

**The International
Youth Skills Competition for
World Class Skills Standards**

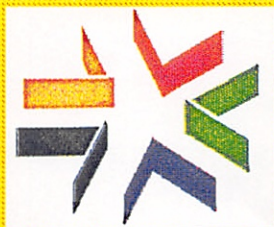
Dear reader

The General Assembly in October will deal with interesting, innovative themes and decisions. Moreover, in his comments Mr Beuk underlines various goals which are to be accomplished.

The President of AROM concluded his report on the 33rd Skill Olympics and we are publishing an extract of the original text which contains suggestions, does not shrink from fault finding and self-criticism and may give new incentive to other Members although the summary is, obviously, subjective.

St. Gallen is busy preparing the 34th Skills Competition and will provide all corresponding documents in October. In Montreal preparations have started for 1999 and in Seoul for the year 2001. The IVTO looks forward to a great future!

Our common goal for 1997!



**34th International Competition:
26.6. - 10.7. 1997**

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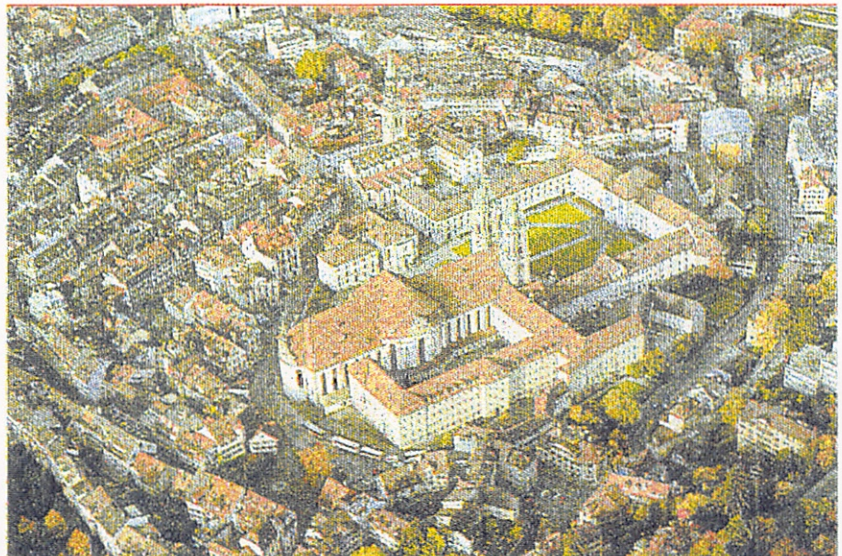
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International Vocational Training Organisation

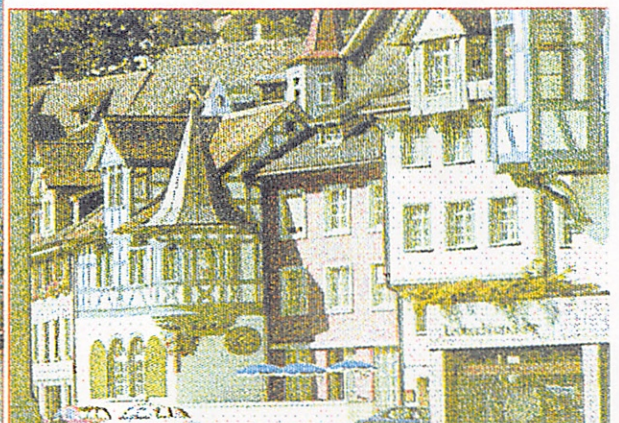
Next year in St. Gallen

The 34th IVTC is just around the corner, preparations are moving full steam ahead. St. Gallen is situated just one hour's ride from the international Zurich/Kloten airport in the "four-country-corner" of Germany-Austria-Principality of Liechtenstein -Switzer-

land. St. Gallen, with some 70'000 inhabitants, is the seventh largest town of Switzerland. 61% of the population are employed in services, 38% in industry and trade and 1% in agriculture. The town was founded in 612 by the Irish monk Gallus.



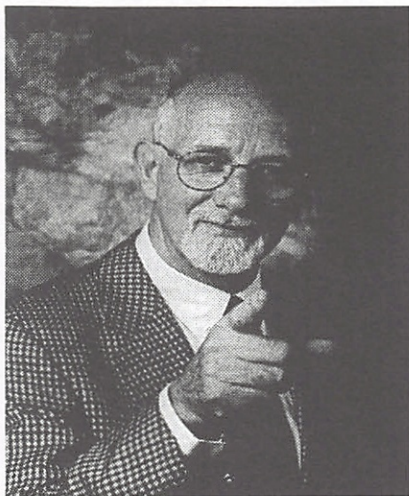
The centre of St. Gallen is the monastery which today is the bishoprie and the seat of the Government.



