



International Organisation for the promotion of Vocational Training and the International Youth Skill Olympics

Objectives and duties

The objectives of the Organisation are to promote:

- vocational training,
- the free exchange of information on all matters of vocational training,
- the exchange of young skilled workers and their trainers among member countries,
- the social status of skilled workers and vocational training in general.

In order to achieve its objectives the Organisation assumes the following duties:

- holding every two years International Vocational Training Competitions for young skilled workers from member countries,
- exchanging information on educational systems and methods, teaching aids and material, by means of seminars, meetings and analyses,
- contacting other organisations on questions of vocational training,
- exercising public relations activities on matters of vocational training, especially with regard to the training of young people.

Membership

Membership is open to national institutions from all countries provided that they are actively engaged in vocational training and further education and no other institution of the country as yet belongs to the Organisation. The General Assembly decides on exceptions.

Applications for membership must be made to the Secretary-General, for the attention of the General Assembly. They must be accompanied by a brief description of the applicant's sphere of action, and the full acceptance of the Constitution and Standing Orders of the International Organisation.

The entrance fee is a single payment. For institutions of countries with less than 50 million inhabitants it amounts to 7,000.–s.f., for all others to 10,000.–s.f.

Contributions and finance

The Organisation does not seek to make a profit. Its income comes from

- a) annual contributions,
- b) voluntary donations,
- c) the profits made from trade descriptions, analyses or conferences.

The General Assembly determines the annual contribution within the scope of the budget. The calculation for each Member is a function of a fixed module and takes into consideration the number of inhabitants of the member countries, and the number of experts and candidates in the competition, in relation to the total of inhabitants, experts and candidates. The maximum limit corresponds to 100 million inhabitants, the minimum annual contribution is 1,000 s.f.

Governing bodies

The governing bodies of the Organisation are:

- a) the General Assembly
- b) the Standing Commission
- c) the Administrative Committee
- d) the Technical Committee.

Each Member appoints one delegate to the Administrative Committee and one to the Technical Committee. Both Committees make up the General Assembly.

The duties and competences of the governing bodies are fixed in the Constitution and the Standing Orders.

Early history

In 1949 people in charge of vocational training centers in Spain came up with the idea of extending in the future the competitions which were held in their centers. They invited Portugal, in order to assess theoretical and practical skills of Portuguese youngsters of the same age.

In 1950 the first competition between Spain and Portugal took place, 12 candidates of each country participated in as many trades. Full of enthusiasm, the persons in charge dared to invite the diplomatic corps accredited in Madrid to the modest second Iberian Competition. The aim was to call attention to and to promote their own vocational training programme. The breakthrough was immediate, already in 1953 young skilled workers from the Federal Republic of Germany, the United Kingdom, France, Morocco and Switzerland participated in the 1st International Vocational Training Competition.

The constant growth of the International Organisation has been enhanced by the entrance of new Members from other continents.

International Vocational Training Competitions

The following table gives numerical information on the development of the competitions:

	Year	Country and venue	Competitors
1.	1950	Spain (Madrid)	24
2.	1952	Spain (Madrid)	16
3.	1953	Spain (Madrid)	65
4.	1954	Spain (Madrid)	83
5.	1956	Spain (Madrid)	88
6.	1957	Spain (Madrid)	128
7.	1958	Belgium (Brussels)	144
8.	1959	Italy (Modena)	150
9.	1960	Spain (Barcelona)	173
10.	1961	Fed. Rep. of Germany (Duisburg)	193
11.	1962	Spain (Gijón)	156
12.	1963	Republic of Ireland (Dublin)	257
13.	1964	Portugal (Lisbon)	198
14.	1965	United Kingdom (Glasgow)	200
15.	1966	Netherlands (Utrecht)	221
16.	1967	Spain (Madrid)	233
17.	1968	Switzerland (Bern)	256
18.	1969	Belgium (Brussels)	256
19.	1970	Japan (Tokio)	274
20.	1971	Spain (Gijón)	271
21.	1973	Fed. Rep. of Germany (Munich)	285
22.	1975	Spain (Madrid)	290
23.	1977	Netherlands (Utrecht)	278
24.	1978	Republic of Korea (Busan)	285
25.	1979	Republic of Ireland (Cork)	290
26.	1981	United States of America (Atlanta)	268
27.	1983	Austria (Linz)	316
28.	1985	Japan (Osaka)	307
29.	1988	Australia (Sydney)	354
30.	1989	United Kingdom (Birmingham)	
31.	1991	Netherlands	
32.	1993	Republic of China	
			Total 6059

More than a fight for medals

Participating in an International Vocational Training Competition is an unforgettable experience for everyone. The aim of any young competitor is, of course, to be a winner. A visible recognition of effort and skill is appreciated in all countries.

Nevertheless, conversations, contacts and exchange of experience among the international participants are by no means less important. A lifetime friendship can develop between people of all ages. Besides, everybody learns that hard work and constant effort lead to achieving the goal; that only real efficiency brings personal satisfaction.

The competition offers the possibility of understanding and appreciating a foreign country and its inhabitants. It is well known that the competitions are also an opportunity for creating economic contacts.

Finally, the possible feedback on one's own vocational training system is of special interest. Anybody who watches skilled persons from different continents at work, will immediately notice which are the differences in the working techniques and processes, and that there are even important differences in the way they use tools or machines.

The idea of friendly contests between young skilled workers from the whole world has won recognition. Nowadays, when effort is regarded by many youngsters as a burden, these spontaneous contacts on an international level are especially valuable.

International list of competition trades

- ✓ 1. Fitting
- ✓ 2. Press tool making
- ✓ 3. Instrument making
4. Watch making
- ✓ 5. Engineering drawing / CAD
- ✓ 6. Turning
- ✓ 7. Milling
8. Constructional steel work
- ✓ 9. Gas welding
- ✓ 10. Electric welding
11. Wood patternmaking
12. Roofing
13. Panel beating
14. Sheetmetal work
15. Plumbing
- ✓ 16. Industrial electronics
17. Consumer electronics
18. Commercial wiring
- ✓ 19. Industrial wiring
- ✓ 20. Bricklaying
21. Stonemasonry
22. Painting and decorating
23. Plastering
24. Cabinetmaking
25. Joinery
- ✓ 26. Carpentry
27. Jewellery
28. Tailoring
29. Ladies' hairdressing
30. Men's hairdressing
31. Ladies' dressmaking
- ✓ 32. CNC machining
- ✓ 33. Automotive mechanics
34. Cookery
35. Waiting
36. Graphic arts
37. Agricultural machines

Subject to change

Admission of Members into the Organisation

- 1950: Spain*
- Portugal
- 1953: Federal Republic of Germany
- United Kingdom
- Switzerland
- France
- Morocco*
- 1954: Belgium*
- 1956: Italy*
- 1957: Republic of Ireland
- 1958: Luxembourg
- 1961: Austria
- 1962: Japan
- Netherlands
- 1963: Denmark*
- 1967: Corea
- 1968: Principality of Liechtenstein
- Malta*
- 1970: Republic of China
- 1975: United States of America
- Iran*
- 1981: Australia
- 1983: Brazil
- Venezuela*
- 1985: Macao
- Bermuda
- New Zealand
- 1987: Papua New Guinea
- 1988: Finland

* Not active at present.

There are contacts with other countries interested.