mr Giuliano Ghedini and an Irish delegate from the Competition Organising Committee.



The photo and article of the visit to Cork published in a Spanish newspaper. The article gave full information on the Olympics in Dublin.

The Italian contestants were:

Luigi Visone	Fitters cat. A
Roberto Camurri	Fitters cat. B
Valerio Michelazzi	Turners cat. A
Enrico De Luca	Turners cat. B
Argeo Reggiani	Millers
Mario Bernardini	Draughtsmen
Ercole Vergine	Acetylene Welders
Francesco Pinna	Arc Welders
Giancarlo Sternieri	Foundry Pattern Makers
Antonio Onorato	Foundry Workers
Francesco Canniello	Household electrical systems cat. A
Giannicola Pinto	Electrical Systems cat.B
Carlo Pianzola	Jewellery

Each of them had their expenses paid and also received a daily allowance of 800 Lira in Irish currency. They won: 1 Gold medal, 3 Silver, 2 Bronze



Six of the 13 Italian contestants stepped up to the winners' podium. Current research was unable to establish their names, except for Argeo Reggiani (3<sup>rd</sup> from the left, miller, Silver medal) and Roberto Camurri (4<sup>th</sup> from the left, fitter, Gold medal), both "Corni" pupils.



## *A testimonial by Argeo Reggiani*

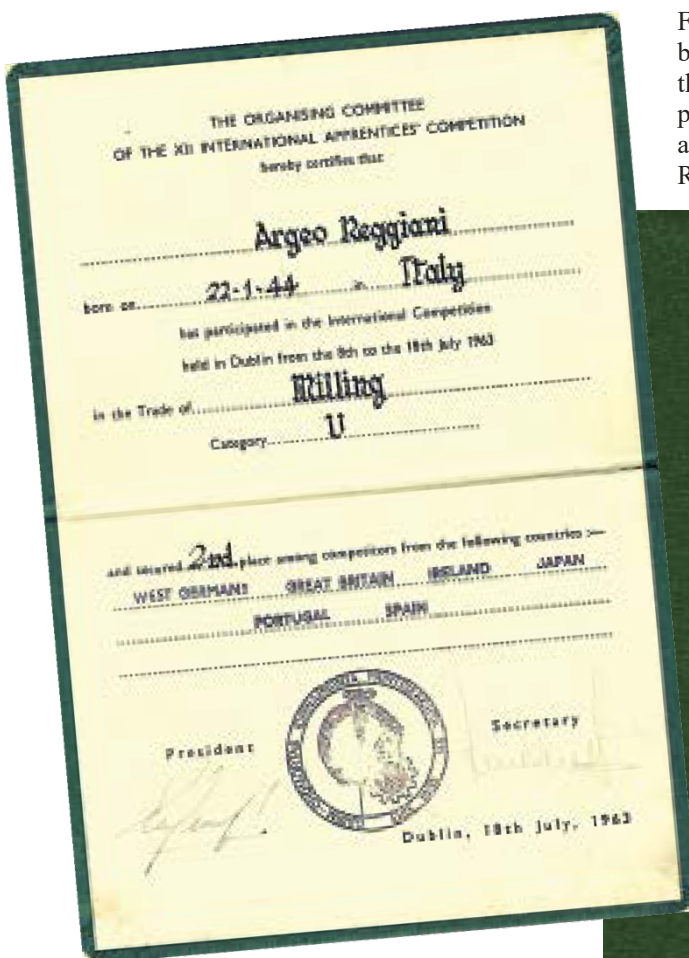
Silver medallist, Argeo Reggiani's four most vivid recollections of his experience in Ireland are: a small coach accident in London, the ferry crossing, the bishop's invitation and the day of the award ceremony.

1) On the outbound journey, the coach had to stop for repairs after a small accident in London. So the Italian team continued their journey to Liverpool by train. The adults were rather displeased by the inconvenience, but the youngsters were quite happy.

2) Some of the youngsters felt seasick on the ferry due to rough seas, which spoilt the excitement of the happy brigade.

3) Originally from Modena, the Bishop of Dublin wanted to get to know the Italian contestants, and invited them to lunch, where he asked for a plate of spaghetti to be prepared (to the youngsters' delight) and wanted to talk to them in dialect, so he could hear his native tongue once more.

4) The day of the award ceremony was very exciting: Argeo Reggiani came second to win a very beautiful (and heavy) silver medal. The nations competing in his skill (Milling) had been Germany, Great Britain, Ireland, Japan, Portugal and Spain.



Front and back cover of Argeo Reggiani's ID booklet. The Irish Organising Committee for the International Competition prepared the paperwork given to the contestants and accompanying persons extremely carefully. Reggiani Archive

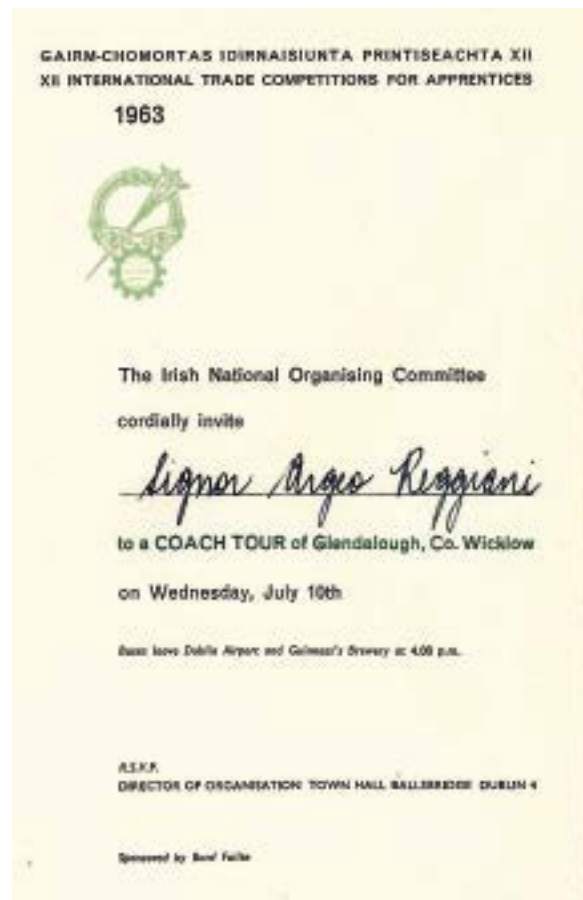
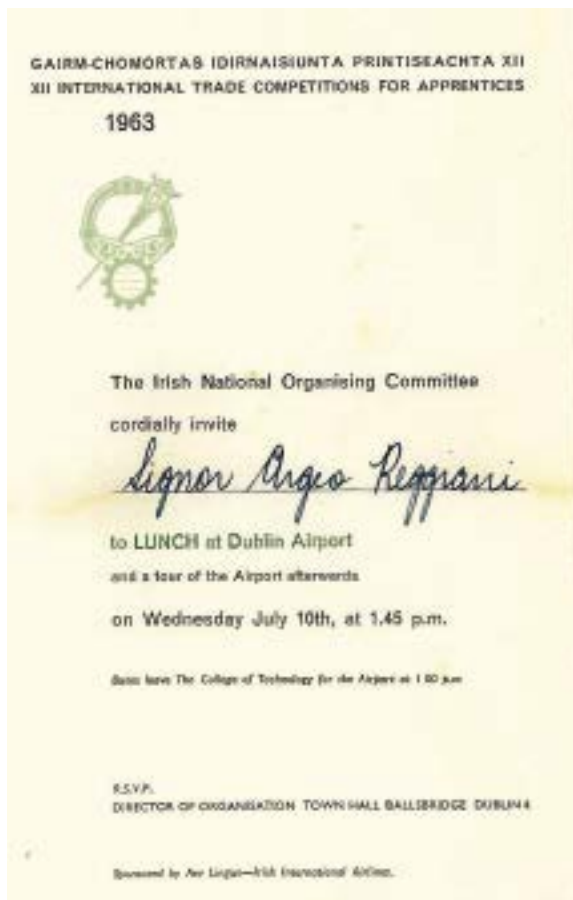


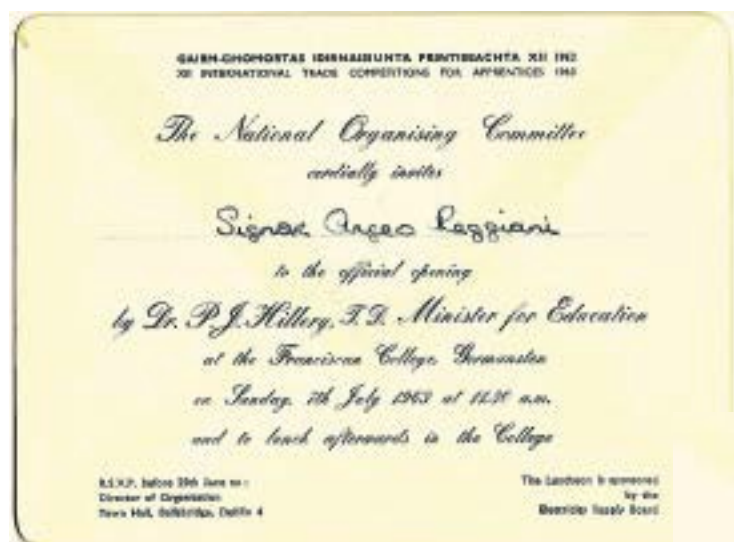


Argeo Reggiani's 6mm thick, Silver medal weighs approximately 250 grams with a diameter of 76mm. Reggiani Archive



Each contestant received the official invitation on personalised cards inside very elegant, thick envelopes, to attend the ceremonies, lunches, excursions and trips. Reggiani Archive





The invitation to the official reception on 7 July at the Franciscan Gormanston College in the presence of the Education Minister, Mr P. I. Hillery, followed by lunch, and the invitation to lunch and an international concert at the Intercontinental Hotel in Dublin on 14 July.

Reggiani Archive



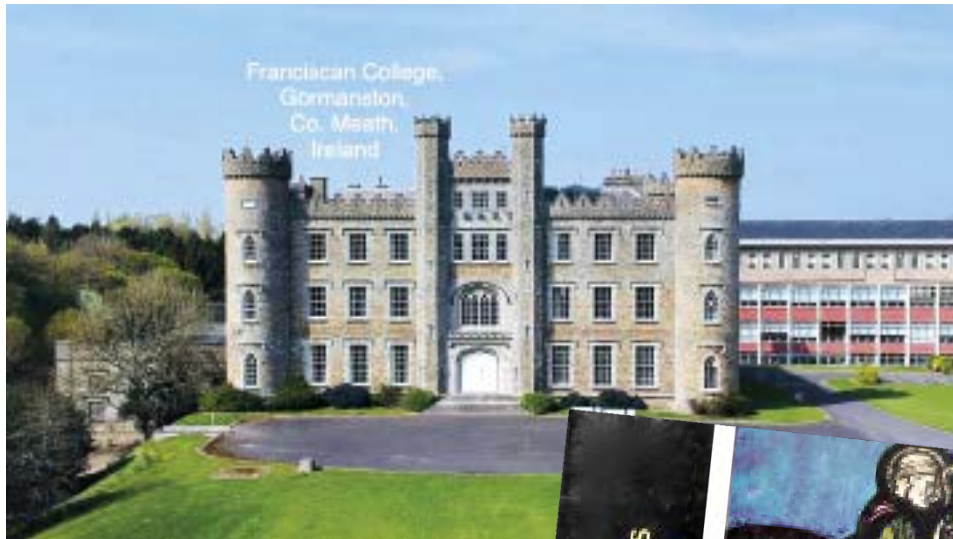
The menu card in Irish for the lunch served on Sunday 7 July:

Grapefruit, soup, salmon, chicken, fried beans with pineapple, new potatoes, bread, a cream dessert, beer, cheese and cakes, coffee.

Reggiani Archive







The Italian delegation was guest at the Franciscan College annexed to Gormanston Castle, which had been purchased with the entire surrounding park by the Order of Franciscan Friars for the benefit of the College, a state Catholic school.



Each contestant was offered a carefully printed leaflet containing photos of Celtic monuments and objects, museums, historic information and a great deal of information about the International Competition. In the sixties, this was undoubtedly a very effective way of advertising Dublin, Ireland and the Work Olympics. Reggiani Archive

Argeo Reggiani during his milling test. The machines were in inches and the piece to be made had measurements in inches and millimetres. The teachers at the "Corni" School got their students accustomed to English units of measurements.

## FUNCTIONS DURING THE COMPETITIONS

### DUBLIN: June 29-July 3; July 6-14; July 17, 18. HOSTS

June 30:	Tour of Dublin Bay	Port & Docks Board
do.	Dinner and Entertainment	Irish Shipping Ltd.
July 7:	Opening Ceremonies at Gormanstown.	Electricity Supply Board
	Lunch	
July 10:	Lunch & Tour of Brewery (adults)	A. Guinness Son & Co.
	Lunch & Tour of Airport (apprentices)	Aer Lingus
	Tour to Glendalough	Bord Fáilte
July 13:	Tour & Evening Meal	Dublin Trades Council
July 14:	Football Finals at Croke Park	Gaelic Athletic Association
	Dinner & International Concert	Irish Sugar Company
July 17:	Presentation of Awards	
	Lunch for Apprentices	
	Closing Banquet	

### GALWAY:

July 5, 6:	Lunch	
	Tour of Connemara	Galway Organising Committee
	Dinner and Entertainment	

### LIMERICK:

July 4, 5:	Lunch at Shannon	Shannon Industrial Development Authority
	Tour	Limerick Organising Committee
	Dinner & Entertainment	

### CORK: July 15-17

July 15:	Lunch on Train	
	Tour of Cork Harbour	Cork Harbour Authority
	Dinner	Cork Organising Committee
July 16:	Tours of Cork & Kerry	Irish Shell & Irish Dunlop
	Municipal Reception and Dinner	Cork Organising Committee
July 17:	Lunch on Train	
	Tour of Bogs	Bord na Mona
	Evening Meal on Train	

Programme of tours and receptions in Dublin, in Galway (known as the flamboyant city) with an excursion in the region of Connemara, a tour of Limerick and Cork (with a visit to the port and the industrial hubs). At a time when journeys abroad were few and far between and the Internet did not exist to discover far away worlds, the young contestants had the opportunity to get to know other social, economic and historic backgrounds. Participation in the Olympics revealed itself to be a true form of education. Reggiani Archive

Argeo Reggiani had studied at the "Corni" and trained in milling under the excellent teacher, Mr Gandolfi (cf. Chap. 2, p. 36). His course had been the first to be introduced in the school immediately after the 1959 Olympics held in Modena. Born in Nuvolato di Quistello in the Mantua region, he had attended vocational training courses in Viadana. His mother was widowed at the early age of 33, but wanted him to continue his studies, so he attended the IPSIA "Corni" and lodged with the Charitable Institution for Poor Children. Mr Gandolfi appreciated his qualities, and offered him a ride several times in his Fiat 500 from the school to the Charitable Institution (today the site of the Delfini Library) in Corso Canalgrande. After passing his school leaving exam, Reggiani was immediately employed by the Mattioli Company (special equipment and machines in via Emilia in the San Lazzaro area). He then worked in Correggio for a company manufacturing moulds for plastic materials, which he continued as a self-employed business man until very recently. He holds very enthusiastic memories of his participation in the Dublin Olympics.

## **1965 – GLASGOW (UNITED KINGDOM) – 14th EDITION**

### **A testimonial by Mario Canti**

I actually left the "Corni" with my certificate as electrical systems installer in 1965 and I was awarded the little statue given to the best students in the town at the Municipal Hall.

I won the national trials and then took part in the Work Olympics held in Glasgow, Scotland. We stayed for 2 weeks, although the contests consisted of 26 working hours divided into three days, with a break every two hours outside the workstations.

My test was to construct a lighting system in an explosive environment: a copper pipe with two conductors insulated with boron carbide.

I was immediately competing with the Japanese contestant (who I later discovered was already a craftsman) as regards work speed. My tools were arranged on the floor. The Japanese contestant had almost Martian overalls containing everything he required. He also wore gripper shoes, which enabled him to take any tool from the front or back pockets. We were almost on a level pegging.



On the morning of day three, Mr Onelio Pellacani told me that Farri, from Bologna but a pupil at the "Corni", was unable to work his system (electrical, but in a different category), so he asked me to exchange it with mine for a few hours. We changed work station, hidden by a cap (he was blond) and all went well, as no-one took any notice of our faces. This delayed my work, so the Japanese contestant completed his work in 23 hours and I in 24. The jury decided I was only worth fourth place, because an English boy came second and a Scottish boy third. Were they "playing at home" as they say or were they really better? The Japanese contestant certainly merited first place, but the jury was also positively influenced by the show he put on and his "theatrical" skill.

On the remaining days, we toured almost all of Scotland and we took part in official receptions with the ladies all dressed in white and wearing long gloves, which made me think immediately of the ball for the cadets and new recruits at the Military Academy in Modena. I remember that during an official ceremony in a castle, my Japanese opponent cut a dashing figure by giving ladies (again dressed in white) two very beautiful kimonos, a red one and a blue one with patterns and gold embroidery. The ladies we danced with were very interested in learning to pronounce a few words in our language. We visited the best Scottish technical schools and we stayed in the "legendary" student colleges. We also took part in various sports, not divided into delegations but depending on the sport we knew how to play. This created a bond and friendship between us young people. I made friends with a Neapolitan welder, a Portuguese electrician and two Spaniards: we were always together at lunch, during the trips, at the ceremonies and during the football tournament.

The two Spaniards had a guitar and they always managed to gather a small folkloristic crowd, full of joy, with the flamenco and other music from their country.

The trips were all always magnificent. I remember our visit to Edinburgh castle in particular,



with the Scottish band which performed to commemorate historic events. We visited towers and underground passages using vertical metal ladders. I also like to remember the boat trip (Mississippi style) along the canals through the green, Scottish landscapes. A little on-board orchestra, consisting of a banjo, brass and a drum, added a real romantic touch.

I discovered how beautiful and comfortable the college rooms were where we lodged (they seemed like luxurious hotel rooms), the music room with a piano and other spacious rooms for meetings and relaxation. I was very surprised by the fact that there were girls on the top floor: whether they were students or college staff I never found out, but they were all very welcoming and ready to talk, get to know us and make friends.

Unfortunately I have no photos of that beautiful experience: I lost them all in my various house moves.

After my success at the Olympics, the Principal of the "Corni", Malagodi, employed me as technical assistant for the Electrical Systems course to support the teachers Onelio Pellacani and Roberto Parenti. In 1969, I was employed at the Casaccia Research Centre (Rome) as instrument technician by CNEN, which became ENEA,. After studying nuclear power, oil wells, lean gas combustion and hydrogen, I built plants and took care of their management.

In 1995, I joined the Antarctica Project with Mario Zucchelli and together we took part in 18 expeditions until 2013. In Antarctica, as logistics provider at the MZS base (Mario Zucchelli Station) named after Mario Zucchelli himself, I managed the plants, automated the purification plant and prepared the manual to decommission the Base. I was in charge of the winch ropes for oceanography (automation and safety) on the ship ITALICA (used for logistic support for the Italian Antarctic explorations) until 2017, the year of the Italica's final voyage to the South Pole.