Future and tradition live together in harmony. Today's St. Gallen is a place of cultural interest, with a municipal theatre and its own orchestra, numerous museums and art galleries and the Abbey Library known throughout the world. The St. Gallen university for economics, law and

social sciences has an excellent reputation. In addition, vocational training is promoted and the restaurant industry is represented with beautiful hotels and numerous speciality restaurants. Visitors can also enjoy the surroundings and the alpine mountain range.

Comment of the President



Cees Beuk, President IVTO

The IVTO gives new incentive to Members

There is no doubt among IVTO Members that an International Skills Competition stimulates vocational training in their own country.

Firstly, the experts in the various trades not only thoroughly prepare themselves and usually establish close contacts with other specialists in their own country, but they also benefit from an exchange of information and experience with their colleagues from Member countries. The newly acquired knowledge is reflected in the technical descriptions which are available to all interested parties throughout the world.

Secondly, our young people exchange ideas and experiences, at the Competition as well as with youngsters in their own country. They discuss working techniques, tools and machines and although they may not always approve of all proceedings, the exchange of experience can only be a step forward. After all, one can also learn a lesson from one's own mistakes.

Thirdly, as juries and authorities in their trades, the Technical Delegates establish close contact with each other. They analyse, assess and value the competitors' performance and draw their conclusions, thus benefitting themselves, their trade sector and their country. If things did not work that

way, we would not be able to identify, from one Competition to the next, innovations, improvements and changes in the list of ranking of the various trades.

We must not forget the Official Delegates and numerous observers who acquire new ideas at the Competition, discuss and analyse these with their friends and, in one way or another, put them into practice on their return home.

The knowledge gained at the Competitions is trend-setting. Nevertheless, we wish to do even more and expand and improve the concept of the traditional General Assembly, thereby encouraging an exchange of experience which may lead to new motivation. This fully agrees with our new Constitution which states in article 2.2:

"To achieve its mission the Organisation conducts the International Youth Skills Competition every odd year, and also:

- promotes the exchange of ideas and experience in vocational training through seminars, meetings and competitions
- disseminates information on world class standards of competence
- motivates young people to pursue further education and training relevant to their careers
- facilitates communication and contacts between vocational training organisations around the world
- encourages the exchange of young professionals among the Members
- promotes and markets the mission and goals of the Organisation."

These are also the guidelines for the preparations of the General Assembly meeting to take place in South Africa in October 1996. The papers which have already been circulated to the delegates show that a conference will be held immediately after the General Assembly, with the aim of achieving an exchange of information between delegates and guests on vocational training, e.g. its systems, future possibilities and experiences gained. The congress is open and accessible to everybody interested in vocational training and further training.

The lectures will also deal with the image of vocational training and with concrete problems existing in South Africa. Collaboration with UNESCO

is also a goal, as we can benefit from the organisation's experience and gain fresh impetus for everyday life in our country. Our friends in South Africa have promised to invite the UNESCO countries to the conference, in particular those collaborating with the UNEVOC projects.

I am convinced that this procedure will be a step in the right direction and I look forward to welcoming all Members, delegates and guests to the conference.



Meetings in South Africa

Saturday 5 October 1996

Arrival of members of the Executive Board and Technical Delegates

Sunday 6 October 1996

09:00 - 12:30; Meeting of the Executive Board
14:00 - 18:00; Technical Committee meeting

Monday 7 October 1996

09:00 - 17:00; Technical Committee meeting
Arrival of the Official Delegates

Tuesday 8 October 1996

09:00 - 11:00; Technical Committee meeting
11:15 - 13:15; Administr. Committee meeting
14:30 - 16:30; Administr. Committee meeting
17:00 - 19:00; Meeting of the Executive Board

Wednesday 9 October 1996

09:00 - 13:00; General Assembly meeting
15:00 ; Executive Board meeting
15:00 ; Excursion for all Delegates

Thursday/Friday 10/11 October 1996

Congress

Saturday 12 October 1996

Departure or special individual programme as proposed by SA



New Zealand

At the invitation of our Member, IVTO President *Cees Beuk* visited New Zealand for almost four weeks. He gave lectures at twelve locations and in seventeen technical colleges, visited organisation managers, discussed matters such as training qualifications and vocational training trends with young people and trainers; conversations were focused on the human aspect of vocational training.

