

# The Value of Membership in WorldSkills International (WSI)

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## Introduction

In WorldSkills International (WSI) 60 plus years in operation it is important to reflect on its past and the reason that it has experienced significant growth in Members and Partners. WSI has done the research and talked to Members about what their biggest benefits are by being a Member of WSI. It is all captured in this document along with first hand statements to better explain what opportunities WSI offers to its 61 Member countries/regions and nine Global Industry Partners.

For a complete description of the history, structure and activities of WSI, please refer to the website: [www.worldskills.org](http://www.worldskills.org).

As with membership in any organization, the value of belonging to WSI is inevitably proportional to the degree of participation and involvement in the activities and forums provided. However, for those who choose to make use of the full range of benefits offered, the value of WSI is indeed impressive.

## WorldSkills International provides Members with the opportunity:

1. to compare the skills being taught in your country/region against the highest global benchmark set by countries/regions with the most advanced skilled levels in 45 skills areas
2. for Experts from their countries/regions to not only obtain the benchmarks, but also to help set the global benchmarks by participating in Expert discussions
3. for young skilled professionals in Member countries/regions to test their “real world” skills against the most highly skilled Competitors in the world by participating in the unique **WorldSkills Competition** every 2 years
4. to benefit from permission to use the state of the art “Competition Information System” and the ongoing updates and technical support
5. to benefit from the investment made by WSI Members to develop new skills competitions (Mobile Robotics; Aircraft Maintenance; etc...)
6. to provide Experts and young professionals with the opportunity to gain international experience by participating in the national competitions of other Member countries/regions
7. to use the **WorldSkills Premiere Experience** program available during the WorldSkills Competitions to educate, their own senior leaders in the political, industrial, educational and labour constituencies, about the vital importance of skills
8. to offer all the young skilled professionals in their countries/regions the proven motivation to excel from the possibility of winning a medal at the international level and the prestige associated with it
9. for Members to personally meet senior managers in the skills training institutions of some 58 Members of WSI (*see Appendix A*) and to benefit from their knowledge and advice in a friendly collegial environment
10. to hear from some of the leading thinkers in the field of skills training by participating in the annual **WorldSkills Leaders Forum**
11. for personal development by Experts and Delegates from participating in a dynamic global multicultural environment
12. for young professionals of Member countries/regions to develop through participation in the Competitions a network of friends and contacts from around the world in their field of expertise that allows them to pursue opportunities for employment and further personal development
13. to help to build the **WorldSkills Brand** for skills excellence which in turn helps them in promoting skills in their own countries/regions by showing the huge value now being attached with worldwide technical and vocational skills
14. to benefit directly from the huge investment in skills development by many Members who host the Competitions every two years and contribute to many other elements of the intellectual property of WSI

15. to enhance the career opportunities of their young professional and the image of their own training establishments by featuring their best skilled Champions on the **WorldSkills Portal**
16. to keep abreast of developments in the world of skills training from receiving the **WorldSkills e-Newsletter** regularly
17. to learn from other Members and share best practices in terms of national programs used in different countries to promote and develop skills
18. to benefit from the analysis done by WSI of various skills issues
19. to access all the intellectual property compiled and produced by WSI
20. to be able to connect with local branches of global corporations represented by WSI's Global Industry Partners
21. to give the young professionals of your country/region a voice by participating in the **WorldSkills Youth Forum**, held every non-Competition year

## WorldSkills International Members testimonials

Often the best way to understand the value of an organization is to document the first hand experience of WSI Members and the benefits they have gained.

“As the Canadian Member organization to WorldSkills International, Skills/Competences Canada is fortunate to liaise with trade and technology industry experts from around the world. The Skills Movement in Canada will be enhanced through globalized alliances which emphasize the importance and value of these careers to youth. By hosting the WorldSkills Competition in Canada, our youth, educators and industry partners will see firsthand that careers in trades and technology are valued, respected and critical to both economic and social prosperity not only in Canada but in the entire global marketplace.”

*Terry Cooke, Official Delegate for Canada*

“Why WorldSkills France is a proud Member of WorldSkills International:

- to network on a worldwide scale with other organizations that share our goals and interests: the promotion of youth and skills
- to use the Competition as a tool for assessing technical performances whilst developing a human and fraternal spirit on a global level
- the use of the global WorldSkills brand makes it easier to attract new sponsors to help us discover new techniques and products to further enhance the overall performance of skills”

*Yvan Valentinuzzi, CEO WorldSkills France*

The WorldSkills Competition represents the pinnacle of skills excellence.

As a Member of WSI since 1993, and having participated in eight WorldSkills Competitions to date, it has helped Singapore to raise the image of technical education. With a newer range of skills represented, the learning opportunities for youths and global benchmarking of skills standards, the Competition has certainly raised the stature of skilled professions. For our Competitors, the WorldSkills experience is a life-changing one. Many produced their personal best results in the face of intense international competition, and a number of them have gone on to do very well in their careers.

*ITE, Singapore*

## Global Industry Partners testimonial

Here is a collective quote from our 10 Global Industry Partners:

“As Global Partners we are already individually involved in education and training initiatives in our various markets. This affords us the opportunity to get feedback from our customers, industry partners, associations, labour organizations and educators on what is needed in workplace skills. It also allows us to provide feedback to government and education on industry trends, practices and technology that might impact curriculum and the facilities and equipment needed. And what we are seeing is a gap between the traditional skills and those that are needed today.

There is a transformation happening in the traditional skills and a development of many new skills plus the merging of the two together. Then there are developing countries and the emerging markets such as China, India and Eastern Europe. They are a unique challenge since the technologies and infrastructure being deployed often leapfrogs the current mainstream technologies and requires new skill sets, training personnel and locally trained workers.

Many of the skill sets and types of workers needed are also influenced by corporate productivity, sustainability and investment goals and the need to think lean, green and have a “team” approach. This is also creating a global problem that goes beyond just skilled labour shortages and the right training from traditional college programs. It is not only an issue of bringing fresh young workers into the job market, but retraining and ‘reskilling’ the current workforce as well, who are often not ready for the new way of doing things.

Collectively, as Global Partners, we see WorldSkills International as our so-called – portal - into the world that is establishing a value for skills as the global currency, and building the international skilled workforce with many of the traits mentioned. We can have a much greater impact through the development of best practices and standards that can be leveraged around the world in all industry sectors. Our future economic health is dependent on the skilled workforce and that’s why we are here: simply put, there is no economy without skilled workers.”

*WorldSkills International Global Industry Partners*