Mario Canti at the Italian Antarctica Base MZS named after Mario Zucchelli. For information regarding Mario Zucchelli, former pupil at the "Corni", cf. [www.amicidelcorni.it](http://www.amicidelcorni.it) Section Famous people



**1966 – UTRECHT (HOLLAND) – 15th EDITION**



Opening ceremony



Left to right: Prince Klaus van Amsberg, consort of Beatrice, future queen of Holland, Mr Ghedini and Mr Schürch, president of the Jury for draughtsmen.



Prince Klaus van Amsberg (third from the left) visiting the fitters' stand, accompanied by Mr Ghedini (first from the right) and the presidents of other juries, watches a contestant at work during his test. Behind him is the President Lopez y Lopez.



Mr Laman Trip, head of the Dutch organisation praises an Italian contestant, Mr Armando Malagodi (with his back to us), an executive from the Italian Ministry of Education and the interpreter. Italy was awarded: 4 Gold medals and one Bronze.



## ***1967 – MADRID (SPAIN) – 16th EDITION***



Right to left: Mr Armando Malagodi, a top executive from the Ministry of Education (on a visit), Mr Giuliano Ghedini and his wife Adele, the Italian contestants and Franco Galassi, accountant and bursar of the "Corni", during a break. Wives of the International Committee members were always invited to the Olympics, although they were expected to pay for their accommodation. Cultural visits and shopping were programmed for them.



Left to right: Arrigo Paradisi, Mr Cortese, Director of Division of the Ministry, the Principal Malagodi and Ferdinando Zanetti watch the corrida in Toledo. Mr Ghedini and Mr Valter Guerzoni stand for a photo in front of the monument with the statue of Don Chisciotte and Sancho Panza, the most famous Spanish literary characters in the world, a must stop on the Spanish tour.



The Italian delegation presented ten contestants, five of whom were "Corni" pupils, who achieved the following results:

Giorgio Dani – Industrial design – gold medal with 84.55 marks

Franco Perabo – Turning – silver medal with 67.50 marks

Claudio Concari – Foundry Pattern Maker – silver medal with 71.8

Luciano Morselli – Radio repair – fifth place

Alfredo Michelotto – Electrical installation – fifth place

## A testimonial by Claudio Concari

My father was a highly-rated foundry worker and I improved my school training under his guidance.

I was selected to take part in the **1965** 14th Olympics in Glasgow, Scotland and I remember a tailor at the "Corni" being asked by the Principal to take our measurements and prepare the work overalls and uniforms for all the Italian contestants.

We flew from Milan-London-Glasgow: it was very exciting for all of us students as it was our very first flight. On our arrival in Glasgow, we were officially welcomed, while a band in Scottish costume played our national anthem on the bagpipes. The police escorted us from the airport to the college, making sure the roads were clear as we went. The inaugural ceremony of the Competition was spectacular, similar to those of the Olympic Games: parades of the delegations with their flags, official speeches, national anthems, etc.

The subject of the foundry test was to construct a wooden model of a ribbed support with two parallel holes. That year, there were no Italian experts in that category accompanying us, so I had no help, apart from the translation (not always clear) by the interpreter on duty.

I was unable to reach the top places in that contest, so I was only awarded a wooden medal, but I was just as happy, as I had the chance to compare with other ways of doing things to make the model and to realise where I had gone wrong.

There were two of us in each room in the college, which was a very elegant building. We found English food rather "hard" to digest and we were unable to buy anything more appetising outside the college, as they no longer paid contestants a daily allowance as in the past. We visited several places (cf. Mario Canti's testimonial, p.55), we also went to Loch Ness, the lake that is famous for the well-advertised monster, which of course no-one saw. I was rather struck by the girls, who were far more casual, emancipated and extrovert compared to the girls in Modena and to Italian girls in general of the time.

**In 1967**, I was selected to take part in the 16th edition of the Olympics in Madrid. Once again we flew and were lodged in a hostel (not as elegant as the Scottish college) with an on-site canteen, about which I remember above all lots of eggs for lunch and dinner, so that I was unable to eat them for months afterwards. The opening, closing and winners' award ceremonies were very solemn.

This time, my foundry test was to construct a model of a flanged support with only one hole (with moulding and casting plan). The members of the jury thought I was the best. However, the Irish judge disputed the fact that I had already taken part in an Olympics and therefore I had an advantage over the other contestants. Mr Ghedini in the International Technical Committee pleaded my case and explained that the Competition Regulations contained nothing to prohibit participants from taking part in more than one Olympics, but to no avail. This did, however, lead to the introduction into the International Regulations of a clause, which said that contestants could participate in the Olympics only once. I moved down to second place and was awarded the silver medal, just a few tenths of a mark (71.8) below the Irish contestant (72.4), who whipped the gold medal from under my nose. The Portuguese contestant came third (68.4 marks). The German contestant (last with a mark of 40.8), the Dutch boy (60.45) and the English contestant (61.5) did not do very well, whereas the Japanese, Watanabe Kazuhiro, was unclassified (I can't remember why). The countries taking part in the foundry pattern making speciality in 1967 were: Germany, Spain, Holland, Ireland, Japan, Portugal and the United Kingdom.

Nevertheless, I found the Madrid experience very important and also very enjoyable for the various trips, especially the one to Toledo, as I remember. I was struck by the large deployment of police along the route from Madrid to Toledo, one every 200m. Franco's

regime was still in power and you could see the widespread control of the country and the rather military behaviour of all the Spanish authorities.

I remember we often took a taxi to tour round Madrid as it was very cheap.



Front and back of Claudio Concari's Silver medal and Certificate in 1967 in Madrid.  
C. Concari Archive



After my school-leaving exam, I was employed by the Principal Malagodi as technician at the "Corni" and he chose me as technical expert for the Munich Olympics in 1972 (cf. Chap. 4 p. 76).

Throughout the competition, I followed Valerio Giacobazzi, the contestant from the "Corni", giving him the advice or suggestions I had lacked in 1965. We mustn't forget that as there was no technical expert from our own country, we had to follow the instructions for the exercise very carefully and ask for explanations of any words that were unclear. I remember, for example, that arc welding had been translated into Italian as welding on a curve, which could have misled the contestant. Or *punktebung* in Italian had become *Scales of score*, whereas it simply meant numerical points table. And others like that.

I was very impressed by the Korean and Japanese contestants, who always showed how much they cared about the competition, which they faced with incredible determination and seriousness. All the contestants of whatever nation were far more interested than us Italians in exchanging and collecting pennants, advertising brochures, coins and badges of the competing countries.



Claudio Concari, technical expert accompanying person, with a Japanese colleague at the foundry pattern making stand in Munich in 1973. At certain times of the day, the stands were open to visitors from the town interested to see how the Olympics were run.

## Chapter 4

### ***THE WORK OLYMPICS IN THE SEVENTIES***

#### ***1970 – TOKYO (JAPAN) – 19th EDITION***

Participation in the International Competition in Tokyo, held from 2 to 16 November, kept the International Organising Committee busier than usual. Japan offered the flight to all participants and prepared two flights from Paris and one from London for the European delegations.

In Chiba, a town within Tokyo's large metropolitan area, transport was arranged for each delegation for the various journeys from the hotels to the test location, from the embassies to the prefectures for the official ceremonies and for the tours of places to visit. The Japanese showed how much they cared about this competition and prepared the stands for the various subjects very efficiently and provided all sorts of equipment. The official ceremonies were organised in style and they advertised the phases of the Competition in the newspapers and on the TV and a stamp was issued to mark the event. In 1970, Japan was the third economic power on the planet after the United States and the Soviet Union. Twenty-five years earlier, it was an expanse of ruins. The reasons for this success were: obedience to the rules, love for a job well done, a superhuman resistance to fatigue, a spirit of sacrifice, and dedication to the Company and to the State.



Stamp issued by Japan in 1970 to celebrate the Work Olympics. The design by Midori Masumi keeps the classic emblem of the International Competitions. I. Rovatti Archive

Japan advertised the 19th edition of the International Vocational Training Competitions a great deal.

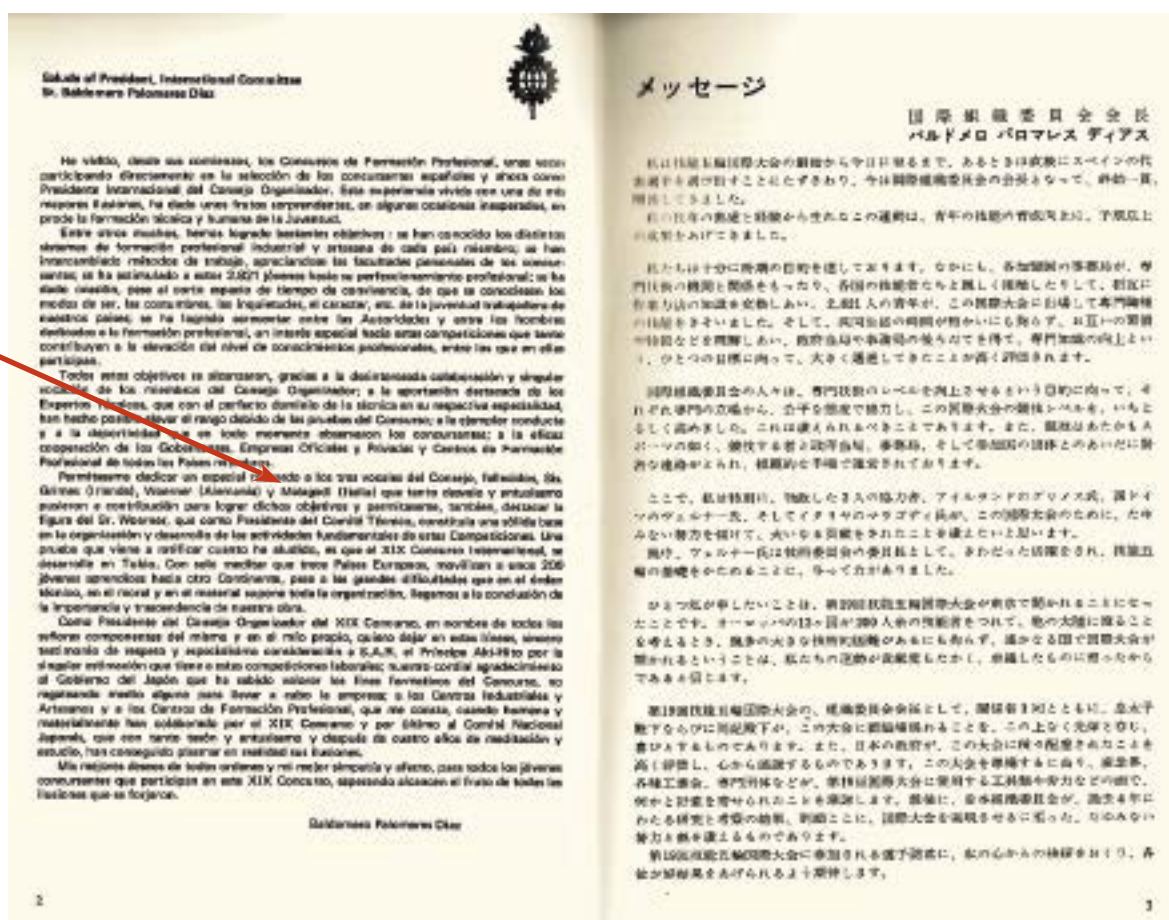


Baldomero Palomares Diaz, the newly elected president of the International Organising Committee gave a meaningful speech at the sumptuous opening ceremony on the importance of the Olympics for young people's human and technical education. He summed up the aims of the competitions, which enabled so many different countries to get to know not only other vocational operational procedures, but also other habits, cultures, customs and languages. They also allowed the competent authorities to realise how much the Competitions contributed to raising the quality of young people's vocational training. In fact, each year the Competition tests had been improved thanks to the contributions of the Technical Experts, whose great professionalism and technical knowledge in their respective specialities had enabled them to adapt the competitions to the requirements of the world of work.

The collaboration of the governments and the public and private vocational training schools of all the countries taking part had also played an effective role in the success of the Competitions.

He dedicated a special mention to the three members of the International Committee who had passed away, Grimes (Ireland), Voerner (Germany) and Malagodi (Italy), praising their commitment and enthusiasm towards achieving the objectives of the Competitions

He very respectfully greeted H.I.H. Prince Akihito and praised the remarkable interest he, the Japanese Government and the Industrial and Craft Vocational Training Centres had taken in the Work Olympics. He thanked the Japanese National Committee for being so tenacious in creating his four-year old dream of holding the Olympics in Japan.



Opening ceremony. The speech by Bartolomeo Palomares Diaz, president of the International Committee. The red arrow indicates the name of Mr Armando Malagodi, who had recently passed away and was praised for his active collaboration and enthusiastic participation. In 1970, he was replaced by Mr Ennio Ferrari, the new Principal of the "Corni".



An English translation is given of the speech (cf. p. 66) during the opening ceremony given by Kinichiro Komai, president of the Japanese Organising Committee for the 19th edition of the International Competitions. His speech is full of national pride (backed by the *eclectic assistance of the government*) and also shows great attention and respect for his guests. Above all, we catch the considerable importance Japan gave the International Competitions, which never occurred in Italy, and the sense of duty to be fulfilled as member country of the International Organisation.

Dear Sirs,

President, Japan  
Organizing  
Committee of  
I.V.T.C. Kinichiro  
Komai

*It is a great pleasure to welcome our distinguished guests on such a memorable day, who have come from Europe and Asia to take part in the 19th International Vocational Training Programme.*

*A century ago, Tokyo became the capital of Japan and from that moment on, Japan began as a modern state and emerged from its age-old feudal system. Today, Tokyo is the political, economic and industrial centre of the country with a population of 11 million. However, Tokyo was twice reduced to ashes - at intervals of about 26 years - this century: once by the Great Earthquake of 1923, and the second time by the Pacific War. Tokyo owes its prosperity to the hard labour of its industrious citizens who, over the last 20 years, have relentlessly reconstructed their capital. Since Tokyo's reconstruction, there is such a peaceful atmosphere as is found in many European cities.*

*I sincerely hope that while our guests are here in Tokyo, they manage to understand the citizens of Tokyo and their strong desire and constant efforts to move on and make Tokyo a more beautiful city to visit and, as a result, they will see Tokyo's true nature.*

*The city of Chiba, where the Competition Workshops are located in the Central Trade Centre, is a part of the Greater Tokyo Area, which has taken enormous steps forward to expand and become an emerging industrial area.*

*Nihon- Budokan, where the opening ceremony is being held, is a modern building which harmoniously blends the classic beauty of Japanese architecture and modern, rational practice. It was used for the Judo events at the 1964 Olympic Games in Tokyo. The Dutchman Gehshing's star performance to win the Gold medal remains fresh in the minds of judo enthusiasts.*

*The Central Trade Centre, where the competitions will be held, is a building, which usually offers advanced courses of vocational training and trade skills. Each year, we organise the national trials for the vocational training competition in this Centre.*

*Japan considers it an imperative duty and, at the same time, a token of gratitude for the special treatment shown by all the member countries to enable it to hold the 19th International Vocational Training Competition here in Japan.*

*Thanks to the understanding and multi-faceted assistance by the Government and the industrial sectors, Japan is determined to take full responsibility as the host country. Seen in this light, we can safely say that the host of this event in the true sense of the word is not Japan's Organising Committee, but rather the entire industrial nation, Japan.*

*We sincerely hope that in their attempt to make this Competition a great success, all the participants will show their skills to the best of their ability.*

*The world is becoming increasingly smaller and international relations have become closer than ever. We all hope we become good friends and help each other out. We firmly believe this Competition will reinforce our relationships with our friends and will considerably contribute to increase and improve our economic skills.*

*We fear that during your stay in our country you will find some of our habits and customs unusual. However, we hope you will spend a few days to enjoy the beauty of late autumn in Japan.*

*The Organising Committee of Japan will do everything in its power to offer you every facility you need to make your stay in our country comfortable.*

*Thank you.*

## Welcome Address



President, Japan Organizing  
Committee of I.V.T.C.  
Kinichiro Komai

Gentlemen,

It is great pleasure to welcome on this momentous day our distinguished guests come all the way from countries in Europe and Asia to take part in the XIX International Vocational Training Competition.

It is a century ago that Tokyo became the capital of Japan, and from that time on, Japan made a start as a modern state, emerging from its age-old feudal system. At present, with a population of 11 million, Tokyo is the political, economic and industrial center of the country. However, Tokyo was reduced to ashes twice — at intervals of about 20 years — during the second half of that centenary: once, by the Great Earthquake of 1923 and the second time, by the Pacific War. Tokyo owes its prosperity to the labors of its industrious citizens who for the last 20 old years after the war have made unremitting efforts to reconstruct their capital. Since Tokyo is now being reconstructed, it is lacking in such a serene atmosphere as is found in many cities in Europe.

I sincerely hope that our guests, while here in Tokyo, will come to understand the citizens of Tokyo and their strong will and consistent efforts to march forward to make Tokyo a more beautiful city worth visiting and, from such a viewpoint, will look into true aspects of Tokyo.

The City of Chiba in which the Competition's Workshop, the Central Trade Center is situated is a part of the Metropolitan Sphere that has made tremendous strides in its expansion, and is an emerging industrial zone.

Nihon-Budokan, in which the opening ceremony is to be held, is a modern building securing harmony between the classic beauty of Japan's traditional architecture and modern rationality. On the occasion of the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, it was used as a hall for the Judo tournament. It is still fresh in our memory that the Netherlands' Gehshink startled the world's Judo lovers by winning the Gold Medal in the heavy-weight matches.

The Central Trade Center where competition is to be held is a facility in which we usually give advanced courses for vocational training and trade skill tests. It is in that Center that we annually hold meetings for nation-wide vocational training competition.

Japan regards it as an imperative duty and, at the same time, a token of gratitude for unchanging favor shown to it by all member countries to hold the XIX International Vocational Training Competition here in Japan. The Japan Organizing Committee has made every effort to realize the opening of this Competition.

Enjoying good understanding and many-sided assistance from the Government and industrial fields, Japan, as the host country is determined to administer its responsibility to the full. Viewed in this light, it may be safe to say that the host is in the truest sense of the word not the Japan Organizing Committee but the industrial nation, Japan.

We sincerely hope that all participants, in an effort to make this Competition a great success, will display their long-improved skills to their heart's content.

The world is becoming increasingly narrower and international relations have become closer than ever. We all hope we will become good friends and good helpers to each other. We believe this Competition will doubtless cement our friendly relations and will contribute greatly toward the furtherance of our movement for the improvement of trade skills.

We are afraid that during your stay in this country, you will suffer any inconvenience from unaccustomed manners and customs, but we do hope you will all spend a couple of days enjoying beautiful sights of Japan's late fall.