He had conversations with the Prime Minister and the Minister of Education, and various television and radio interviews gave him the opportunity of promoting public relations with regard to NZ and the IVTO.

Various newspaper reports emphasised that the exchange of experience was valuable and highly appreciated by all concerned. It was mentioned that the discussions encouraged people in their everyday work.

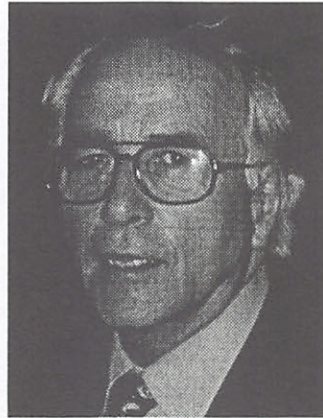


The visit also gave Mr Beuk the opportunity of saying goodbye to *Kenneth John Bragwynne* and awarding the former Technical Delegate and IVTO friend the Honorary Membership of our Organisation (see picture).

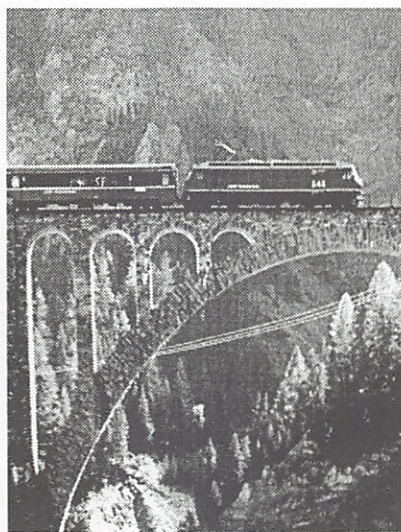
Malaysia

New York can boast the World Trade Center and Chicago the Sears Tower, but Kuala Lumpur will construct even higher. On land which was formerly used for horse races, the construction of the Petronas Twin Towers will soon be concluded and the towers will be seven metres higher than the current tallest building of the world.

Switzerland



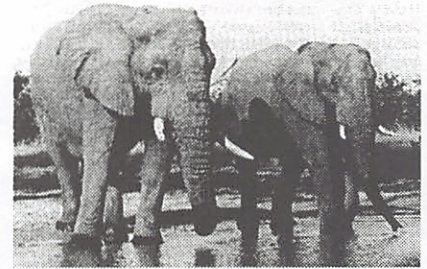
On 1 June 1996, *Dr. Armin Mühlematter* started to work full-time for the International Skills Competition in St. Gallen. He requested early retirement and has now sufficient time available to tackle all pertinent tasks, in liaison with a highly motivated team. Recently, a group of youngsters from Japan took a look at the location which is to be the venue in June/July 1997.



Due to its geographical position, Switzerland has many interesting bridges. In a similar way, the 1997 IVTC shall serve as a bridge between Members and Nations.

South Africa

In addition to the programme for the conference and the IVTO meetings, information on the various excursions was circulated to all delegates. All those not acquainted with the country should seize this opportunity; those knowing it, will certainly do so.

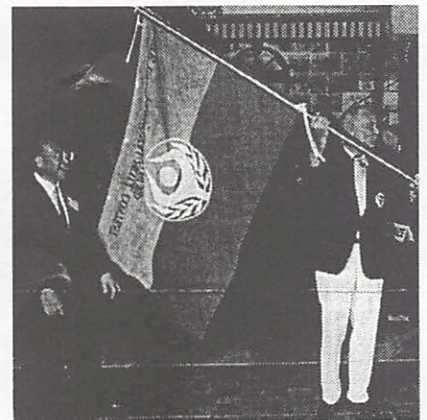


Australia

The International Ability Federation organised the 4th International Skills Competition for the Disabled in Perth, Australia. Over 1000 competitors from 32 countries participated.

The 5th Skills Competition will be held in Vienna or Salzburg in 1999 or 2000.

There will be mutual contacts on how to achieve a possible means of cooperation. The IVTO Competition Rules which have been circulated to the Members, contain a paragraph concerning cooperation with disabled persons. Primarily it is stated that disabled persons may participate in our competitions as long as their impediment does not prevent them from carrying out the test projects. Facilities at the workplaces and of an organisational nature will be provided.



IAF President Mr Kozo Okabe during the competitors' entry in Perth. The Competition will be held in Austria.

