



Press release

**12 to 15 October 1995 :  
France is hosting  
the 33rd Youth Skills Olympics**

More than 500 competitors from a total of 33 different countries will be taking part in the 33rd "Youth Skills Olympics" which will be held in Lyon between 5 and 18 October of this year. This is a competition of professional excellence and simultaneously a self-styled "Universal Exhibition" for young craftsmen and women. 200,000 people are expected to visit this event. The competing participants will represent 42 professions relating to the fields of construction, metal working, consumer goods and services, catering, electronics, information technology etc.

**24 hours to complete a top quality task**

The competitors, all younger than 22 years of age, are either completing their training or have between two and three years of experience. Under the watchful eye of the judges (project leaders, trainers, company managers...) they will spend 24 hours spread over 4 days, the 12th, 13th, 14th and 15th of October, performing professional tasks which require a minimum of 5 to 7 years' experience : repairing damaged car doors or bonnets (panel beating), identifying and repairing faults in television sets (consumer electronics), producing metal parts by hand and using digitally controlled CNC equipment (machining and milling), etc.

**Discovering 42 trades and professions, true to life and fully operational**

Beyond the competition itself, the 33rd Youth Skills Olympics offer a magnificent opportunity to discover a world of professional skills. Between the 12th and 15th of October, the dates of the actual competition, the public will be able to watch the 536 candidates at work and benefit from the commentaries of experts who will explain what the competitors are doing and point out the problems posed by the tasks. Information on the markets and training specific to these various professions will also be available.

This original recipe which combines competition and information is growing in popularity. This year the 500 competitor barrier will be broken for the first time and five new countries will be represented: South Africa, Macao, Singapore and Thailand. Finally, professions in the electronics and electrical industries and the world of information technology will be introduced into the official competition for the first time.

#### **France : a force to be reckoned with in the construction world**

France, which is organizing this event for the first time, gained 4th place at the Taiwan Youth Skills Olympics (1993), winning 20 medals. This year, it will be providing 41 competitors drawn from every part of the country and hopes to shine in its favourite field, construction, in particular in the areas of stone carving and plaster work.