The Japan Organizing Committee will do all it can to offer you every facility for your comfortable stay in this country.

Thank you.

Welcome speech by the president of the Japanese Committee, Kinichiro Komai, with the translation on p. 65. In order to better understand his words, it's worth reading the following corporate anthem, sung by workers and managers: *"To build a new Japan / the strength of the arm and the strength of the heart / To achieve production without limits / to send the fruit of our toil / to all the peoples in the world / endlessly and without stopping / like the water that flows from a never-ending source / grow industry grow / in harmony with and faith in Matsushita.* Matsushita, named after its founder, was the famous company which was to become the multinational Panasonic.

International Organizing Committee			国際組織委員会		
President	Baldomero Polanco		会長	バルドメロ ポランコ	
Vice Presidents	Mazara Hayakawa Francisco Ramos		副会長	早川 清 フランシスコ ラモス	
Secretary General	Francisco Albert Jairo Capriles		事務局長	フランシスコ アルベルト ハイロ カプリス	
Country	Official Representative	Technical Representative	参加国	公式代表	技術代表
Germany	Dr. Ernst Cech	Dr. Helmut Schubert	西ドイツ	Dr. E. チェク	Dr. H. シューベール
Austria	H. Halden-Engel	H. Hammer	オーストリー	H. ハンメル	H. ハムマー
Belgium	Pierre Maeseneck	Jean Vastieu	ベルギー	P. マゼンエック	J. ヴァスティエ
Korea	Chang Jeong Lee	Myung Soon Kang	韓国	Chang Jeong Lee	Myung Soon Kang
Spain	Faustino Ramos	Don Roberto Serrano Cerezo	スペイン	F. ラモス	D. ロベルト セラノ
Netherlands	W.C.S. Lamen Tjip	H.J.H. Wamer	オランダ	W.C.S. ラーメンティップ	H.J.H. ワマー
Ireland	W.C.S. Lamen Tjip	H.J.H. Wamer	アイルランド	W.C.S. ラーメンティップ	H.J.H. ワマー
Italy	Ennio Ferrari	Ennio Ferrari	イタリア	E. フェラーリ	E. フェラーリ
Japan	Yoshikazu Furuya	Yoshikazu Furuya	日本	Y. フユラ	Y. フユラ
Luxembourg	Otto Eger	Karl Walter	ルクセンブルグ	O. エーガー	K. ヴァルター
Portugal	Alfred A. Chiriac	Alfred A. Chiriac	ポルトガル	A. チリアック	A. チリアック
Switzerland	Carl A. Feneis	Carl A. Feneis	スイス	C. A. フェニス	C. A. フェニス
Republic of China	Wang Sheng-han	Wang Sheng-han	中華民国	W. ショウハン	W. ショウハン

The list of Official Representatives and Technical Representatives in the International Committee of the 15 countries taking part, written in English and Japanese. Representing Italy is Mr Ennio Ferrari, taking part for the first time as official Italian representative (to replace Mr Armando Malagodi, who had recently died) and Mr Giuliano Ghedini, by this time expert in international competitions, as he had taken part every year since 1963.

3.- ESPECIALIDADES QUE SE CONVOCAN PARA EL XIX CONCURSO	
Las especialidades que se proponen al Consejo Organizador , para que sean convocadas en el 'XIX Concurso que se celebrará en noviembre de 1.970 en Tokyo, son las siguientes:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ajuste</li> <li>Matricaría</li> <li>Mecánica de Precisión</li> <li>Delineación</li> <li>Torno</li> <li>Fresa</li> <li>Construcciones Metálicas</li> <li>Soldadura oxiacetilónica</li> <li>Soldadura eléctrica</li> <li>Modelos de fundición</li> <li>Moldeado de fundición</li> <li>Chapistería</li> <li>Calderería</li> <li>Fontanería</li> <li>Electrónica industrial</li> <li>Reparación Radio TV.</li> <li>Instalador de construcción</li> <li>Electromontaje</li> <li>Albañilería</li> <li>Talla en piedra</li> <li>Pintura</li> <li>Estuco</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ebanistería</li> <li>Carpintería de taller</li> <li>Carpintería de armar</li> <li>Joyería</li> <li>Sastrería</li> <li>Peluquería de señoras</li> <li>Peluquería de caballeros</li> <li>Relojería</li> </ul>

There were thirty specialities competing. Those in which Italy competed are marked with an asterisk: fitting, technical design, turning, milling, foundry pattern making, industrial electronics, radio-TV repair, electrical systems, electrical installation. Giovanni Benassi was on the fitting jury, Arrigo Paradisi for Technical Design and Valter Guerzoni for the Radio-TV repair category, all three teachers at the "Corni", and technical experts for Italy.



<u>ITALY</u>	
Fresatori	Mr. G. WALTER GHIRELLI
Impiantisti	Mr. P. ETTORE PIRONI
Tornitori	Mr. A. MARIO ATTALA
Modellisti	Mr. A. LEONARDO ANDREOTTI
Elettromontatori	Mr. R. LUIGI ROMANINI
Aggiustatori	Mr. L. ELIGIO LUPO
Elettronica Industriale	Mr. M. WALTER MAMBELLI (WERTER)
Riparatori Radio TV	Mr. R. GINO REVERBERI
Disegnatori	Mr. A. UMBERTO ALTIERI

The contestants were listed according to their first names for ease of pronunciation. The surnames of the Italians were penned in by Mr Ghedini.

The following youngsters took part in the Tokyo Olympics: Walter Ghirelli (Millers), Ettore Pironi (Plant engineers), Mario Attala (Turners), Leonardo Andreotti (Pattern Makers), Luigi Romanini (Electrical installers), Eligio Lupo (Fitters), Werter Mambelli (name misspelt in the list, Industrial Electronics), Gino Reverberi (Radio-TV Repair), Umberto Altieri (Draughtsmen).

Unfortunately, Italy did not win any medals in Japan.

The Italian turning work station.  
The contestant, Mario Attala, at work.



Arrigo Paradisi (first right) with the other jury members for the Technical Drawing speciality. Seated is the president of the jury, the Swiss Ernst Schürch with Father Tarcisio at his side, who acted as interpreter for the Italian delegation.



The Italian fitting work station. The contestant Eligio Lupo at work.



The Italian Foundry Pattern Making work station. Leonardo Andreotti at work.



The Central Trade Centre garden in Chiba, where the competitions were held.



The bus for the Italian delegation to move from the industrial area in Chiba to the city centre of Tokyo.





Official reception for the Italian delegation at the Italian embassy in Tokyo. Right to left: the Italian ambassador, Mr Valter Guerzoni, Mrs Nisa Ferrari, the Principal Ennio Ferrari and the teachers Paradisi and Benassi. In the background with their backs to us, the Italian contestants in uniform.



Italian Embassy in Tokyo. The Foreign Minister Aldo Moro (in the centre of the photo), who was on a diplomatic mission in Japan at the time, welcomed and greeted the Italian delegation in the name of the entire Government and praised their competitive spirit and organisation. On the left, the Italian ambassador in Tokyo and on the right (sideways on), the Principal, Ennio Ferrari.

Aldo Moro, who was later kidnapped and killed by the Red Brigades, knew how to establish good trade and diplomatic relations with Japan.

Giovanni Benassi, technical expert in the fitting jury, greets HIH Akihito, at the time crown prince and heir to the throne in Japan, and his wife Michiko Shoda, who officially visited the Central Trade Centre while the tests for the International Competition were being held and stopped to talk with the youngsters and the technical experts.







Japan arranged for the members of the Committees to also be guests for lunch in private homes, so they could better discover Japanese habits and customs. Third from the left: Mr Ghedini with the Spanish and German representatives surrounded by members of the family that very kindly hosted them. The constant presence of an interpreter (the young man with glasses) helped the conversation.



Two technical experts compare data, the English turner is at his work bench and a Japanese photographer is taking pictures. Many photo calls were made at all the stands and the event was given top publicity.

The President of the jury, Mr Giuliano Ghedini (second from the left), with the judges from Japan, Spain and Holland in the turning stand. On the ground, the Chinese contestant's tool box. China actually took part in the 1970 Olympics for the first time.



## A testimonial by Valter Guerzoni

I worked at the ITIS "Corni" from 1952 to 1990 in various posts: installation workshop teacher and then design teacher, assistant for radio measurements and impulse electronics workshop assistant (in the early years of courses in nuclear power and computer studies). The Radio course later became Telecommunications, which developed into six parallel courses as a result of the high number of students enrolled.

I took part in the Work Olympics as expert/commissioner to assess the tests carried out by the contestants. For these tasks I was assigned the following specialities: Radio-TV repairs, electrical engineering and industrial electronics. The Competition locations were: Madrid in 1967, Bern in 1968, Brussels in 1969, Tokyo in 1970 and Munich in 1973.

I thought this was a fantastic, personal experience, as I met and compared notes with colleagues, who were also enthusiastic and competent in their roles. Vocational education breathed importance and trust. In Japan, more than in the other nations, there was continual interest by the mass media: prime time TV would broadcast the various contestants' work phases, information on the various trades with interviews, features on the official visitors, e.g. the Crown Prince.

I have a rather bitter memory though. These were the years in which the national trials were not taken as seriously as they were in the other countries and therefore, some of the youngsters, winners of the national competition, were not on the same level as their foreign counterparts.

I remember the competition between the Italian and the Japanese turner was a complete disaster: in fact, the Japanese in white gloves and overalls had prepared all the equipment he required for the various phases in the process in front and behind him and he proved considerably competent. Our Italian contestant was not a "Corni" pupil, although he used all the equipment provided by the "Corni" staff, in charge of the Italian delegation. Our teachers had carefully prepared plenty and tried not to forget anything that could be of use. It was all placed very tidily in a strong box. During the test, the unfortunate Italian contestant anxiously searched for objects he did not recognise and perhaps did not even know how to use in the tool box on the floor. The scene during the test showed the Japanese standing straight, automatically and rapidly using the equipment, whereas the Italian was kneeling and rummaging through the box in search of.... an unknown object. It was not very nice to watch, but it was the result of the Italian trials that were not rigorous or disciplined enough.

The "Corni" offered the national winners a free course to prepare for the Olympics. However, not all of them considered it important to attend.



Precious, Japanese, wooden mask given to Valter Guerzoni by his Japanese colleague Ashebe.





Valter Guerzoni (seated second from right) with the other judges checking the equipment.



Valter Guerzoni (seated second from left) with the other judges (the Spaniard Charry and the Japanese Ashebe) for the industrial electronics test. The Japanese girl is acting as interpreter.



## ***1973 – MUNICH (GERMANY) – 21st EDITION***



Olympic Village. Partial view of the accommodation buildings for the contestants and the trade fair and exhibition district, where the test halls were set up.

This is where the 1972 Olympic Games were held that were ravaged by the heinous "Munich massacre", carried out by a Palestinian terrorist commando in the Israeli athletes' accommodation. Two hostages were killed immediately and another nine on the arrival of the German police. A policeman also died in the gunfight. A shocked Germany was able to very efficiently organise the Work Olympics held in the Olympic Village in 1973 under an extremely high level of security and surveillance, even though it was well hidden so as not to remind people of the tragic events of the previous year. The halls where some of the contests were being held for specialities using hazardous equipment or materials, were given special protection





Opening ceremony of the Internationaler Berufswettbewerb. A totem pole on the stage with the names of the 15 nations taking part. There were 33 specialties competing. An orchestra of very young musicians played the national anthems.



The 14 Italian contestants in uniform with the Italian flag on their jackets. In the third row from left to right, Mr Arrigo Paradisi, Mr Zaccaria inspector from the Ministry, the Principal Ennio Ferrari, Mr Valter Guerzoni, Mr Giuliano Ghedini, Mr Claudio Frigieri. In the background, the Munich Tower.

## **A testimonial by Valerio Giacobazzi**

What can I say about my participation in the 1973 Work Olympics?

I was on cloud nine!

I have to say, because I came from a rural farming background, not yet twenty years of age, brought up outdoors in the sunshine and at the "Corni" school, reaching the international competition was one of the greatest satisfactions of my life.

Representing Italy as a "foundry pattern maker" was not simple, if you also take into account the psychological burden, as Modena was the national hub for that category.

First and foremost, I have to thank the late Mr Luigi Menziani and Mr Giuliano Ghedini, Vice-Principal at the time, who believed in me and accompanied me to the preliminary trials in order to be in top condition for the competition. I also have to thank "Modelleria Modena", the company that allowed me to already practice while at school and where I subsequently trained a bit and where (today I can say it with certainty) I discovered the foundations for my future in the world of work, which has given me great satisfaction.

My Munich experience was really exciting: I left the area of Modena for the first time in my life and it was all the more emotional because of the importance of the event and the location, Munich in Bavaria, where the year before, in 1972, the Olympic Games had been held, marked unfortunately by the well-known, tragic events.

In 1973, however, what counted in the competition were manual skills and work rightly took centre stage: we were not allowed to use sand paper for the finish and we were not able to use plaster and paint. Everything revolved around competitive manual skills, an expression of professionalism acquired in a few years of work, since participation was restricted to students of a young age for only one edition.

I like to remember an anecdote of the days beforehand, to confirm how important it was for me to achieve excellent results in that contest: not knowing what would be available, I asked the "Corni" to prepare me a tool box so that nothing vital was missing: chisels and gouges, a gauge and manual gauge marker, prisms and set squares, goniometer and pencil, as well as the mini-levelling table, in other words a mini travelling kit. I had thought of keeping the toolbox on our return to Modena, but I thought about it long after taking part and unfortunately I was not allowed to have it, as they had already emptied it at the "Corni". It would have made a good souvenir that could have become a museum piece today.

As I remember, the expenses for each contestant amounted to over Lira 500 thousand at the time! A large sum if you think that a monthly wage packet barely reached Lira 100 thousand on average.

Mr Ghedini and Mr Menziani said to me: "Remember that if you don't bring home a gold medal, you'll have to pay your travel expenses yourself on top of the equipment we've prepared for you."

I got ready to take on a challenge and this is why I really couldn't lose. I personally had no money due to family problems in my youth.

The "Corni" teachers certainly wanted to provoke and encourage me, and this really stimulated my commitment.

The train journey and arrival at the German Olympic Village were full of so many emotions and experiences for me. We stayed in the same buildings the sportsmen and women had used the year before, with twin bedrooms, balconies and surrounded by greenery. I shared the room with another boy from Modena, Luciano Guerri, who won the Gold medal in mechanical design (cf. p. 83). The first day, we inspected the competition stands to check which machines and instruments each of the contestants would have



available. I gave a sigh of relief as the area had been sufficiently equipped and my personal tool box from the "Corni" completed everything I needed to "play" well against the other foreign contestants.

The following day, the envelopes were opened and the competition began: we had to make a foundry pattern in wood of a crossed axis connecting rod, complete with two core boxes. We had 24 hours to complete our masterpiece, but, unfortunately, in the middle of the first afternoon, the material I had been given proved totally unreliable: the wood I had to use was rotten inside and could not be used to continue the work. A forced but necessary decision, which reduced the time available for me to 18 hours to achieve a competitive result! I felt like crying as it was my firm intention not to disappoint those who had faith in me, but bad luck had played its hand. It was yet another challenge to overcome! I accepted the problem, thanks also to the encouragement of the person accompanying me, Mr Claudio Concari, who was an expert in my speciality.

I started from scratch without any psychological distractions and, on the contrary, with the right amount of concentration required and I managed to catch up and complete the work within the time set by the Competition.



Valerio Giacobazzi at work on the foundry pattern making stand at the competition.  
Giacobazzi Archive





I was happy on two counts, I had won and I wouldn't have to "pay back" my travel expenses! But that was not the end of it: on the podium, the German contestant, who had seen my bad luck first hand, congratulated me and said I deserved the gold medal! Was I satisfied? Yes, I really was! Second in the world classification was no mean feat!

Table with the marks for each contestant in the various categories assessed: in first place is Germany (82.616 marks), in second Italy (with 77.783), in third Switzerland (75.200 marks) followed by Japan with a clear gap (67.333), China (49.466), Holland (41.450), Spain (37.866) and lastly Great Britain (18.983 marks).





15 August 1973.  
The winners of the Foundry  
pattern making speciality,  
congratulating each other on  
the podium.  
Giacobazzi Archive

15 August 1973. Champions'  
Award Ceremony. Valerio  
Giacobazzi, first on the left,  
on the podium with the Silver  
medal. The German  
contestant, winner of the Gold  
medal, acknowledged that  
Giacobazzi deserved first  
place.

Giacobazzi Archive



Leaflets, postcards, fans, pins, coins, badges, pennants, etc. kept  
by Valerio Giacobazzi as souvenirs of the foreign contestants.





Munich 1973. Silver medal and certificate for Valerio Giacobazzi at the 21st International Vocational Training Competition for the speciality of foundry pattern maker.

Both winners and losers were overcome with emotion: I saw Asian contestants cry because they had failed to win a medal for their nation! For them it was dishonourable, because they had spent at least a year preparing, alongside their professional and psychological tutors, and in previous years they had always "cleared the table" of medals! Unfortunately, unlike the Tokyo Olympics, Munich did not publish these results, except for a few scanty lines in the local newspaper.

I can define the International Competition as an event where youth played a unique, major role, where the "contest" was a fair competition between young people. It also offered the opportunity for us to get to know each other and exchange accounts of our nation. I still keep the objects I received: the postcards and oriental fans, the coins, the pennant of Portugal, the matches from Munich 1972, the badge of BMW that sponsored the event, the letter written to me afterwards by the gold medallist Peter Mayr, to whom I never answered unfortunately, perhaps because he had written in German and at the time it was difficult to find anyone who could help translate it. I would love to try and trace him now!

The Munich Olympics were undoubtedly an experience, which changed me, matured me, and spurred me on not to fear new experiences. It encouraged me to fulfil my curiosity: something I strongly advise the young generations to do. Immediately, a few months after the Munich Olympics, I decided to focus on my professional development which, over the years, has led me to better understand the world of mechanics, ceramics and the

automobile with posts of responsibility at Ferrari, Lamborghini and Maserati.

On 10 March 2012, the local newspaper "Il Distretto" published the article "Talking of the Olympics", in which I was interviewed on the much debated participations in the various sports. At the time, I referred to my Work, not Sports Olympics, and explained the usefulness of international competitions.

Two years later, in 2014, the then President of the Republic, Giorgio Napolitano and the Prime Minister, Enrico Letta, perhaps as a result of my little known hard work in Munich in the Italian mass media, awarded me the honour of Commendatore of the Republic.

This was another great satisfaction, but also a real responsibility!



The four Italian winners at the Munich Work Olympics.

Right to left: Valter Zamponi (Bronze medal – jewellery), Valerio Giacobazzi (Silver medal – foundry pattern making), Luciano Guerri (Gold medal – mechanical design), Giovanni Dova (Gold medal in a draw with the German Siegfried Wenz – Radio-TV Repairs).



## A testimonial by Luciano Guerri

In 1973, I was twenty years old and had already left school and joined the army, as military service was mandatory at the time. The Principal of the "Corni" called me to take part in the national trials for mechanical design, the qualifiers for the International Competitions.