Austria

As with Switzerland, the number of apprentices and firms where apprentices are trained, has fallen some 15% since the beginning of 1990. On the other hand, the number of students is growing.

USA

The Skills Competition of the United States of America, the largest Skills Competition in the world, took place in Kansas City on 27 June 1996. Kansas City, situated in the heart of America, accommodated over 3600 young people who participated in 57 competition trades.



The project was started in 1967 by the "Vocational Industrial Clubs of America", VICA, under the name "United States Skills Olympics". In 1994 the name was changed to "Skills USA Championships".

Australia

Our Honorary Member and former Technical Delegate from Australia,



Bryan Jones, was awarded the O.A.M. (Medal in General Division) on the occasion of the Queen of England's birthday. The medal was awarded in appreciation of Mr Jones' outstanding collaboration on the educational reform of industrial trades and the promotion of vocational training for young people in Australia. Our congratulations on this major award!

Tunisia

Tunisia presented the documents for admittance to our Organisation. The General Assembly will take a decision in October.

Summary of the 33rd Skills Competition Lyon 1995



33èmes OLYMPIADES
DES MÉTIERS

I. Report from the President of AROM

Objectives

- to organise the 33rd Skills Competition and successfully tackle all logistic aspects of the event;
- to make the Skills Competition a trade show-case for the public.
- By adopting major safety measures, it provided an excellent opportunity for an encounter between the little known trades and the general public - 200'000 persons (young people, parents trainers, businessmen, politicians).
- Involvement of partners, trade organisation, Compagnons du Devoir and companies, state and regional institutions.
- Involvement of the media and specialised press.
- Involvement of the AROM staff, experts and workshop supervisors to successfully develop tests.
- Presence of numerous personalities, in particular the President of the Republic, *Jacques CHIRAC*.

Lessons to be learned from this experience

- The procedure must be developed so that it adapts to the nature and the growing importance of the event. A deep reflection concerning the structure.
- More compliance with regulations is necessary, plus precision of the checklist and compliance with the rules therein mentioned, acknowledgement of the responsibilities of the people involved, major coordination of the Technical Delegates, control of the international delegations through the International Organisation and the local Organising Committee.
- The success of the 33rd Skills Competition encourages us to continue our efforts in order to ensure the diffusion of information, draw people's attention to trades and demonstrate trades and skills performance.

II. Summary by numbers

Under the patronage of Mr *Jacques CHIRAC* - President of the Republic, a superb show-case of skills performance opened by: Mr *Charles MILLON* - Mini-

ster of Defense and Mr *Jacques BARROT* - Minister of Labour, Social Dialogue and Participation and visited by: Mrs *Anne Marie COUDERC* - Undersecretary of State for Employment and Mr *Raymond BARRE* - Mayor of Lyon

- 28 countries represented
- 517 competitors
- 459 experts and
- 400 international collaborators
- 41 trades occupying an area of 32.800 m²
- 200'000 visitors, attended by
- 3'000 young volunteers from technical colleges
- 10 official partners and
- 30 official suppliers
- 70 million FF in equipment
- 118 medals: gold, silver and bronze
- 28 certificates for the best of each nation
- 146 honorary certificates
- Budget: 28 million FF

The various events:

- National start in December 1994 at the Paris Senate.
- A press conference in August 1995 in Chamonix to present the French team.
- A press conference in the Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie in la Villette, Paris, in September 1995.
- Opening ceremony on 11 October in the Tony Garnier Hall in Lyon: More than 9'000 persons.
- Closing ceremony and awarding of medals on 18 October in the Astroballe Hall in Lyon.

III. Overall programme

15 days, from 5 to 18 October 1995, during which the various participants were received and the test projects and workstations prepared; the Skills Competition was held and the assessments were made following the experiences gained at the Taiwan Competition and confirmed at the 1994 Committee meeting in Gibraltar.

All major equipment was delivered and installed in just 4 days and 3 nights in order to keep the rental fee for the hall as low as possible.

The experts, who under this arrangement were given the opportunity of preparing the

test projects using an authentic workshop layout, complained about the noise and disturbances caused by the installation works.

The official receptions were highly valued.

IV. Accommodation and logistics

Delegates' accommodation was satisfactory. At the request of the IVTO, the hotels were booked so that direct contact and the risk of passing information on test projects were avoided. Trilingual hostesses were present at every hotel in the morning and evening.

The transport logistics involved some 400 vehicles to shuttle the participants between the hotels, the EUREXPO Hall and the various public events.