I took part more because I wanted a special leave from barracks life, rather than from a desire to compete. However, I won and was candidate for the Munich Olympics. I was given another special licence and, with everything paid for, I found myself in the midst of a rather student-like atmosphere on the train journey from Modena to Munich, which then became serious and a bit sad when we settled into the Olympic Village, which still created a certain fear due to the tragic facts of the previous year. However, I felt a bit proud at the thought of staying in rooms great sports champions had been in.

I made friends with the other Italian contestants who, like me, had already left or just left school or were in their final year. However, I only got to know a few foreign contestants, even though we were often together until 15 August, the day of the official closing ceremony.

The halls in the trade fair district had been prepared for us to take the thirty-three tests in the competition. My mechanical design test lasted six hours a day for four days and about ten nations were competing, if I remember rightly. The technical expert for Italy accompanying us was Arrigo Paradisi, who had not been my teacher at the "Corni", because my section was taught by his colleague, Giovanni Galantino. I immediately felt at ease, as though he had been my teacher at school. At the beginning of the contest, I was given a small metal casting and I had to complete the following exercises:

- 1) a freehand construction drawing of the piece given
- 2) development of the surface area of a truncated cone (front view and development of the cross-sectioned solid) using the drafting machine
- 3) starting from the overall length, draw all the construction details that had to be completed for the missing parts, so it was consistent.

I thought it was a very demanding test and I jumped in head first, using all the equipment required for the design (including a kit of China inks and sheets of yellowish, not very sophisticated paper) given to us at the beginning of the test. Afterwards, the contestants were given all the instruments as a present.

On 15 August, I stepped on to the podium to receive the Gold medal at the official award ceremony held in a Munich theatre. In second place came the Austrian Franz Fhüruser, the Korean Joo Moon was third, followed by the others.

For me it was a great success, which filled me with joy and emotion.





Luciano Guerri, in the blue overalls, using the drafting machine during a phase of the test on the industrial design stand. Guerri Archive



Luciano Guerri on the podium in the centre, ranked first with a Gold medal, while a journalist interviews and photographs the three winners. Guerri Archive



Luciano Guerri's Gold medal and Certificate, ranked first at the Munich Olympics in the speciality of industrial design.

The Gold medal was also celebrated back at the barracks and the various graduates in my division congratulated me on my international victory.

At the end of my military service, as a school-leaver from the IPSIA, I wanted to continue my studies and I enrolled for the evening classes at the "Corni" technical institute and achieved my A levels.

Thanks to my success at the International Competition, I was re-employed at De Tomaso Automobili, where I had already worked immediately after leaving school whilst waiting to be called up for military service. I stayed at De Tomaso until 1978, then Mr Mauro Forghieri called me to the FERRARI RACE DEPARTMENT, where I specialised and extended my training, because you needed to be very versatile.

In 1987, Forghieri left Ferrari to become technical director for "Lamborghini Engineering" and took with him his entire team, me included. And I remained there as manager until 1995.

In 1996, FERRARI had already been divided into sectors under Mr Todt and Luca di Montezemolo, and I was re-employed. I remained at FERRARI as manager until 2010, when I retired.



2000, USA Grand Prix in Indianapolis, won by Schumacher. The trophy held by Luciano Guerri is the cup won by the Ferrari team.  
Guerri Archive



## REFLECTIONS ON VOCATIONAL TRAINING

The programme prepared by the German Organising Committee also scheduled a Seminar on 13 August to reflect on and compare vocational and school training. The speakers were German, Swiss and Austrian and they explained some of the problems facing this area. The discussion was particularly heartfelt by the Germans. In fact, at the closing ceremony, the president of the German Organising Committee, Wolff von Amerongen greeted the authorities and representatives from the Chambers of Commerce and Craft and congratulated the winners for being so well-prepared. He then gave a long speech (handed out to those present in a Spanish translation and kept by Claudio Concari, technical expert accompanying the team to Munich). Below is an extract, as it reveals the situation of German vocational training in school at the time (defined by the speaker as a *state welfare not a training school*). He wanted to compare it to the Italian school (which at the time was very different).

The speech by Wolff von Amerongen:

*In the current critical era, some may wonder whether a Vocational Training Competition can be celebrated so solemnly. There is only one answer: our economy is attempting to show itself and the public that the contestants' classification (which many may consider dependent on machines and equipment) clearly demonstrates the ability of economy in the various countries. To exhibit national training on an international stage gives an impulse to and stimulates not only the industrialised, but also the developing countries. The Competition encourages the desire to give one's best and it empowers the prestige that comes from international recognition (...). That Competition generally rests on another aspect: he who gives the best performance, who is rated top of his speciality, is free to move in his professional life, and doors will open up to him in the future. The Olympics demonstrate that theory and critical knowledge is not enough, as practical education and experience are required (...).*

*I believe we must thwart those who attempt to reduce the importance of vocational training and (...) I think we need to reveal what the dual system means for our economy. This form of parallel vocational training at school and in the enterprise matches the current experiences of our economy. Comparable to the image of an eclipse, it enables the young person to experiment vocational training from two points of view (or points of fire), on the one hand in the enterprise, on the other at school.*

On 13 August, a Seminar was held to reflect on vocational training and the problems attached to it. It was the first time since the International Competitions were established and the novelty became a constant feature in subsequent editions.

### Terminplan

Dienstag - 31. Juli '73	Endgültige Auswahl der Prüfungsarbeiten durch den Technischen Rat
Freitag - 3. August '73	Anreise der Teilnehmer nach München
Samstag - 4. August '73	Einweisung der Teilnehmer in die Werkstätten Verlosen der Arbeitsplätze
Sonntag - 5. August '73	Eröffnungsveranstaltung
Montag - 6. August '73 bis Donnerstag - 9. August '73	Wettbewerb
Freitag - 10. August '73	Bewertung der Wettbewerbsarbeiten durch die internationalen Experten
Montag - 13. August '73	Seminar über die betriebliche und schulische Berufsausbildung unter internationaler Beteiligung
Mittwoch - 15. August '73	Schlußfeier
Donnerstag - 16. August '73	Abreise der Teilnehmer

*This two-way encouragement forms his professional life.*

*Many illustrious critics of this type of preparation forget that the reconstruction of the German Federal Republic, which has achieved fame as an object Made in Germany, was created by people who, in the past, believed in two-way training, which is attacked so strongly nowadays. A training, which has led many young people so effectively through a technically demanding, socially acknowledged and economically very effective preparation.*

*Allow me to draw your attention to another aspect: the European Community Commission presented a dossier on young people in July 1972 (...) That dossier came to the conclusion that at the end of their studies, young people had gained a certificate, which was not always useful for employment, especially a certificate in General Culture without any vocational training. Therefore, the Commission advised that vocational training for apprentices be modernised to create the opportunity to already integrate young people step by step into the world of work during their vocational training.*

*If the economic world of the German Federal Republic strongly defends young people's vocational training, it does so in its own important interest (...), so we should combat the idea of sacrificing the "dual system" on the altar of ideologies, otherwise over the next 20 years, the majority of our youth between the age of 15 and 20, entering into the world of work, will acquire a professional qualification, which could be threatened by a new training system. Instead, a scientific study by Prof. Hegelheimer, appointed by the Supreme Council of the German Chambers of Industry and Commerce, shows that the proportion of specialised workers will rise by 40% in the seventies and by 65% in the eighties. A growing number of our young people will achieve a proper vocational training in enterprises or Training Centres sponsored by the enterprises. Therefore, the economic world must insist on fighting to keep our well-tested dual system in order to achieve a benefit for everyone.*

*In his Government Statement of January 1973, the German Federal Chancellor included vocational training in his policy and announced a reform of the 1969 law (...). To this regard, I have to mention that in the last three months, the Federal States (Hamburg, North Rhein-Westphalia, Rheinland-Palatinate) have presented extensive programmes for the Vocational Training Reform. The projects of all the Federal States and the Government have merged into the General Plan of Vocational Training (...). Generally speaking, they make the following claims:*

- 1) enterprises exploit young people during their training*
- 2) inspections of vocational training companies are insufficient*
- 3) vocational training lacks links to state education.*

*Allow me to respond: the plans presented with a view to the Reform considerably reduce vocational training in companies in favour of an increase in vocational training schools (...). This has to be passed on to the schools and state education institutes. The State assumes the right to plan, direct and control vocational training.*

*The current system of vocational training in force, where the enterprise (...) takes charge of 80% of the training; where the competent Bodies to manage, coordinate and control vocational training are the Chambers of Industry, Craft and Commerce with self-administration organisations for the Economy; where the school mainly plays a welfare role; in short, this tested system will have to be replaced by a completely state-run system.*

*Ladies and Gentlemen, allow me to speak plainly: these Reform projects do not solve any of the acute problems emerging from the law in force since 1969 (...). We will have to accept a multitude of additional rules and strings attached, while vocational training within the company is reduced or even disappears. Already in 1970, Westerland declared the following fear: with the trend of reducing the current*

vocational training for young people, there will be a growing danger that the number of Professional Training Organisations (those supported by the Enterprises) will diminish without the school being able to offer adequate compensation (...). Allow me to clarify this problem with a few examples (...).

The German States have applied the introduction of a "foundation" year of Vocational Training in schools to a greater or lesser extent. This year, the Federal Government (...) has acknowledged this with a legislative decree. When the first pupils see this foundation year acknowledged as a purely theoretical subject, they will have problems when they attend the second year of Vocational Training in the Enterprise Centres (...). We will naturally find ourselves facing a deplorable stagnation in the development of vocational training, in a situation created not by the economic world, but by the well-intentioned, but disgracefully ill informed reformers of vocational training (...).

Ladies and gentlemen, this is merely a brief description of the real conditions in which the enterprises have to carry out vocational training today. I do not see how the high-flown alternatives called "Total integration in school" or "Complete integration of vocational training in the overall educational system" could help us move forward one inch. Unfortunately, these phantasmagorical ideas are distracting our attention from certain factors, which we must not forget. We cannot educate more or give the training a more theoretical nature (...). The proposed solution, consisting of freeing the enterprises from the obligation to train apprentices, of transferring this task exclusively to the school, is groundless, both from the practical and financial point of view. I don't want to mention figures referring to current investments and expenses for staff and the installation of structures, which would require vocational training to be more literate, as we all know it would exceed our possibilities (...). If we count the Chambers of Commerce and Industry, we have almost 170,000 enterprises with different "teaching" capacities according to their specialities and organisations, which enable 700,000 young people to be trained (...). We have to acknowledge that among the Chambers' activities, vocational training has recently become the barycentre (...). We have to acknowledge that they have provided a major service to our economy and our society.

I hope that by noting the capacity and potential for vocational training, as shown here at the International Vocational Training Competitions in Munich, I will be allowed to make a direct request to the Federal Government and to you Honourable Minister: The Federal Government must do everything possible to maintain the completely voluntary availability - I repeat: the availability of the Enterprises for Vocational Training. They must not allow this commitment to collaborate in vocational training, which inspires the enterprises and their staff, to disappear, by endangering precious capital for our society and our economy (...).

Allow me to say that the Organisation of the Chambers from its critical position in the Reform, follows above all the development of our economy and our society, and we rightly acknowledge this to be its mission. This is why we are defending practical training as provided by the Enterprise so strongly (...). May I remind you that we are interested in the concrete results of the Reform, not illusions or utopias. Our young people are not interested in the creation of a large number of state organisations in which the various trends will clash, and then compromise to resolve the problems (...).

Let me explain: Vocational Training must not become a way to fulfil the interests of organised groups. We must not forget that in the current education system, our vocational training schools are far from being even sufficiently suitable to give practical preparation. They have insufficient laboratories/workshops. It's only too true that over the last decade, the grants given to Vocational Training Schools not only have not increased, on the contrary they have been cut compared to other educational



*institutes.*

*Before launching grandiose Reform Plans we should deal with the existing defects in our Vocational Training schools. Top of the list is the lack of suitable teaching staff and the insufficient number of schools (...). Nowadays, all the more industrialised, booming countries acknowledge the advantage of in-house Vocational Training (...).*

*On the other hand, I believe it would be more convenient for the Government to take into account the experiences and results we have achieved so far in Vocational Training (...) before taking ideological positions into consideration. The ideological criticisms expressed against the current vocational training system include "the exploitation" of young people in companies. This concept is part of the old, neo-Marxist arsenal. This suggested that the "teaching" Enterprise should profit from the apprentice's work. Those who know, or try to get to know the current vocational training in companies, know it is absolutely impossible to have "centres of profit" or "sources of profit" (...). The concept of "exploitation" also indicates the problem of equal opportunity in guiding young people towards the specialities in top demand today. It claims that forcing young people to choose a speciality or job is exploiting them, as they are obliged to make their choices according to the opportunities that exist in the world of work at any time (...). In my opinion, this accusation of "exploitation" of young people appears to have been conceived to awaken dreams which will unfortunately be impractical (due to a lack of jobs).*

*Therefore, Ladies and Gentlemen, my dear young friends, I ask forgiveness if at this time of jubilation for all the participants, at this closing ceremony of the 21st International Vocational Training Competition, I have revealed the urgent problems and worries hanging over the German economy as regards the future of Vocational Training. The fact that these problems are urgent made me take advantage of the Minister Dohananyi, whose help I warmly request to present our positions clearly to the Government.*

*I believe, young friends, that this is above all in your interest. The Competition in which you have taken part is very special. I hope this experience will be very useful in your countries when you begin your path to your professional activity and that it will help you achieve greater goals.*

*Wolff von Amerongen, president of the  
German Organising Committee*

The topic was taken up again in December 1973 by the French magazine *Compagnonnag* of the Association *Compagnons du devoir*, on which continual, permanent vocational training depended in France. This was the oldest association (the name originated from that of the great builders of monuments and works of art in French history) and the most important for specialising young people in the various trades.

In an article of over ten pages they explained the Munich Work Olympics in detail and appreciated the novelty of having programmed a seminar on vocational training, which directly involved Germany, Switzerland and Austria. They stressed and fully agreed with the German, Wolff von Amerongen, that those who legislate do not even know a trade, they do not know what is required to prepare for the various working professions: ... *vocational training does not depend on the mere meditations of the ancient supreme courts, full of political, legal, administrative and educational laws, etc., when they know nothing or almost nothing about trades. We have often deplored the fact that those who make decisions for the entire country on vocational training are those who know how to talk, but are without any trade and have never handled a work tool in their life. Whereas the workers, the users of that labour - who pay the breakages - the men who know what to do are voiceless*

# COMPAGNONNAGE

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## UNE OLYMPIADE DU TRAVAIL

PAR RAYMOND-LE-POITEVIN, COMPAGNON MENUISIER DU DEVOIR



ÀR bien des côtés ce XXV Concours International de la Formation Professionnelle qui eut lieu à Munich du 1<sup>er</sup> au 15 août 1973 (en Allemagne pour la deuxième fois, après Duisburg en 1961) avait des traits communs avec la célèbre fête du sport : participation de quinze nations, compétition entre deux cent quatre-vingt-trois concurrents (champions nationaux sélectionnés dans trente-deux métiers de l'industrie, de l'artisanat et des professions du secteur tertiaire)... Même ambiance de lutte serrée mais pacifique, et de fair-play sportif pour la conquête de trois médailles — d'or, d'argent et de bronze. Sous

culbiter bien sûr, comme pour les athlètes aux Jeux Olympiques, un costume bien coupé distinguant chaque délégation, ce qui nous a donné l'idée de celui que la délégation française portera au jour à ce concours...

A la différence des jeux sportifs, ce concours a lieu tous les ans — chaque fois dans un autre pays —, et il ne groupe que des champions ne dépassant pas vingt et un ans d'âge, puisqu'il s'agit de comparer et de juger le niveau de leur formation professionnelle.

beaucoup de celles de ses voisins. Il y a donc, dans un premier temps, des définitions assez larges des métiers, réalisant, théoriquement, une synthèse des différentes conceptions nationales. Sur cette base, des épreuves sont proposées, quelque six mois avant le Concours, et après examen, trois d'entre elles, paraissant les plus valables, sont mises sous scellés dans des réunions préalables du Comité Technique. Ces scellés sont brisés trois jours avant le début des épreuves, et le Comité Technique choisit pour chaque métier l'inséni qui lui semble le meilleur.

Il ne reste que quelques deux ou trois jours pour se procurer les matériaux et toutes fournitures nécessaires au déroulement des épreuves... C'est trop peu. Surtout dans un pays industrialisé, en vacances au mois d'août. Le pays organisateur, pour faire face à ses obligations, a bien été obligé de s'approvisionner assez tôt. De sorte que bien des objets retenus ont dû être renvoyés au dernier moment sans

Il avait été prévu que se tiendrait durant le concours un séminaire sur la formation professionnelle. Une journée fut donc consacrée à l'étude de la formule de la formation professionnelle en Allemagne, Autriche et Suisse. Des conférences savantes furent faites à ce sujet et suscitèrent un grand intérêt, non seulement auprès des délégués et experts techniques présents au concours, mais aussi de personnalités internationales très diverses venues expressément dans ce but.

Le Concours inaugurait ainsi, à la demande de l'Allemagne, une forme d'étude tendant à comparer les systèmes de formation et d'apprentissage des différentes nations participantes, étude d'un grand intérêt qui, étayée par les résultats des différentes nations au concours, n'était par conséquent pas le fait de la seule méditation d'aréopages savants en sciences politiques, juridiques, administratives, pédagogiques, etc., dont les membres ne connaissent rien ou presque, aux métiers. On a pu, trop souvent, déplorer que ceux qui décident, au niveau de l'Etat, de la formation professionnelle, sont des personnes qui savent dire mais sans métier, qui n'ont jamais touché un outil de leur vie. Alors que les professionnels, les utilisateurs de la main-d'œuvre — et les utilisateurs de la main-d'œuvre —, souvent démunis, mais sachant faire, sont des hommes sans voix.

French vocational training depended on the *Compagnons du devoir*. Their December 1973 magazine published an article of over ten pages on the Munich Work Olympics, with numerous interviews and photos of French contestants. <https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Compagnonnage>

The article criticised the legislators in charge of vocational training, full of political, administrative and educational science, but without ever having picked up a work tool and without knowing a trade, whereas those who do, remain "without a voice".



PAYS MEMBRES DES CONCOURS ET ORGANISMES QU'ILS REPRESENTENT

<u>PAYS</u>	<u>ORGANISMES REPRESENTES</u>
REPUBLIQUE FEDERALE ALLEMANDE	Chambres Officielles de l'Indus- trie et de l'Artisanat
AUTRICHE	Chambre Fédérale d'Economie Pro- fessionnelle
BELGIQUE	Ministère des Classes Moyennes
COREE DU SUD	Comité National de Formation Professionnelle
CHINE	Comité National des Concours de Formation Professionnelle
ESPAGNE	Délégation Nationale de la Jeu- nesse
ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE	Clubs de Formation Industrielle d'Amérique
FRANCE	Association Ouvrière des Compa- gnons du Devoir du Tour de France
HOLLANDE	Comité Nationale de Formation Professionnelle
IRAN	Comité National des Concours de Formation Professionnelle. Minis- tère du Travail et Affaires Sociales
IRLANDE	Département de l'Education Minis- tère de l'Education
ITALIE	Direction Générale de l'Instruc- tion Professionnelle. Ministère de l'Instruction Publique
JAPON	Comité National de Formation Pro- fessionnelle. Ministère du Travail
PRINCIPALITE DU LIECHTENSTEIN	Pffoce di Travail et de l'Appren- tissage
LUXEMBOURG	Ministère du Travail et de la Sé- curité Sociale
MALTE	Département du Travail et de l'Emigration
ROYAUME UNI	Société pour la Promotion de la Formation Professionnelle et l'Education
SUISSE	Comité National de Formation Professionnelle

List of the member countries and organisations in charge of vocational training in 1973. The majority of countries had centres, committees, clubs or associations, such as the Chambers of Commerce. A few countries had state schools, which depended on the Ministry of Employment rather than the Ministry of Education, as in Italy.



And what about Italy? As from 1967, vocational institutes have been under the Ministry of Education and no longer under the Ministry of Employment. In Italy, the distinction began to be made between practical vocational training handed over to the Regional Governments (under the Italian Presidential Decree No. 10/72) and vocational education / theoretical training, which continued to be run by the State. A few years before saw the elimination of the three-year preparatory school that acted as induction for the vocational school or apprenticeship (also eliminated) and the single junior high school was introduced (which turned into the "foundation" year the president of the German Organising Committee, Wolff von Amerongen had spoken of).

This was the period in which the overall size of the upper secondary school exploded to almost two million students, most of whom studied in the technical institutes. Among the many accusations made in the early 70s of vocational training, Italy also saw a "political-ideological" finger pointed at this type of school, which continued to subdivide society into classes according to their income and level of education. In other words, the students took more (senior high schools) or less (vocational institutes) prestigious courses depending on their families' cultural level and available finances. It began to become apparent that training focused on the employment market was educationally untenable and a general education in the vocational school was needed that was not "less", or "second-class", compared to the senior high or technical schools. A possible encounter with work experience/practical training was delayed as long as possible. This led to the choice of increasingly prolonging the time spent in general and theoretical training. The large majority of Vocational Institutes became five-year courses. The two years added to the three-year qualification were aimed more at university entrance than at an in-depth professional preparation.

And we must not ignore the fact that an air of "cultural" superiority has also begun to sneak into Italy against manual labour, without realising the ability and skill required by those who use their hands to work. Let's remember that Wolff von Amerongen had also highlighted the huge effect of ideological conditioning on young people and the error of creating impracticable dreams/illusions in the economic world.

And so the state education system began to reveal it was absolutely incapable of preparing young people for the world of work, which, let's remind ourselves, does not wait for trade unions or governments to change and demands new skills from the workers.

Between '72 and '78, a discussion arose (initially focusing more on the structural-institutional aspects and subsequently on system functions and contents), which concluded with a draft of a vocational training model in complete contrast with the past. As a result of all the discussion, the Ministry of Education considered it opportune not to send any more contestants to the Work Olympics.

## **1975 – MADRID (SPAIN) – 22nd EDITION**

The 1975 International Competition was supposed to have been held in Lisbon from 26 July to 13 August, as established in the previous meetings of the Technical Committee in Palma di Majorca and then in Utrecht. A detailed programme had already been distributed, the juries had been formed and hotels booked... however, in June it was all cancelled as Portugal's internal situation was extremely worrying.

In fact, in April 1974, there had been the Carnation Revolution (*Revolução dos Cravos*), a military coup by soldiers from the progressive wing of Portugal's armed forces, which ended the long authoritarian regime (created in 1926 and consolidated in 1933 by Antonio Salazar) and restored democracy after 48 years of dictatorship. There was, as yet, no guarantee of a peaceful situation in Lisbon.

The member countries and, above all, the contestants were very disappointed. Therefore, the decision was made to allow those young people to take part in the 1975 Olympics, even if they were over the regulatory age (21 years) by then.

In November 1974, all the official and technical representatives of the member countries held a meeting in Taipei, China (Italy was represented by Ennio Ferrari and Giuliano Ghedini). Also taking part was the Minister of the Interior and president of the Chinese National Committee, Mi Lin Ching-Shen, who described the situation in his country, how it had developed since 1966 after launching vocational training, for which it had requested funding from the United Nations. The Minister of the Interior had done a great deal to open vocational training centres in north and south China, suitable for preparing the technical personnel required by public and private industries. He was very enthusiastic about international competitions, which revealed the professionalism of so many young people of so many nations.

In February 1975, the meeting of the Presidency, Secretariat General and International Technical Committee was held in Paris, where they agreed to hold the 1975 Competitions from 8 to 22 September in Madrid (as Spain was the only nation to offer to do so, knowing full well there were only eight months to organise it) at the "Virgen de la Paloma" Institute, which had held the first international edition in 1950 (cf. Chap. 1) and where it was logical to celebrate the 25-year anniversary of the International Vocational Training Competitions. It was decided to prepare and publish a Competition manual not only with all the necessary information, but also a summary of all the competitions held in 25 years of activity. The new general president was elected, Manuel Valentin Gazo, to replace Baldomero Palomares García, whereas Francisco Albert Vidal remained as Secretary General, the true backbone of the organisation, who immediately rallied a large number of people for the impending Work Olympics. First and foremost, he demanded six permanent translators in the Secretariat (English, German, French, Spanish), twenty temporary translators (Italian, Dutch, Korean, Japanese, Chinese, Persian), thirty interpreters (ten languages) to facilitate reciprocal understanding while the tests were being held, ten typists, numerous people in charge of photocopies (thousands of which were needed) and a technical service, consisting of six technical engineers to prepare the drawings, texts and their copies for the Competition tests with possible corrections and supplements from the Technical Committee.

The organising machine usually began way before in order to prepare everything required to hold the International Competitions. In 1975, Spain had only eight months and

yet it organised an impeccable competition.

The Competition began on 8 September for the Technical Committee involved in the preliminary selection of tests and relevant assessment criteria. On Friday 12 September, for the members

#### INTERVENTION DU MAIRE DU MADRID

La Délégation Nationale de la Jeunesse offre de nouveau le cadre de notre Ville pour le XXIIème Concours International de Formation Professionnelle. C'est en 1967 que Madrid eut déjà l'honneur d'accueillir cette Olympiade du Travail; puis, en 1971, Gijón ouvrait également ses portes à ces jeunes en provenance de divers pays et qui, au cours d'une compétition exemplaire, démontraient le niveau élevé d'une jeunesse experte, dans les arts et les métiers les plus variés, et pendant quelques jours faisait les honneurs d'une ville espagnole.

Au cours de concours antérieurs, toutes les qualités de cette compétition ont déjà été évoquées et c'est pourquoi, étant donné que 293 jeunes, provenant de dix-sept pays, vont participer à trente-deux spécialités de l'industrie, de l'artisanat et des services, Madrid leur ouvre ses portes et personnellement, en tant que Maire de la Ville, au nom de cette Ville accueillante, je vous souhaite non seulement la bienvenue, mais je tiens à signaler qu'aucune autre visite ne pouvait nous séjournir davantage que celle de ces jeunes constituant une aristocratie du travail.

Soyez donc les bienvenus dans la Capitale de l'Espagne; ne vous sentez pas des étrangers dans les rues de notre ville; vous êtes dans votre propre foyer et vous allez trouver à Madrid cet accueil chaleureux que vous méritez pour votre belle entreprise. Nous nous efforcerons de rendre votre séjour dans cette Capitale aussi agréable que possible et nous souhaitons que, lorsque vous regagnerez vos pays respectifs, vous emporterez un souvenir agréable de cette vieille Ville qui, pendant quelques jours, va vous considérer comme ses hôtes les plus dignes.

Miguel Angel Garcia-Lomas y Mata

of the Technical Committee and the jury judges, there was a tour of Segovia to discover the ancient Castilian town, full of historic monuments (the Roman aqueduct, the Cathedral, the Alcazar, Palazzo di Riofro, a place of relaxation and hunting for the Spanish royal family, and La Granja, known as the "Little Versailles"). On Saturday 13 September, the Olympic opening ceremony was far more solemn than usual, to highlight the twenty-fifth anniversary celebrations. There was a simultaneous translation in four languages, a lot of music and the contestants' parade. The mayor of Madrid, Miguel Angelo Garcia-Lomas y Mata, greeted and expressed his best wishes for the 293 young people from 17 countries. He referred to them as "the working aristocracy" and invited them to feel at home in Madrid, as they would be warmly and affectionately welcomed. In the afternoon, all the contestants and technical experts toured El Escorial Monastery, the Valley of the Fallen and Col de Navacerrada (1,800 m high). Madrid had rallied round and very many people were involved. The tests began on 15 September.

That evening, the mayor of Madrid offered dinner for the official and technical representatives of all the competing countries who, as previously agreed, offered the mayor a souvenir from their home town and received a Spanish memento in exchange. We are not told what gift the mayor of Modena or the Education Minister sent. The contestants worked for three days (seven/eight hours a day), trying their hand at 32 different specialities, while the official guests and visitors could observe them at work, or watch some films on Spanish vocational training in a fully equipped room. Friday 19 September was dedicated to a Seminar: many speakers gave their thoughts on the vocational training in their own countries with the help of slides, film clips or paper documents handed out to all those present. That evening the mayor offered all the participants (750 people) a cold dinner and a folk show in the Garden of El Buen Retiro.

On conclusion of the test reviews and assessments, the scores were ranked and on Monday 22 September, the solemn awards ceremony was held in the Palace of Exhibitions and Congresses, officiated by the Crown Prince, Juan Carlos de Borbón, who gave an eloquent and much appreciated speech. He was offered a gold reproduction of the Medal of the 22nd International Competition, the first he was to officiate as future King of Spain.

In the Palace halls, everyone could admire an exhibition of the work made by the contestants, which had been displayed with the relevant test text/drawing assigned, as well as other useful material.



## TABLES DE QUALIFICATION

### 10) Ajustage

Exercice sélectionné.- IRLANDE

	30	points	
Mesures fondamentales	15	"	
Mesures secondaires			
Exactitude des angles et planéité des surfaces	10	"	
Ajustage et fonctionnement	25	"	
Propreté	10	"	
Utilisation de matériel	5	"	
Temps	100		Temps = 24 h.

### 20) Matricage

Exercice sélectionné.- IRLANDE

	35	points	
Pièce de bande de coupe	10	"	
Fabrication et fonction	35	"	
Mesures fondamentales	10	"	
Qualité et propreté	10	"	
Angles et lissage	15	"	
Matériel	5	"	
Temps	100		Temps = 24 h.

### 10) Mécanique de précision

Exercice sélectionné.- AUTRICHE

	30	points	
Ponderie et mesures		"	
Mesures fondamentales et secondaires	40	"	
Planéité des angles	13	"	
Propreté	12	"	
Temps	5	"	
	100		Temps = 24 h.

### 40) Horlogerie

Exercice sélectionné combiné.- ESPAGNE - ROYAUME UNI

Révision d'un chronographe	25	points	
Réglage du mécanisme d'horlogerie	20	"	
Réparation aux réglés les aiguilles			
Révision d'une horloge électronique	20	"	
Réparation du balancier	15	"	
Matériel	10	"	
Temps	5	"	
	100		Temps = 20 h.

### 50) Dessin Industriel

Exercice sélectionné combiné.- ITALIE - PORTUGAL

Développement	25	points	
Poussée mobile	10	"	
Composition	20	"	
Partie 1	10	"	
" 1	6	"	
" 3	6	"	
" 4	6	"	
" 5	6	"	
" 6	6	"	
" 7	6	"	
Temps	5	"	
	100		Temps = 23 h.

### 60) Tournage

Exercice sélectionné.- ALLEMAGNE

Mesures fondamentales	50	points	
" secondaires	15	"	
Assemblage (montage)	12	"	
Finition générale	13	"	
Matériaux	5	"	
Temps	5	"	
	100		Temps = 22 h.

Assessment tables drawn up by the International Technical Committee for the skills competing in Madrid.

### 72) Fraisage

Exercice sélectionné.- ITALIE		
	40	points
Mesures fondamentales	10	"
" secondaires	20	"
Fonctionnement	10	"
Planéité des angles et des faces	10	"
Finition générale	5	"
Matériel	5	"
Temps	100	

Temps = 25 h.

### 88) Constructions Métalliques

Exercice sélectionné.- ALLEMAGNE		
	20	points
Mesures fondamentales	15	"
" secondaires	20	"
Qualité de soudure et coupe	5	"
Tracé et interprétation correcte		"
Exactitude des angles et	15	"
parallélismes	10	"
Finition générale	5	"
Matériel	5	"
Temps	100	

Temps = 22 h.

### 98) Soudure Oxyacétylène

Exercice sélectionné.- IRLANDE		
	10	points
Epreuve radiographique (2 joints x 5)	20	"
" de pliage (Face 2x4 racine 2x6)	20	"
Pression (à la destruction)	7	"
Récepteur de pression: aspect	5	"
Absence de morsures		"
Pénétration (joint à la plaque de base)	3	"
Précision de l'assemblage	5	"
Aluminium - Aspect et pénétration	10	"
Acier mou et soudure bornée	5	"
Aspect et pénétration	5	"
Utilisation matériel	5	"
Temps	100	

Temps = 24 h.

### 110) Modèles de fonderie

Exercice sélectionné.- ALLEMAGNE		
	20	points
Mesures fondamentales	20	"
" secondaires	11	"
Technique de préparation	15	"
Fonction du modèle		"
Fonction de la partie inférieure (poite de noyau)	3	"
Finition de la superficie	8	"
Modèle de projection verticale	10	"
	100	

Temps = 25 h.

### 130) Brasage

#### Exercice sélectionné.- ESPAGNE

	10	points
Tracé		
Dimensions et exactitude de	32	"
serres	13	"
Joints		"
Exécution de tensions et	20	"
joint de superficie	5	"
Bouillottes	5	"
Ouvertures	5	"
Finition générale	5	"
Utilisation du matériel	5	"
	100	

Temps = 35 h.

Assessment tables drawn up by the International Technical Committee for the skills competing in Madrid.

Teaching material for the vocational training schools.

Giuliano Ghedini represented Italy in Madrid and was president of two juries (fitting and moulds). The contestants were:

- Marco Tarabini (Milling) - Gold medal with 85.50 marks and well ahead of the Korean in second place with 80.50 and the German in third place with 78.75 marks.
- Marco Corradi (Foundry pattern making) - *Bronze medal*
- Lucio Lanari (Radio-TV Repairs) 3rd place – *Honorary Mention*
- Massimo Calderoni (Electrical Assembly) - *Honorary Mention*
- Franco Ferrari (Industrial electronics) - *sixth place*
- Massimo Masi - Industrial Design
- Giuseppino Sponga - Fitting
- Silvano Nardin - Electrical Installations
- Leandro Valli - Jewellery
- Eugenio Bonfanti - Cabinet Making



7.- Fraseo/Milling/Tréfiler/Praisorg				
1. Marco TARABINI	Italia/Italy	85.50	Medalla de Oro/Gold Medal	
2. Pil Ha YOON	Corea/Korea	80.50	Medalla de Plata/Silver Medal	
3. Reinhold EISENREICH	Alemania/Germany	78.75	Medalla de Bronce/Bronze Medal	
4. James B. QUIGLEY	Irlanda/Ireland	74.60	Mención de Honor/Honorary Mention	
5. Manuel TORRICO RODRIGUEZ	España/Spain	67.70		
6. Daniel REICHEN	Suiza/Switzerland	64.90		
7. Kenichi WUJAD	Japón/Japan	64.54		
8. Adriaens G.J. CASTELIJES	Holanda/Holland	52.83		
9. Philip WALTER	Reino Unido/United Kingdom	44.17		
10. Shafiqul KARIM	Irán	41.90	Mención de Honor/Honorary Mention	

16.- Electrónica industrial/Industrial electronics/Industria-Elektronik/Électronique industrielle				
1. Bernhard PROCHNITZ	Liechtenstein	90.27	Medalla de Oro/Gold Medal	
2. Pierre ENOCEL	Suiza/Switzerland	84.33	Medalla de Plata/Silver Medal	
3. José Luis VILLASANA HERRERO	España/Spain	82.66	Medalla de Bronce/Bronze Medal	
4. Leifpold HUSCH	Alemania/Germany	82.27	Medalla de Bronce/Bronze Medal	
5. Susumu KUNITA	Japón/Japan	77.57		
6. Franco FERRARI	Italia/Italy	74.42		
7. Peter Alexander HELEN	Reino Unido/United Kingdom	71.30		
8. Glenn M. TREWITT	Estados Unidos/USA	66.46		
9. Rudolf F. WERNER	Austria	67.37		

The contestant rankings in the Milling and Industrial Design tests.

Marco Tarabini came first out of ten contestants in milling, Franco Ferrari was sixth in Industrial Electronics (cf. p. 99)

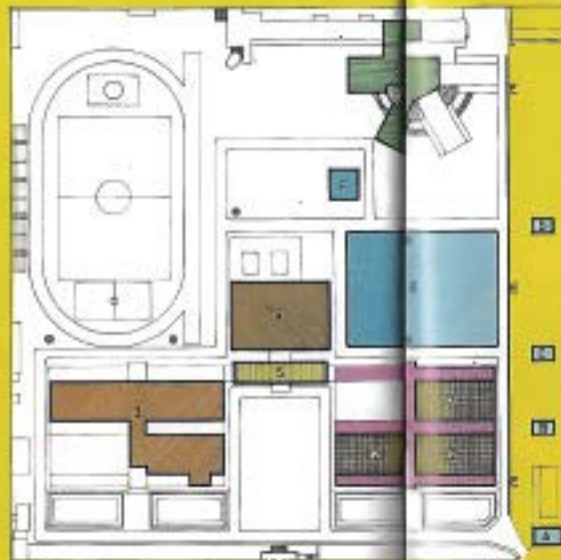




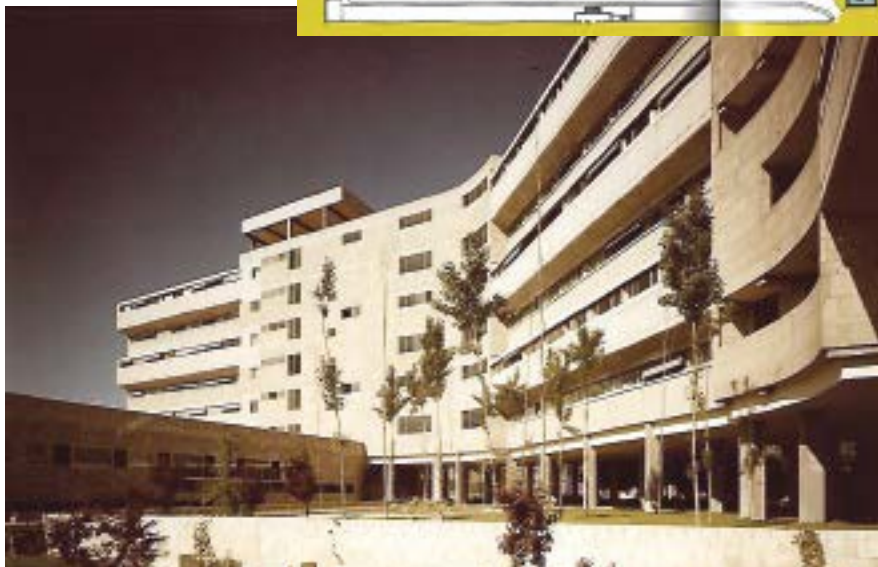
centro donde se realizan las pruebas

The “Virgen de la Paloma” Institute, the most prestigious centre in Spain for vocational training, held the tests for the 1975 Madrid Olympics on its vast premises.