These logistics and the daily information given to participants on the time schedule and transportation available, were the areas where most problems arose:

- belated recruitment of a person in charge of logistics
- numerous errors committed by the transport company
- daily presence of some 200 international participants who had not been officially registered.

Meals: The French meals did not always agree with the cultural and religious customs of our participants, which sometimes gave rise to delicate situations (cooking of fish in the hotel rooms at night). The food requirements for the various delegations should have been better defined.

V. Registrations

1'200 persons were officially registered, their badge permitting them access to transportation, the EUREXPO Hall, the workshops, receptions and restaurants. This list was presented to the security officers for the corresponding control.

The system was negatively affected by the unexpected presence of numerous observers and persons accompanying the delegations.

VI. Visitors

Over 200'000 visitors were counted. Never before had so many persons visited a Skills Competition.

There are various reasons for this:

- The Competition was held during the school term.
- Close cooperation with the Ministry of Education which allowed students to take leave of absence for the Competition; and internal information distributed by the CIO (Centres d'Information et d'Orientation).

- Extended press coverage
- Simultaneous holding of the Competition/ *Métiers en Scène*
- Free transport for the vocational training students in the region.

During the visit, excellent skills performance was exhibited which captured the public's attention. The various participants in the Competition and the "*Métiers en Scène*" exhibition felt involved as their work was appreciated.

Information on trades and the running of the Competition was offered by more than 3'000 young people who, accompanied by their teachers, informed the public at the various workplaces on every trade.



VII. Safety/security

The setting up of adequate safety and security measures was a considerable task which was carried out on three levels, in liaison with the national administration.

- Medical care was ensured by SOS médecins, SAMU and 75 first-aid attendants.
- Safety measures for the competitors were in force during the assembly/disassembly of the installations and the reception of workplaces, workshops and dangerous machines, following the guidelines of the international experts, the demands of the safety commission at the venue and the rules drawn up previously.
- The security of the registered persons and the general public turned out to be difficult due to the application of the control plan. The severe controls resulting from the visits of public figures caused some delay in commencing competition work.

VIII. Technical organisation

The technical organisation of an International Skills Competition is set out in a checklist provided by the IVTO. The operational organisation (layout, selection of technical means, preparation and distribution of workshops) is the organising country's responsibility.

In June 1994, France presented to the IVTO Technical Committee through AROM a detailed organisation plan which was agreed at the last meeting in Lyon in March 1995.

The complete technical preparatory programme and most technical studies were done internally.

The supply of machine tools for wood work was ensured by the Guillet company which was ready to lend all machines necessary for carrying out the test projects.

The supply of machines for metal work was more difficult, due to the present situation of this sector in France and the fact that AROM was not able to accept the proposals made by Taiwan vis-à-vis the French companies.

The overall technical coordination of supplies, technical installations, maintenance, etc. was done internally in liaison with the partners, suppliers and loan companies under the control of the regional Labour Department.

IX. Space occupied and restrictions

At the start, a total area of 20'000 m² seemed sufficient. After studying the overall layout and determining the space necessary for the Competition, the pertinent exhibitions and the organisation of the "*Métiers en Scène*" exhibition (40'000 m²), AROM proposed to its directors the use of the EUREXPO Hall. For safety reasons, the car painting workshop was prepared by a specialised school.

X. Test project selection and supply

During the preparations of the Competition, the technical demands concerning choice of machines, equipment installations and material for the workplaces grew constantly.

For the next Competition, the assessment by the IVTO of the real and exact requirements (both with regard to quality and quantity) will be necessary in order to better adapt the installations to actual needs, limit unnecessary costs and avoid tension.

A lot of waste could be avoided if the equipment, the material available and the test project demands were adjusted to each other.

The selection of test projects creates conflict among the experts. The use of the English language is necessary.

XI. Simultaneous "*Métiers en Scène*"

The simultaneous organisation of the Competition and the "*Métiers en Scène*" exhibition decided upon by the State and the Region was aimed at showing the youngsters and their parents the trades via the demonstration of skills performance and providing information on vocational training and the corresponding subjects.

This joint organisation worked perfectly and the interest of the general public was evidenced by the numerous visitors.

The problem is the divergence in the financial system of both events, one of which works with m2 and the other with entrance tickets. These two systems are hardly compatible at a venue.

XII. Relations with EUREXPO

Due to the space required and the technical infrastructure necessary, the 33rd Skills Competition could only be held at the EUREXPO Hall.