## plano de distribución

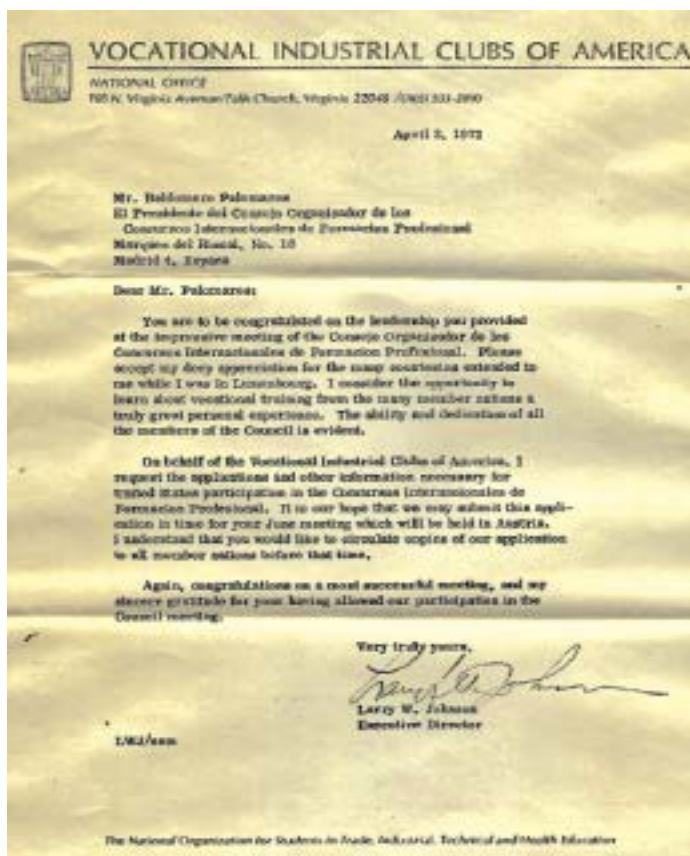


<b>Sección 1</b>	Fabricación
Plásticos	Weld making
Aluminio	Smelting
Industria	Lakes damming
Industria textil	Engineering drawing
Industria de cerámica	Labor Handicrafting
Industria de calzado	Marine handicrafting
<b>Sección 2</b>	Industria electrónica
Industria textil	Radio & television
Industria de cerámica	Industrial wiring
Industria de plástico	House wiring
Industria de metal	Painting
Industria de vidrio	B. masonry
Industria de cerámica	Ceramic tiling
Industria de vidrio	Joinery
Industria de cerámica	Liquidation
Industria de vidrio	Wood pattern making
<b>Sección 3</b>	Printing
Aluminio	Press and making
Industria de cerámica	Engineering making
Industria de plástico	Automobile
Industria de metal	Gas welding
Industria de vidrio	Electric welding
Industria de cerámica	Sheet metal work
Industria de vidrio	Panel building
Industria de cerámica	Construction steel work
Industria de vidrio	Tuning
Industria de cerámica	Welding
Industria de vidrio	Marine service
<b>Sección 4</b>	Plastic work
Industria de cerámica	Steel casting
Industria de vidrio	Carpentry
Industria de cerámica	
<b>Sección 5</b>	Press
Industria de cerámica	Shop
Industria de vidrio	Presiding
Industria de cerámica	Over-presiding
Industria de vidrio	Organization
Industria de cerámica	General Committee
Industria de vidrio	International Committee
<b>Sección 6</b>	Box Carriage
Industria de cerámica	Living Room
Industria de vidrio	Bedroom
Industria de cerámica	Multi-room
Industria de vidrio	Entrance room
<b>Servicios</b>	Information and telephone
Al. Información y telefonía	Bar
Of. Correos	Post Office
Of. Banco	Bank
Of. Ayuntamiento	City Hall
Of. Capilla	Church



All the contestants were accommodated in the College of St John the Evangelist in the university district very close to the site of the Competition.

The United States took part for the first time in Madrid in 1975 with nine contestants, who did not, however, win any medals. The USA had shown they were very keen to take part in the International Competitions and had already applied to the Secretariat General in 1972. However, European and American bureaucracy did not allow them to join until 1975.



April 1972.

The letter from Larry W. Johnson, executive director of the Vocational Industrial Clubs of America, i.e. the institution that supervised American vocational training, under the Ministry of Employment.

3 April 1972

Mr Baldomero Palomares  
President of the Organising Council of International Vocational Training  
Competitions  
Marques del Riscal, 16  
Madrid 4, Spain

Dear Mr Palomares

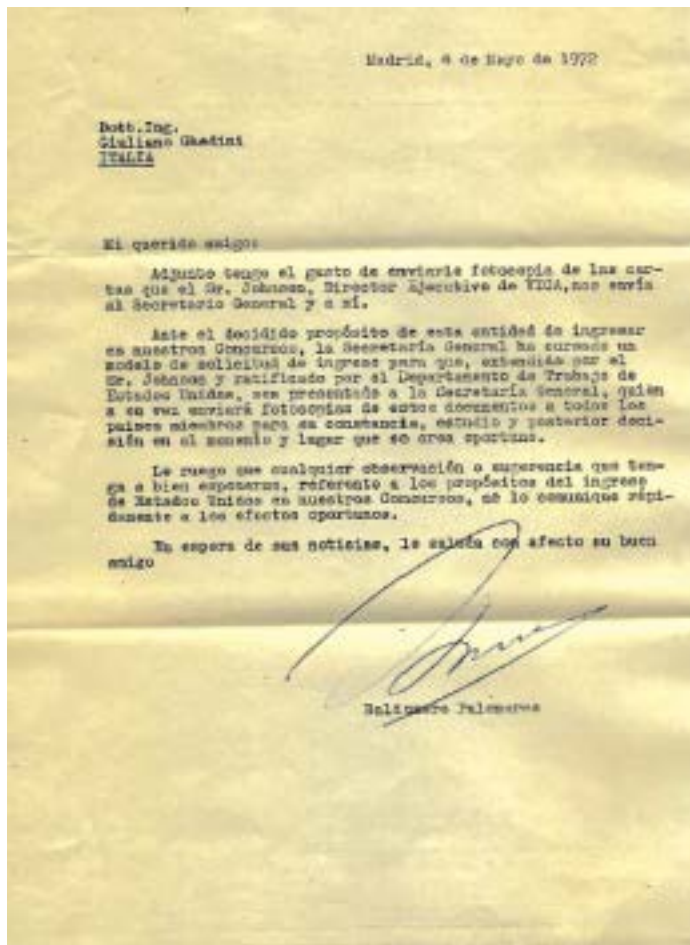
*You are to be congratulated on the leadership you provided at the meeting of the Organising Council of the International Vocational Training Competitions. Please accept my appreciation for the courtesy extended to me while I was in Luxembourg. I consider the opportunity to have been able to learn of vocational training in the member countries a great personal experience. The abilities and dedication of all the members of the Council are evident.*

*On behalf of the Vocational Industrial Clubs of America, I request the application information required for the United States to take part in the International Vocational Training Competitions. We hope to be able to apply in time for the meeting to be held in June in Austria.*

*I understand you will want to distribute a copy of our application to all the member countries before then.*

*Again, congratulations on a very successful meeting and my sincere gratitude for having allowed me to take part in the Council's meeting.*

*Very truly yours,  
Larry W. Johnson,  
Executive Director*



May 1972.

Letter from the president Baldomero Palomares to Mr Giuliano Ghedini regarding the American application.

Madrid, 4 May 1972,  
Mr Giuliano Ghedini,  
Italy

Dear friend,

I am delighted to send you a photocopy of the letter from Mr Johnson, Executive Director of VICA, sent to the Secretariat General and to me.

Given the purpose of that entity to participate in our Competitions, the Secretariat General has prepared an application form to register, so that once returned by Mr Johnson and confirmed by the Department of Employment, it will be presented to the Secretariat General which, in turn, will send a copy of these documents for all the member countries to read and study and subsequently decide at a time and place deemed opportune.

Please let me know promptly of any observations or suggestions which may help me as regards the proposal by the United States to join in our Competitions.

I look forward to hearing from you and I send you mu best wishes, your good friend  
Baldomero Palomares



## A testimonial by Franco Ferrari



I attended the Telecommunications course at the "Corni" and I passed my school-leaving exam with top marks in 1973. I had been exceptionally well-prepared by the "legendary" teacher, Mario Personali, and by his technical assistants Enzo Nicolini and Valter Guerzoni.

In 1975, I was already doing my military service, when Mr Valter Guerzoni contacted me and suggested I take part in the national trials in order to compete in the International Competition in Madrid. I had left school more than a year before, but at the barracks I had begun to do something more relevant to my studies, so I accepted and was selected.

The Italian delegation consisting of another ten boys and a few accompanying persons arrived in Madrid with a flight from Milan. We were accommodated in St John the Baptist College in the university district in Avenida de la Moncloa.

The food was good and after the test we went out on excursions. It was September and I was surprised when, the day after our trip, it began to snow heavily at the Passo di Navacerrada. We toured Madrid, the El Prado museum and then Toledo. I remember being amazed by the American and Japanese delegations, because there were also girls among the contestants, whereas the others had only boys. I overcame the language barrier very well, as my class at school not only had the scheduled English lessons, but also Mr Enzo Nicolini, who had learnt English very well during the war (because he was taken prisoner) and he taught us the technical language in particular, that was so vital for telecommunications and in the industrial world.

To this regard, I remember, on the other hand, that my Japanese contestant did not understand English and found it very difficult to try and decipher the text of the exercise and the explanations of what we had to do (clearly the Japanese translation given to him contained a few words that confused him). I was sorry to see he was almost desperate, but we were prohibited from talking to each other, even with gestures, so I was unable to help him.

The test for my category was both theoretical and practical. We were given an exercise with questions we had to answer and calculations to make (on the laws of electronics, electro-technology, transistors, etc.) For the practical test, I was given a construction kit with the components to assemble and wire a led display, which the judges during the assessment phase would connect to a computer to see (whether the work had been done correctly) some of the phrases they had programmed beforehand.

I had a bit of a problem as they required welded cables for which I had not been prepared at school, as they were not used in Italy. As it was a type of wiring used typically in a military environment, I had seen it done at the barracks, but I found it difficult nevertheless. I managed to do it, but I was ranked sixth with a memento medal.

As in the Competition opening ceremony, there was also a large number of Spanish authorities at the closing ceremony. I remember Juan Carlos de Borbón, who at the time was beginning to appear at official ceremonies instead of the Caudillo Franco and soon afterwards became King of Spain.

My experience in Madrid proved useful, even though I hadn't been successful. After

my military service, I was immediately employed by ESA/GV Automazioni in Campogalliano which, since 1984, had only dealt with numerical controls for special applications. My career developed in this company until I was made manager in charge of hardware design.

I remained in contact with Valter Guerzoni in particular, who was a consultant for that company. I managed to get ESA-GV to give Amici del Corni the training and programming console for a 1 bit, 16 input and 16 output micro-processor: the first I and two colleagues (also former Corni pupils) made for the company.



The console constructed by Franco Ferrari with his colleagues G. Verzelloni (IPSIA CORNI) and M. Golinelli (ITIS CORNI) for ESA-GV and given to the Museum Amici del Corni.

## MEDAL TABLES

### 1950-1975

The gold, silver and bronze medals for the winners were first introduced in 1959 in Modena for the eighth edition of the International Competitions, which were already known as the Work Olympics for their similarity with the Olympic Games.

MEDAILLES D'OR, D'ARGENT ET DE BRONZE OCTROYEES AUX PAYS PARTICIPANTS A PARTIR DU CONCOURS DURANT LEQUEL FURENT ETABLIES CES RECOMPENSES (VIIIème CONCOURS INTERNATIONAL DE MODENE (ITALIE) ORGANISE EN 1.959)

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Lors des sept premiers Concours, il était remis aux concurrents que obtenaient les meilleures notes des trophées dont le format et l'allégorie variaient selon les années. Ce fut à Modène en 1959 que, pour la première fois, il fut remis aux meilleurs concurrents des médailles d'or, d'argent et de bronze. C'était sans doute en raison de caractère sportif et compétitif que l'on avait voulu donner aux Concours que l'on récompensait les vainqueurs par des prix caractéristiques des Jeux Olympiques.

Bien qu'actuellement l'aspect de compétition soit secondaire, de même que la rapidité du travail effectué ainsi que d'autres aspects purement sportifs, l'aspect technique et humain prenant le pas sur les autres, on continue à récompenser les vainqueurs par des médailles olympiques sous leurs trois modalités classiques. Dans certains concours, on utilise le "podium" pour remettre les récompenses aux vainqueurs en les leur passant autour du cou ; dans d'autres, on les leur offre dans un coffret.

Mais tout ceci n'est qu'anecdotique. Cette information a pour objet de donner ci-après une analyse quantitative, estimative et comparative des Médailles octroyées aux concurrents des pays participants depuis 1959. Ce sera une statistique de plus qui pourra être utile aux personnes intéressées par cette étude ; c'est vous même, aimable lecteur, que en tirerez les conséquences.

Introductory page to the **Medal Tables**, written in various languages, but not in Italian. Underlined in red is the sentence: *The contestants were presented with gold, silver and bronze medals for the first time in Modena in 1959. The sporting, competitive character given to the Competitions was undoubtedly the reason why the winners were given identical awards to the Olympic Games.*



P A Y S	VIII MODENA 1959				IX BARCELONA 1960				X DUISBURG 1961				XI GIJON 1962				XII DUBLIN 1963			
	Concurrents	Or	Argent	Bronze	Concurrents	Or	Argent	Bronze	Concurrents	Or	Argent	Bronze	Concurrents	Or	Argent	Bronze	Concurrents	Or	Argent	Bronze
ESPAGNE	28	11	9	4	37	17	7	7	30	5	6	5	25	12	3	5	27	3	6	8
PORTUGAL	12	1	1	1	17	1	4	3	12	-	2	2	16	2	1	5	20	1	4	2
ALLEMAGNE	16	4	6	2	25	8	6	2	32	16	6	3	24	2	2	3	24	5	3	6
SUISSE	3	-	-	2	-	X	X	X	11	3	2	3	5	2	-	1	10	3	-	3
ROYAUME UNI	23	5	3	7	31	2	3	14	31	2	7	3	28	3	8	7	31	3	6	6
BELGIQUE	19	2	2	5	20	2	8	6	19	1	4	1	18	2	4	3	15	1	-	1
ITALIE	31	10	7	4	25	7	7	3	19	1	3	5	-	X	X	X	13	1	3	2
IRLANDE	14	2	5	2	18	2	2	2	18	-	1	-	16	6	1	-	32	6	6	4
HOLLANDE	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	8	-	1	4	13	1	2	2
JAPON	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	8	4	2	-	14	10	-	2
LUXEMBOURG	4	-	1	-	X	X	X	X	8	-	1	1	X	X	X	X	9	-	2	1
AUTRICHE	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	8	1	1	2	8	-	-	2	8	-	-	-
CORSE	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
LIECHTENSTEIN	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
MALTE	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
CHINE	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
FRANCE	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
DANEMARK	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	11	1	-	1
ETATS UNIS	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
IRAN	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
TOTALES	150	35	34	27	173	39	37	37	193	29	33	26	156	33	22	30	227	35	32	38

Gold, silver and bronze medals won by the countries taking part in 1959, the year these awards were introduced for the winners until 1963.

Italy was awarded:

in 1959: 10 gold, 7 silver and 4 bronze with 31 contestants

in 1960: 7 gold, 7 silver and 3 bronze with 25 contestants

in 1961: 1 gold, 3 silver and 5 bronze with 19 contestants

in 1962: it did not participate

in 1963: 1 gold, 3 silver and 2 bronze with 13 contestants

P A Y S	XIII LISBOA 1964				XIV GLASGOW 1965				XV UTRECH 1966				XVI MADRID 1967			
	Concurrents	Or	Argent	Bronze	Concurrents	Or	Argent	Bronze	Concurrents	Or	Argent	Bronze	Concurrents	Or	Argent	Bronze
ESPAGNE	26	4	6	9	26	4	5	1	26	2	-	1	38	9	4	4
PORTUGAL	27	5	5	6	18	2	1	1	14	-	-	-	19	3	1	4
ALLEMAGNE	20	2	2	7	26	3	5	9	28	1	5	8	32	4	5	8
SUISSE	9	3	3	3	9	2	2	1	18	2	6	4	18	2	6	5
ROYAUME UNI	28	8	5	2	28	9	5	5	27	4	5	3	26	2	2	2
BELGIQUE	19	1	1	1	17	1	2	1	16	1	2	1	15	2	2	2
ITALIE	11	-	1	3	13	-	2	-	15	4	-	1	10	1	2	-
IRLANDE	21	2	2	5	28	1	3	6	23	1	3	3	21	1	5	3
HOLLANDE	14	3	3	-	16	3	-	4	30	5	4	5	25	1	5	6
JAPON	17	12	4	-	19	6	5	2	20	9	3	2	20	5	7	2
LUXEMBOURG	6	1	2	-	X	X	X	X	4	-	-	-	X	X	X	X
AUTRICHE	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
CORÉE	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	9	2	1	2
LIECHTENSTEIN	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
MALTE	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
CHINE	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
FRANCE	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
DANSMARK	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
STATS UNIS	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
IRAN	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
TOTALES	198	41	33	35	200	31	30	30	221	29	28	28	233	32	40	38

Gold, silver and bronze medals won by the countries taking part from 1964 to 1967.

Italy was awarded:

in 1964: 1 gold, 3 silver and 3 bronze with 11 contestants

in 1965: 2 silver with 13 contestants

in 1966: 4 gold and 1 bronze with 15 contestants

in 1967: 1 gold and 2 silver with 10 contestants

As can be seen, Italy (with a clear drop in the Medal Tables compared to previous years) had begun the period of national trials, which led to the participation of contestants, who were not always adequately prepared for international competitions. The "Corni" in Modena continued to have the task of organising the Italian participation and provided the contestants with the uniforms and, in some specialities, also the necessary equipment, which unfortunately the participants sometimes demonstrated they did not know how to use. Some winners of the national trials even failed to take part in the Olympics at the last minute (Cf. Chap.2).

Japan won a great number of medals on the other hand and its contestants were apprentices in the companies that sponsored the schools they belonged to.



P A Y S	XVII BERNA 1968				XVIII BRUSELAS 1969				XIX TOKIO 1970				XX GJON 1971			
	Concurrents	Or	Argent	Bronze	Concurrents	Or	Argent	Bronze	Concurrents	Or	Argent	Bronze	Concurrents	Or	Argent	Bronze
ESPAGNE	24	3	1	1	26	3	2	3	26	1	2	7	29	6	6	5
PORTUGAL	21	-	3	3	24	-	2	3	18	1	3	2	20	1	1	1
ALLEMAGNE	28	1	5	3	29	4	2	6	30	4	4	4	29	3	5	4
SUISSE	34	8	4	4	27	6	3	3	25	4	6	2	24	6	3	4
ROYAUME UNI	26	2	1	7	23	-	5	1	25	3	4	5	17	-	2	2
BELGIQUE	16	1	1	-	14	1	1	-	15	1	2	2	18	1	1	3
ITALIE	13	3	-	1	13	-	1	-	9	-	-	-	10	-	-	2
IRLANDE	21	-	4	1	23	2	-	2	20	1	-	3	19	-	1	1
HOLLANDE	23	1	3	3	25	-	4	2	27	1	2	4	23	4	-	1
JAPON	19	6	2	5	23	9	2	4	20	17	4	3	26	10	3	5
LUXEMBOURG	6	-	-	-	9	-	1	3	X	X	X	X	8	1	-	-
AUTRICHE	X	X	X	X	5	-	1	1	4	-	1	-	9	1	1	2
CORÉE	15	4	4	-	17	2	5	1	29	4	4	5	26	3	8	-
LIECHTENSTEIN	3	-	-	1	3	1	-	-	5	-	2	1	5	2	-	-
MALTE	7	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	X	X	X	X
CHINE	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	8	X	X	X	8	X	X	X
FRANCE	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
DANEMARCK	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
ETATS UNIS	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
IRAN	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
TOTALES	256	28	28	29	266	28	29	29	274	37	34	38	271	37	31	32

Gold, silver and bronze medals won by the countries taking part from 1968 to 1971.

Italy was awarded:

in 1968: 3 gold and 1 bronze with 13 contestants

in 1969: 1 silver with 13 contestants

in 1970: no medal with 9 contestants

in 1971: 2 bronze with 10 contestants



1962-  
MEDAL  
11th Edition  
XI Gijón -  
Spain



1961- MEDAL  
10th  
Edition  
Duisburg  
Germany



PAYS	XXI MUNICH 1973				XXII MADRID 1975				TOTAL CONCURRENTE	OR		ARGENT		BRONZE		MEDAILLES	
	Concurrents	Or	Argent	Bronze	Concurrents	Or	Argent	Bronze		Total	Moyenne	Total	Moyenne	Total	Moyenne	Total	Moyenne
ESPAGNE	27	4	2	1	27	6	3	4	422	90	0,21	62	0,24	65	0,19	217	0,51
PORTUGAL	20	-	1	-	X	X	X	X	258	17	0,06	29	0,11	33	0,12	79	0,30
ALLEMAGNE	32	7	7	3	27	2	4	5	402	66	0,16	67	0,16	73	0,18	206	0,51
SUISSE	27	5	2	8	26	9	5	2	246	55	0,22	41	0,16	44	0,17	140	0,56
ROYAUME UNI	23	-	2	3	20	1	-	1	387	44	0,11	58	0,14	68	0,17	170	0,43
BELGIQUE	20	-	2	1	16	-	-	1	257	16	0,06	32	0,12	28	0,10	76	0,29
ITALIE	12	2	1	1	11	1	-	1	205	29	0,14	27	0,13	23	0,11	79	0,38
IRLANDE	19	1	1	2	20	-	-	-	313	25	0,07	34	0,10	34	0,10	93	0,29
HOLLANDE	20	3	2	2	19	-	1	1	243	22	0,09	27	0,11	34	0,13	88	0,36
JAPON	27	5	5	8	26	1	7	5	249	97	0,38	44	0,17	38	0,15	179	0,71
LUXEMBOURG	X	X	X	X	7	-	-	-	61	2	0,03	7	0,11	5	0,08	14	0,22
AUTRICHE	13	1	2	2	15	-	2	1	70	3	0,04	8	0,11	10	0,14	21	0,30
CORÉE	18	6	4	2	25	8	6	5	139	29	0,20	32	0,23	15	0,10	76	0,54
LICHTENSTEIN	6	-	1	-	7	1	-	-	29	4	0,13	3	0,10	2	0,06	9	0,31
MAÏTE	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CHINE	11	1	4	2	15	2	5	2	42	3	0,07	9	0,21	4	0,09	16	0,38
FRANCE	10	1	-	1	12	1	2	1	27	2	0,07	2	0,07	2	0,07	6	0,22
DANEMARCK	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ETATS UNIS	X	X	X	X	9	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
IRAN	X	X	X	X	8	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALES	285	36	36	36	290	35	35	29	3.391	504	0,14	482	0,14	478	0,14	1.469	0,43

Gold, silver and bronze medals won by the countries taking part from 1973 to 1975.

Italy was awarded:

in 1973: 2 gold, 1 silver and 1 bronze with 12 contestants

in 1975: 1 gold and 1 bronze with 11 contestants

The 1974 Olympics did not take place.

Altogether, Italy won 79 medals, of which 29 were gold, 27 silver and 23 bronze.



1975- MEDAL  
22nd Edition Madrid  
- Spain

## ***THE EVOLUTION OF THE WORK OLYMPICS AND ITALY'S WITHDRAWAL***

Much had been done since 1950. However, we were aware that there was still a great deal to do to adapt young people's training to the changes in industry, technology and society. As a result of this intention, the International Organisation was changed to IVTO, *International Vocation Training Organization* (the International Organisation appointed to promote Vocational Training for young people), with the task of organising not just the Competitions, but also studies, conferences and seminars, following in Munich's footsteps in 1973. At Germany's request, the Technical Committee was invited to a Seminar organised by the German delegation to assess the possibility of also including the new category of automobile mechanics in subsequent Competitions, as this was now of widespread importance in the industry.

Bearing in mind the new socio-economic reality and the number of member countries, proposals were assessed to amend the old Regulations and it was decided that:

- o the competitions would be held every two years
- o each jury would consist of four judges (no longer three) and each judge would abstain from assessing the work carried out by the contestant from his own nationality
- o the age of the contestants was raised to 22
- o a survey had to be prepared on certain aspects of the national trials in each member country and on the effects on the professional life of the participants in the International Competitions
- o much greater care would be taken over the translations into the languages of the countries taking part and the number of interpreters during the competitions would be increased
- o in addition to the gold, silver and bronze medals, there would also be an Honourable Mention (as Madrid had done for the first time in 1975) to award the human values of some contestants or the one who took part alone without any contestant in a demonstration test (in an accepted category, but not contemplated by the Competition)
- o relationships needed to be established with the European Institute of Vocational Training (with headquarters in Paris) and with the E.E.C. (European Economic Community) Vocational Training Commission
- o the location holding the tests also had to be equipped with medical and first aid facilities, a bar, bank, post office, spaces for public relations and the press, rooms where the contestants' work pieces could be displayed clearly
- o to increasingly involve the world of vocational training, it was decided to invite to the Competitions not only the authorities, but also primary and junior high school teachers, universities, all levels of professional associations, the trade unions, craft and industrial enterprises, in other words all those representatives from the economic world, and the general public.

In the seventies, however, Italy not only had problems created by the Red Brigades (during the years sadly known as the "Years of lead") and economic and social crises, there was a strong trend towards an increasingly extreme egalitarianism and it was difficult to talk about trials with rankings that would gratify the best students.

Added to this climate was the fact that Spain began to feel the tell-tale signs

of a crisis in Francoism and its institutions, such as the *Juventud*, which helped pay the expenses of the Secretariat General of the Olympics Organisation. The Competitions had also increased in the size not only of the number of countries taking part, but also the number of trades and specialities. It was becoming increasingly difficult to find a state prepared to take on all the expenses of the organisation. If other member countries had any difficulties in the past, Spain had generously held the Olympics in one of its own cities, but there was an increasing risk that Spain would be unable to continue to do so. In order to prevent the end of Francoism also marking the end of the International Competitions, the International Organising Committee decided that every country taking part would have to contribute to the Secretariat's general and organisational expenses in proportion to the number of contestants, inhabitants and wealth of the country.

In Italy, the Directorate General for Vocational Education of the Ministry of Education had already been contacted for another edition of the Olympics to be held in Italy, but made no comment and took no decision on the matter. On the contrary, it even failed to fund the Italian participation in the Competitions, which were to be held in Utrecht (Holland) in 1977, even though Mr Giuliano Ghedini had already taken part in the preliminary meetings of the Technical Committee and had proposed some tests for the Olympics, especially for the new speciality envisaged, i.e. Automobile Repair, which the "Corni" had been teaching for over twenty years with excellent results. All of Europe knew Ferrari, Maserati, Bugatti, Lamborghini, etc.

The Secretary General, Albert Vidal, urged several times and in a letter to Mr Ghedini of September 1976 said he was ready to come to Rome with the president of the International Organisation to meet the Minister in person and plead the case, as Italy had always collaborated honourably. It proved impossible to arrange the meeting. Italy never took part again, but the Secretariat General hoped for a change of mind and did not cancel it from the lists, as it still appears in the directories for the 24th edition of the 1978 International Youth Skill Olympics in Busan, South Korea: unfortunately no-one was entered for any of the specialities in the competition.

In January 1979, the *International Organisation to promote Vocational Training and Competitions* (the international organisation's new name) at the preliminary meeting in Palma di Majorca (to prepare the Olympics to be held in Cork, Ireland) strongly hoped Italy would return and acknowledged it had always raised the tone of the competitions. The International Secretariat sent various requests urging the Ministry once again, which should have made it proud for the acknowledgments received by the Italian participants. In addition to the International Committee's requests, the German and Spanish delegations pleaded separately for Italy to take part and wrote several times to Mr Giuliano Ghedini.

However, the situation did not depend on Modena and after an official exchange of letters, the Ministry definitively dropped the question.

Thus, Italy's participation in the Work Olympics came to an end, not for the lack of contestants and organisers, but for decisions taken in Rome by ministerial bureaucrats. The "Corni" was extremely disappointed, as it saw a glorious chapter in its history come to a close and could do nothing but regret the times of its great Principal, Armando Malagodi, the direct, authoritative contact person with the Ministry of Education.



Inscripción definitiva de concursantes  
Busan (Corea 1978) XXIV Concurso Internacional

Preliminary Inscription of Competitors, Busan-Kora 1978  
- XXIV International Youth Skill Olympics -

Anexo nº 1.  
Annex nº 1.

NO	TRADES	Germany Alemania	Austria Austria	Belgium Bélgica	Korea Corea	China China	Spain España	U.S.A. Estados Unidos	France Francia	Netherlands Holanda	Ireland Irlanda	Ireland Irlanda	Italy Italia	Japan Japón	Liechtenstein Liechtenstein	United Kingdom Reino Unido	Switzerland Suiza	Total
1	Fitting - Ajuste	0			0	0	0			0	0	0		0		0	0	10
2	Press Tool Making - Matricería	0	0		0	0	0			0	0	0		0				9
3	Instrument Making - Mecánica Precisión	0			0		0			0				0	0		0	7
5	Engineering Drawing - Delineación	0	0		0	0	0	0			0	0		0	0		0	11
6	Turning - Torno	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0		0		11
7	Milling - Fresa	0	0		0	0	0			0	0	0		0			0	10
8	Constructional Steel - Construc. Metálicas	0			0	0	0		0	0		0		0	0		0	10
9	Gas Welding - Soldadura Oxiacetilónica	0			0	0	0				0	0		0				7
10	Electric Welding - Soldadura Eléctrica	0			0	0	0	0		0	0	0		0				9
11	Wood Pattern Making - Modelos de Fundición	0	0		0	0					0			0			0	7
13	Panel Beating - Chapistería	0			0	0	0		0					0			0	7
14	Sheet Metal Work - Calderería	0			0	0	0	0	0			0		0			0	9
15	Plumbing - Fontanería	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0		0		0	0	12
16	Industrial Electronics - Electrónica Industrial	0			0		0	0						0			0	6
17	R & TV Repairing - Reparadores Radio TV.	0		0	0	0	0	0			0			0			0	9
18	House Wiring - Instalaciones Construcción	0		0	0	0	0	0			0	0		0	0		0	11
19	Industrial Wiring - Electromontaje	0		0	0	0	0	0				0		0	0		0	10

1978, Busan (South Korea), 24th edition of the Work Olympics. Italy continued to appear in the international lists, but no-one was entered in any of the specialities in the competition.



INSCRIPCION PROVISIONAL DE CONCURSANTES PARA EL XXIII CONCURSO INTERNACIONAL. UTRECHT - HOLANDA. 1977.

Provisional inscription of competitors for the XXIII International - Competition. UTRECHT. HOLLAND. 1977.

ESPECIALIDADES-TRADES	PAIS Country
1. Ajuste-Fitting	.....
2. Matriceria-Press tool making	.....
3. Mecánica precisión-Instrument making	.....
4. RELOJERIA-WATCH MAKING ?	.....
5. Delineación-Engineering drawing	.....
6. Torno-Turning	.....
7. FRESA-MILLING ?	.....
8. Construcciones metálicas-Construct. steel work	.....
9. Soldadura oxi.-Gas welding	.....
10. Soldadura eléctrica-Electric welding	.....
11. Modelos fundición-Wood pattern making	.....
13. Chapistería-Panel beating	.....
14. Calderería-Sheet metal work	.....
15. Fontanería-Plumbing	.....
16. Electro.industrial-Industrial electronics	.....
17. Reparación radio y TV-Radio & TV repairing	.....
18. Instalación construcción-House wiring	.....
19. Electronmontaje-Industrial wiring	.....
20. Albañilería-Bricklaying	.....
21. Talla en piedra-Stone cutting	.....
22. Pintura-Painting	.....
23. Estuco-Plasterwork	.....
24. Ebanistería-Cabinet making	.....
25. Carpintería taller-Joinery	.....
26. Carpintería armar-Carpentry	.....
27. Joyería-Jewellery	.....
28. Sastrería-Tailoring	.....
29. Peluquería señoras-Ladies' hairdressing	.....
30. Peluq.caballeros-Men's hairdressing	.....
31. Medistería-Ladies' tailoring	.....
32. Tapicería-Upholstery	.....
T O T A L	.....
DEMOSTRACION	
Automobile mechanics-Mecánica de automóvil	.....
Cooking-Cocina	.....

1977, 23rd Olympics, Utrecht (Holland). The demonstration tests of automobile mechanics were added for the first time to the 32 specialities in the Competition.



-1-

Acta final del Comité "Ad hoc" de la profesión de mecánica del auto-  
movil en el Concurso Internacional de Formación Profesional.

PARTICIPANTES

Sr. Lewis (USA)  
Sr. Johnson (USA)  
Sr. Wyatt (USA)  
Sr. Byrne (IRLANDA)  
Sr. Hawkes (INGLATERRA)  
Sr. García Jimenez (ESPAÑA)  
Sr. Lekskes (HOLANDA)  
Sr. Meyer (ALEMANIA)  
Sr. Rosés (ESPAÑA)  
Sr. Dressel (ALEMANIA) (bole en parte)

Las direcciones de los participantes mencionados, (direccio-  
nes comerciales), figuran en los documentos adjuntos. Los participan-  
tes conferenciaron sobre los conocimientos y habilidades de la mecá-  
nica del automóvil que habría de incluir en el concurso, basandose -  
en las siguientes descripciones profesionales:

- Job description for European Vehicle Mechanics.  
(46 resolución del consejo de Europa).

Descripción profesional de la República Federal Alemana, -  
según el esquema del Concurso Internacional de Formación Profesional.

Se decidieron los siguientes puntos:

- 1º) La reparación de motores Diesel no está prevista en general.
- 2º) La chapistería no entra en esta especialidad.
- 3º) Los trabajos en relación con habilidades manuales o mecánicas del  
metal, quedan eliminados.

Teniendo en cuenta estas limitaciones y basandose en la -  
Europ Job Description, se propusieron los siguientes trabajos:

- 1º) Motor- Reparación de culatas.  
Desmontar válvulas.  
Fresado y pulido de válvulas.  
Adaptar nuevas válvulas.

The United States, Ireland, Great Britain, Spain, Holland and Germany entered contestants in the new category competing, for which it had been decided to exclude diesel engines and propose four types of work: cylinder head repair, removal, milling, cleaning and assembly of the valves.



## Chapter 5

### ***EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL WORLDSKILLS***

The International Vocational Training Competitions, or Work Olympics, have continued over the years.

Today, they are called WorldSkills International and held every two years in different parts of the world. They involve young contestants, the industrial world, governments and vocational training schools with the aim of "*Raising the profile and acknowledgment of qualified people and showing how important skills are to achieve personal success and the economic growth of one's own country.*"

The detailed objectives, some of which have remained unchanged since 1950, include:

- Encouraging an exchange between professional young people from various regions in the world
- Exchanging skills and technological innovations to high global standards
- Raising the awareness of governments, the world of education/vocational training, the industrial/craft enterprises of the importance of vocational training.
- Raising awareness of young people and those who influence them of the available opportunities in qualified professions
- Challenging governments, teachers, trainers and employers to achieve top world standards of skills
- Trying to motivate young people to take up further vocational training courses after qualifying
- Facilitating international contacts between vocational training agencies
- Encouraging the exchange of ideas and experiences in vocational training via seminars to be held during the championships
- Attracting many visitors.

Membership has gradually risen to 80 countries and regions (where the entire nation is not competing, only a part of it, such as South Tyrol, as Italy did not compete in 1975) Young people under the age of 25 can take part, school leavers in dual training courses, already winners of national trials.

There are over sixty categories (the number varies from one edition to another) extended to the world of industry, traditional crafts, communication, transport and logistics, food, wine (including sommeliers), personal services, art-fashion, fashion technology, games and 3D animation, horticulture and landscape gardening, etc., in other words all the activities and trades practised throughout the world.

From the seventies until 1999, *WorldSkills International*, known as *International Vocational Training Organisation* (IVTO) was governed by an international Administration Council under the administration of the WorldSkills Secretariat.

WorldSkills 2017 was held from 15 to 18 October 2017 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. Competitions were held in 51 vocational categories with the participation of almost 1,300 young people. The 45th edition of WorldSkills International was held in Kazan, Russia, from 22 to 27 August 2019. The competitions for 2021 and 2023 have been programmed for China and Lyon, France, respectively.

Young Europeans can also take part in WorldSkills Europe, every two years, but alternating with the international competition.