The greatest difficulties arising from this choice were:

- transportation of participants and visitors to the site which is located far from the city centre and lacking in any public transport services.

- The expense of the EUREXPO Hall (rent depending on m2 occupied and water and electricity used) did not correspond to a Competition of this kind and weighed heavily on the budget.

XIII. Opening and closing ceremony

The opening ceremony was to honour vocational and technical training and thus the young competitors and experts from all over the world were received with ceremony.

It was a very special event organised in the Tony Garnier Hall by the International Commission of the Region for the delegations and was greatly appreciated.

A great many television channels were present, thus ensuring international coverage.

The closing ceremony to honour the competitors and award the medals, took place in the Astroballe Hall, in the presence of *Mr Beuk* and numerous special guests and partners, and was a joyous occasion, in spite of some organisational problems.

Problems and delays accumulated due to non-observance of the security measures which had been set up during the previous weeks (controlling plan, works near the site). The protocol for handing out the medals was changed to the detriment of certain personalities. The holding of a final friendship party was discarded by the organisers and disapproved of by the French Committee of the Competition.

XIV. PR-work

The PR-work, which was aimed at informing the general public extensively about the event, was carried out with tenacity by the "Michèle NEYRET Communication" Agency.

AROM's limited budget was adhered to in spite of the increase in the magnitude of the event and the growing interest shown by the media during the last weeks. Many brochures, posters and press reports had to be re-printed urgently in order to meet the demand.

The PR-reaction to the media was difficult, as the cool interest shown by the journalists at the start changed dramatically to enthusiasm in September 1995.

XV. Partnership

The legal partnership system allowed us to bring together partners and suppliers immediately after the national selections in February 1993. The constant efforts made led to an extension of the group, with the aim of ensuring French industry a privileged position.

The creation of a graphic chart was the subject of a national competition for the vocational training students. This chart which belongs to AROM was made available to the partners under strict legal conditions. Every contribution from a partner was linked to return services which allowed the partners to actively participate in the Competition and to have exclusive rights in their area.

The economic trend was not favourable for the partnership system, but by loaning such a great amount of equipment, machines and tools, the Competition could be run as usual.

XVI. Relations with the French

Organising Committee and the IVTO
The French Organising Committee (CO.F.O.M.) delegated the organisation of the 33rd Skills Competition to the State and the Region, which put AROM in charge.

The CO.F.O.M. signed various agreements with AROM concerning the terms of collaboration, and AROM informed the State on the progress reached in the preparations.

In an effort to achieve a relationship which would serve their common goals, a close cooperation started between AROM and the CO.F.O.M., in particular concerning PR-work and marketing. AROM also complied largely with the technical requests and proposals from the experts of the CO.F.O.M. Technical Committee.

Relations with the IVTO were limited to a series of work sessions which allowed AROM to determine details of the organisation of the 33rd Skills Competition, in particular with regard to equipment and machines. A few meetings to settle details

during the last months would have made it possible to consolidate the technical and logistic organisation and determine the best way of passing-on practical information to the delegations.

XVII. Relationship between State and Region

It was AROM's task to work for both founding bodies. The long reports exchanged give evidence of the interest of both the State and the Region in the venture and of the political importance given to vocational training.

Conclusion

The team feels that the essential objectives were achieved in spite of a constant and major evolution of events.

Nevertheless, a feeling of bitterness remains arising from the non compliance with the checklist which was the basis of the collaboration with the International Organisation.

This also refers to the international delegates who, after the closing ceremony, were not able to gather together as usual, in order to see each other for a last time before returning home.

AROM committed the error of maintaining at all costs a small team for an enormous task which included logistics, PR-work and administrative work. In this context it would have been necessary for everybody to acknowledge the enormous scope the 33rd Skills Competition was going to assume.

It was, nevertheless, a great event for France and particularly for the young skilled people who dominated the international stage during the time of the Competition.

We herewith wish to heartily thank the International Organisation (IVTO) and all Member countries for giving France the opportunity of experiencing this great event which was extremely interesting for the young people and the trades.

The French Organising Committee for the Skills Competition (Extract from the AROM report)

Last minute news:

Both Delegates from Gibraltar announced that for financial reasons Gibraltar is to be inactive.

Mr *Won Bok LEE* is taking over as Technical Delegate from Korea, succeeding Mr *Zae-Zung KIM*; and Mr *Shigeru NODA*, Japan, will be succeeded by *Dr. Hironobu NAKANO*. We will take these matters up again.