Edition	Year	Host City	Country	Skills	Countries
<i>As International Vocational Training Organization (IVTO)</i>					
1	1950	Madrid	 Spain		
2	1951	Madrid	 Spain		
3	1953	Madrid	 Spain		
4	1955	Madrid	 Spain		
5	1956	Madrid	 Spain		
6	1957	Madrid	 Spain		
7	1958	Brussels	 Belgium		
8	1959	Modena	 Italy		
9	1960	Barcelona	 Spain		
10	1961	Duisburg	 West Germany		
11	1962	Gijón	 Spain		
12	1963	Dublin	 Ireland		
13	1964	Lisbon	 Portugal		
14	1965	Glasgow	 United Kingdom		
15	1966	Utrecht	 Netherlands		
16	1967	Madrid	 Spain		
17	1968	Bern	 Switzerland		
18	1969	Brussels	 Belgium		
19	1970	Tokyo	 Japan		
20	1971	Gijón	 Spain		
21	1973	Munich	 West Germany		
22	1975	Madrid	 Spain		
23	1977	Utrecht	 Netherlands		
24	1978	Busan	 South Korea		
25	1979	Cork	 Ireland		
26	1981	Atlanta	 United States		
27	1983	Linz	 Austria		
28	1985	Osaka	 Japan		
29	1988	Sydney	 Australia		
30	1989	Birmingham	 United Kingdom		
31	1991	Amsterdam	 Netherlands		
32	1993	Taipei	 Chinese Taipei		
33	1995	Lyon	 France		
34	1997	St. Gallen	 Switzerland		

List of the editions of the International Vocational Training Competitions (IVTO) from 1950 to 1997, which were held annually until 1971, then every two years in the odd-numbered years.  
Cf. WorldSkills in wikipedia.org

<i>As WorldSkills International</i>			
35	1999	Montreal	 Canada
36	2001	Seoul	 South Korea
37	2003	St. Gallen	 Switzerland
38	2005	Helsinki	 Finland
39	2007	Numazu	 Japan
40	2009	Calgary	 Canada
41	2011	London	 United Kingdom
42	2013	Leipzig	 Germany
43	2015	São Paulo	 Brazil
44	2017	Abu Dhabi	 United Arab Emirates
45	2019	Kazan	 Russia
46	2021	Shanghai	 China

Since 1999, the competition has been called WorldSkills International.

The next one has already been programmed for 2021 in Shanghai, China. France, Japan and Switzerland have put forward their candidacy for 2023. The WorldSkills International General Assembly in Kazan, voted for one nation out of three candidates prior to the 2019 competitions. They announced they had chosen France and the WorldSkills International 2023 would be held in the city of Lyon.



List of the nations hosting the Work Olympics from 1950 to 2021.

Country	Competitions hosted
 Spain	11 (1950, 1951, 1953, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1960, 1962, 1967, 1971, 1975)
 Netherlands	3 (1966, 1977, 1991)
 Switzerland	3 (1968, 1997, 2003)
 Japan	3 (1970, 1985, 2007)
 United Kingdom	3 (1985, 1989, 2011)
 Germany	3 (1981, 1973, 2013)
 Belgium	2 (1958, 1989)
 Ireland	2 (1983, 1979)
 South Korea	2 (1978, 2001)
 Canada	2 (1999, 2009)
 Italy	1 (1959)
 Portugal	1 (1964)
 United States	1 (1981)
 Austria	1 (1983)
 Australia	1 (1988)
 Chinese Taipei	1 (1993)
 France	1 (1995)
 Finland	1 (2005)
 Brazil	1 (2015)
 United Arab Emirates	1 (2017)
 Russia	1 (2019)
 China	1 (2021)



In addition to the gold, silver and bronze medals, medals of excellence are expected to be assigned to those contestants who obtain above average marks in the contest areas, and a trophy, the *Albert Vidal Award*, for the absolute best among all the categories competing.



ALBERT VIDAL AWARD is the trophy for the absolute best contestant in WORLDSKILLS INTERNATIONAL. It was named after the Spaniard, Francisco Albert Vidal, who was secretary from 1950 for 33 consecutive years (cf. Chap.1), followed by another seven years as president of the International Organisation of Competitions. In 1992, he was appointed Honorary President of the Organisation. Spain had for many years been the driving force behind the Competitions, but withdrew in 1999. However, it rejoined in 2005.



The WorldSkills International logo is very different from the one created at the beginning of the Olympics, which portrayed a toothed wheel and the globe. The new symbol also remains the same for the national WorldSkills trials, as we see in the 2016 competition in Singapore.

2017 Medal Table

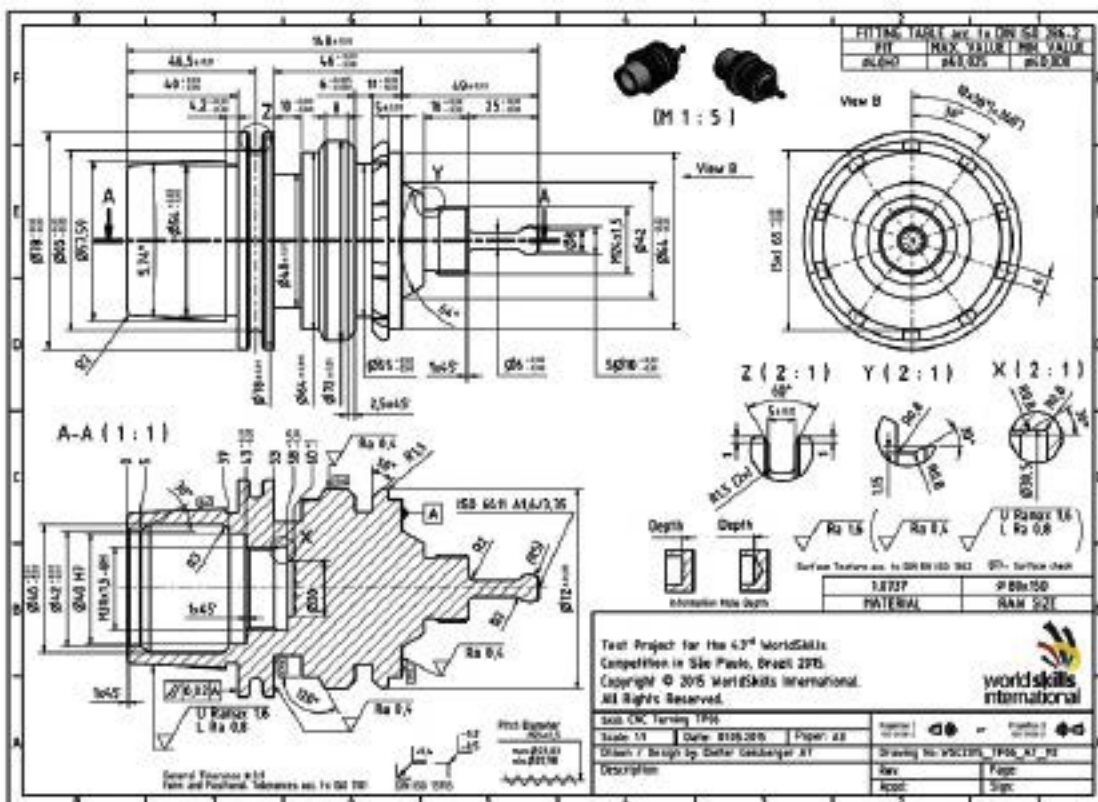
Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	 China (CHN)	15	7	8	30
2	 Switzerland (SUI)	11	6	3	20
3	 South Korea (KOR)	8	8	8	24
4	 Brazil (BRA)	7	5	3	15
5	 Russia (RUS)	6	4	1	11
Totals (5 nations)		47	30	23	100

Source: <https://worldskillsabudhabi2017.com/en/news/results/>

At the 2017 WorldSkills in Abu Dhabi, China topped the Medal Table with 30 medals. Among the European countries, Switzerland was very successful, where 60% of young people aim to achieve excellent vocational training. If we also take into account South Korea's results, we can safely say that the Asian countries beat the rest of the world.



London 2011, 41st edition of WorldSkills International. During the official closing ceremony, the winners took it in turn to step on to the stage with the flags of their own nation. Over 200,000 visitors were recorded during the tests, including bystanders and those interested for their companies in the various categories in the Competition. WorldSkills has increasingly turned into an international showcase where a nation can present its professionalism, and the mass media are taking an increasing interest in updating and reporting the event. In Italy, only sports competitions are treated in the same way. Cf.: <https://www.worldskills.it>



2015, San Paolo (Brazil) - WorldSkills International. The test for Industrial Design assigned to the contestants.







### CAMPEONATOS DE FORMACIÓN PROFESIONAL

EL PRÓXIMO DÍA 10 DE MAYO  
REALIZAREMOS ESTA  
COMPETICIÓN EN 17  
MODALIDADES.

VEN A CONOCER LA F.P.

(abierta para todos)

- Alumnos
- Empresas
- Centros Educativos

Horario de competición:  
09,30 a 16,00 horas.



**ies Virgen de la Paloma**  
Centro Público de F.P.

Advertisement for MadridSkills, the Spanish National Vocational Training Championship in 17 specialities. It was held in the Virgen de la Paloma Institute (cf. Chap. 1).  
<https://www.palomafp.org/>

Section AB-AB

Note :  
- General Tolerance ±0.2

	<b>Mechanical Engineering Design - CAD</b>			
	Scale: 1 : 2	Unit : mm	Designer : Gundul	Sheet : A4 - 32 / 42
	Title : CI Rod Guide		Material : Cast Iron	

Test for Industrial Design in the ASEAN (countries in Southeast Asia) national trials held in Jakarta in 2012.



Logo of the 2017 WorldSkills International in Abu Dhabi.



The board listing the flags of the member countries in alphabetical order shows the flag of South Tyrol (indicated by a yellow arrow), which came to the 1995 WorldSkills Europe followed by the WorldSkills International, thanks to the Association of Crafts of the Autonomous Province of Bolzano. It was successful at the 2013 WorldSkills International in Leipzig: 5 medals and 4 certificates of excellence. In 2014, Piedmont also joined the Organisation, so that same year Bolzano hosted the first WorldSkills Italy, the winners of which took part in WorldSkills Europe in Lille, France. In 2017, Liguria also entered WorldSkills Italy. Gert Lanz, the official delegate for WorldSkills Italy, said: *By taking part in this major event, we can show how exciting practical trades can be for young people.*



The regional competitions in Piedmont are also known as the Trade Olympics. <https://www.worldskills.it>





London 2011. Opening ceremony of WorldSkills International.  
The contestants from South Tyrol parade with the Italian flag and coat of arms of their region.



The South Tyrol team at WorldSkills in Abu Dhabi in 2017.



## WorldSkills Sao Paulo 2015 - graduatoria generale

Member Country	Skills	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	Medallions	Tot. Score	Tot. Medal Points*	Avg Score	Avg Medal Points*	Population (2014)	
Korea		41	13	7	5	14	21767	97	530.90	2.37	25026588
Brazil		50	11	10	6	19	26306	105	526.12	2.10	202033670
China		29	5	6	3	12	15237	56	525.41	1.93	1364270000
Chinese Taipei		39	5	7	5	19	20459	70	524.59	1.79	23162000
Switzerland		38	1	7	5	23	19831	58	521.87	1.53	8190229
South Tyrol,Italy		18	5	1	1	6	9304	31	516.89	1.72	519145
Liechtenstein		9	1	0	1	6	4647	12	516.33	1.33	37194
Austria		31	5	2	1	16	15943	44	514.29	1.42	8534492
Japan		40	5	3	5	14	20534	53	513.35	1.33	127131800
United Kingdom		36	3	3	2	21	18479	46	513.31	1.28	64510376
Ireland		14	2	0	0	8	7158	16	511.29	1.14	4612719
Singapore		20	0	1	2	14	10224	21	511.20	1.05	5469700
Australia		24	0	3	2	11	12255	24	510.63	1.00	23490736
Iran		13	0	0	1	8	6599	10	507.62	0.77	78470222
France		40	2	4	3	18	20256	44	506.40	1.10	66201365
Norway		18	2	0	0	12	9105	20	505.83	1.11	5136475

Medal table for the 2015 WorldSkills in Brazil (first page).

South Tyrol, Italy did very well on the Medal Tables (5 gold, 1 silver, 1 bronze and 6 medallions, competing in 18 specialities and with a population of 519,145 inhabitants).

Korea in first place with a population of 25,026,588 inhabitants competed in 41 trade categories and won 13 gold medals, 7 silver, 5 bronze and 14 medallions.

The Total Medal Scores on the Medal Tables were as follows:

GOLD=4 marks; SILVER=3 marks; BRONZE=2 marks; MEDALLION=1 mark

Norway	18	2	0	0	12	9105	20	505,83	1,11	5136475
Latvia	7	0	0	0	4	3526	4	503,71	0,57	1990351
Germany	37	2	2	1	17	18614	33	503,08	0,89	80889505
Denmark	17	0	1	2	8	8550	15	502,94	0,88	5638665
Malaysia	19	0	0	1	12	9552	14	502,74	0,74	30187896
Canada	27	0	2	3	10	13043	22	501,67	0,81	35540419
Sweden	27	0	2	1	13	13511	21	500,41	0,78	9689555
Finland	31	0	0	1	17	15477	19	499,26	0,61	5483598
Indonesia	30	0	0	1	16	14916	18	497,20	0,60	252812245
Thailand	21	1	0	1	10	10440	16	497,14	0,76	67222972
Colombia	27	0	0	0	12	13419	12	497,00	0,44	48929705
New Zealand	15	0	0	0	5	7453	5	496,87	0,33	4509700
Portugal	16	0	0	0	8	7535	8	495,94	0,50	10387393
Macao, China	15	0	0	0	8	7439	8	495,93	0,33	575481
Hong Kong, China	16	0	0	0	7	7028	7	495,50	0,44	7241700
Netherlands	30	1	0	0	12	14864	16	495,47	0,53	16854183
Vietnam	13	0	0	1	7	6418	9	493,69	0,69	90730000
Hungary	13	1	1	0	3	6413	10	493,46	0,77	9661673

India	27	0	0	0	8	13189	8	488,48	0,30	1267401840
Estonia	7	0	0	0	2	3418	2	488,29	0,29	1313545
Belgium	21	0	0	0	6	10153	6	483,48	0,29	11225207
USA	16	0	0	1	1	7645	3	477,81	0,19	318857056
Luxembourg	3	0	0	0	1	1428	1	476,00	0,33	556074
Russia	30	0	0	0	6	14256	6	475,20	0,20	143819569
Israel	2	0	0	0	0	560	0	475,00	0,00	8215300
Belarus	15	0	0	0	2	7121	2	474,73	0,13	9470000
Morocco	7	0	0	0	0	3315	0	473,57	0,00	3349290
Saudi Arabia	6	0	0	0	1	2819	1	469,83	0,17	29360428
Spain	16	0	0	0	2	7453	2	468,31	0,13	46404602
South Africa	19	0	0	0	1	8963	1	466,47	0,05	54001853
Mongolia	9	0	0	0	0	4123	0	458,11	0,00	2881415
Oman	9	0	0	0	0	4111	0	456,78	0,00	3926492
Georgia	6	0	0	0	0	2707	0	451,17	0,00	4504100
Chile	6	0	0	0	0	2706	0	451,00	0,00	17772871
Kazakhstan	6	0	0	0	0	2682	0	447,00	0,00	17289111
Mexico	12	0	0	0	0	5350	0	445,83	0,00	123798215
United Arab Emirates	22	0	0	0	1	9756	1	443,35	0,05	9445024
Costa Rica	2	0	0	0	0	882	0	441,00	0,00	4937755
Namibia	4	0	0	0	0	1763	0	440,75	0,00	2347998
Turkey	4	0	0	0	0	1733	0	433,25	0,00	75837020

Medal table for the 2015 WorldSkills in Brazil (second and third page).

Many nations did not win a single medal, even though they competed in various specialities, e.g. Belgium in 21, Russia in 30, Spain in 16, South Africa in 19 and the Arab Emirates in 22 specialities.

Cf. <https://worldskills.org>

The opening ceremony for the 2019 Kazan WorldSkills was a major event not only in Russia's history, but also in the history of world competitions. It was an interactive display with different episodes describing man's development as a professional and how he grows from apprentice to maestro, who knows how to pass on his technical know-how, practical knowledge and skills to others. Simon Bartley, president of WorldSkills International, and Robert Urazov, chief executive officer of WSR, took part in the event. Many international experts explained the current, crucial processes in the world of work at various seminars and meetings. They analysed their impact on the necessary, irreplaceable vocational training for young talent and skills to emerge. The specific area of Future Skills was introduced for the first time with 25 areas of expertise to simulate the innovative development of existing professions. Well-equipped stands enabled adolescents to try their hand at a few activities because, as the speakers explained, it is only by getting to know the trades that young people can discover their vocation. WorldSkills International was held at the KAZAN EXPO INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION, in the centre of Kazan. Over 1,300 contestants from 63 countries, under the age of 25, competed in 56 skills. 3,500 voluntary workers and 1,300 full-time and temporary office workers worked there.

The Gold medal for those in first place.  
In previous editions, it was always different,  
chosen and minted by the organising country.  
However, from 1999, it has remained identical  
and bears the WorldSkills International logo.  
<https://worldskills2019.com>



2018, WorldSkills Switzerland. A large crowd watches the National Horticulture and Landscaping Competition, which selected contestants for WorldSkills International in Kazan in 2019.

The number of specialities in the national, European and international Competitions increases year on year. Cf. <https://worldskills.org>





Team Italy's 17 talented youngsters selected for WorldSkills International in Kazan, 15 of whom came from Alto Adige and two from Piedmont. Cf. <https://www.altoadigeinnovazione.it/worldskills-italy-vincitori>

*The world trade championships represent a major investment in the training for young people - said Ivhapa Jasmin Fischnaller, president of the Young Craftsmen in Bolzano -. Even though the other nations have always been on the hunt for medals with increasingly numerous teams and millionaire budgets, our team has been able to achieve exceptional results right from the first edition disputed in 1997. We should be proud of all that.*



22 August 2019 Official opening ceremony of WorldSkills 2019 in the Russian city of Kazan. Spectacular fireworks, a light show and performances of music and dance opened the 2019 Olympics, featuring the motto "Skills Change Lives". South Tyrol won: 1 gold medal, 2 silver, 2 bronze and 7 medallions for excellence. Cf. <https://worldskills.org>



The French President Macron expressed his satisfaction at the news that the 2023 WorldSkills International will be held in the city of Lyon. The poster already advertising the event has corrected the *candidate* city into *selected* city. Cf. <https://worldskills.org>

*We only needed three attempts to get there* - said Michel Guisembert, president of WorldSkills France, who appeared deeply touched at the news of the result of the vote by the General Assembly of WorldSkills International, which chose the candidate city of Lyon to organise the international competition in 2023, identified as a true Olympics of the arts. The French President, Emmanuel Macron, expressed his "pride" in seeing France via Lyon as the host country for the WSI 2023 and repeated his support for the Organising Committee and said: *WorldSkills International and the Lyon project are one of the solutions for those (...) wondering how to respond to the markets regarding the lack of qualified labour.*

