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An Invitation to the Media on 7 August 2009

Ready to Shine for Singapore *Nineteen Medal Hopefuls Gear Up for WorldSkills Competition in Canada*

Nineteen young Singaporeans are in the final lap of their intense preparations for the ultimate challenge in technical skills – the 40th WorldSkills Competition (WSC), which will take place in Calgary, Canada, from 1 to 7 September 2009.

Battle of the Best

2 The biennial Competition, widely-billed as the “Olympics of Skills”, will see more than 900 competitors from 51 countries pitting their talents against one another in 45 skills areas. Team Singapore, which comprises 19 competitors from ITE, Singapore Polytechnic, Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Temasek Polytechnic and Nanyang Polytechnic, will compete in 16 skills areas at the WSC (see **Annex A** for the list of competitors and skills areas). Singapore’s representatives hail from the crop of top Medal winners from the 2008 WorldSkills Singapore competition.

3 For Team Singapore to battle it out on the world stage, ITE, leader of the Singapore contingent, has arranged for the competitors to undergo a five-day Lee Foundation Peak Performance Training Camp. It will culminate on 7 August 2009 with an **Interaction Session**, where Mr Bob Tan, Chairman/ITE, will meet with members of Team Singapore.

4 The Camp aims at empowering the competitors with strategies to stay focused and achieve optimum results at the WSC. In the past seven WSCs that it has participated in, Singapore has always garnered commendable results. At the last WSC in Shizuoka, Japan, in 2007, Singapore was ranked 5th among 47 countries in terms of Medal Tally – its highest ranking to date – with a total of two Golds, one Bronze and six Medallions of Excellence. At the 2005 WSC in Helsinki, Finland, Singapore’s competitor in IT – PC & Network Support,

Viridis Liew, was conferred the Albert Vidal Prize, a special award given to the Overall Top Scorer in the whole competition. Another Singaporean, Lo Min Ming, who competed in IT – Software Applications, came in as Second Top Scorer in the same competition.

Invitation to Media Members

5 Members of the media are cordially invited to the Interaction Session to meet our 19 youth skills ambassadors and witness them in their final preparations for the WSC. Details of the session are as follows:

Date: Friday 7 August 2009
Time: 0930 hours
Venue: Function Room, ITE Headquarters,
10 Dover Drive, Singapore 138683

6 The list of sponsors, event programme and location map are at **Annexes B, C and D**, respectively. Profiles of Team Singapore competitors will be made available at the event.

7 To confirm your attendance or for further information/arrangements for interviews, please contact:

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Institute of Technical Education

The Institute of Technical Education (ITE), Singapore, was established as a post-secondary education institution in 1992 under the Ministry of Education. ITE is a principal provider of career and technical education and key developer of national occupational skills certification and standards to enhance Singapore's workforce competitiveness. Under its "One ITE System, Three Colleges" Model of Education and Governance, ITE has three Colleges, comprising ITE College Central, ITE College East and ITE College West. For more information, please visit www.ite.edu.sg.

Team Singapore @ 40th WSC – Competitors and Skills Areas

Chua Ka Wen

Institute of Technical Education

Skills Area: Beauty Therapy

21-year-old Chua Ka Wen is certainly one young lady who is in continual pursuit of excellence by taking on new challenges with a smile. Being a multi-tasker, she attended at least 40-hour weekly intensive training in Beauty Therapy for the WorldSkills Singapore (WSS) Competition in 2008, whilst learning professional dancing and taking driving lessons at the same time. Time has never been sufficient for Ka Wen. “It has not been easy for me to cope with all these different training at the same time, but I somehow manage to pull through with my determination and drive”, she remarked.

Ka Wen’s outstanding showing at the WSS paved the way for her participation in the 7th ASEAN Skills Competition, held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in November 2008. She was part of the pioneer Singapore contingent at the competition, and did not disappoint with a Gold Medal in the Beauty Therapy skills area.

“Representing Singapore to take part in the 40th WorldSkills Competition (WSC) 2009 in Beauty Therapy, I am now more confident of myself and delighted that my hard work has paid off well. Besides gaining new knowledge and having more exposure, I have learnt to take things more seriously, and seeing things from different perspectives. With my opportunity in the WorldSkills competition, I am striving to work towards becoming a successful, all-rounded beauty therapist”, she said.

Currently a Teaching Assistant at her alma mater, the Institute of Technical Education (ITE), Ka Wen hopes to work her way to becoming an ITE lecturer in future.

Adeline Mah Ching Yee & Carolyn Choo Fang Yi

Nanyang Polytechnic

Skills Area: Caring (Team Event)

Adeline, 20 and Carolyn, 21, are both graduates of the *Nitec* in Nursing programme from ITE College East. All this while, they have always displayed their passion in the areas of caring and helping others in need. “Indeed, participating in the WSS has given us great exposure and encouragement, which has boosted our confidence tremendously. We view this as both an excellent learning platform and a practical showcase for us!” said Adeline excitedly.

As the WSS was the first time they have taken part in a competition of this nature, they truly valued the experience gained and both had benefitted many ways, though the process may appear challenging and involve lots of hard work and commitment at times.

The two girls are currently in their first year of the Diploma in Nursing programme at Nanyang Polytechnic.

Johnathon Lim Wei Chong

Singapore Polytechnic

Skills Area: CNC Milling

For the last two years, Johnathon Lim, 19, has been training very hard to realise his dream – to secure a place in the WSC at Calgary, Canada, in 2009. Now, with a Gold Medal in CNC Milling at the WSS 2008 under his belt, Johnathon has achieved his goal.

“It’s an extremely great feeling, knowing that I’d made it to the WSC. I’ve always been interested in the competition, as I see it as a chance for me to pick up vital skills which money could not buy, as well as an opportunity to represent Singapore in the international arena,” beamed Johnathon, who is now working as a Technical Support Officer in Singapore Polytechnic. He had recently graduated with a Diploma in Mechanical Engineering from the polytechnic.

Riding on the support of his family members, coach and friends – and coupled with his own motto “Never Back Down” – Johnathon is determined to perform his best for the competition.

Muhammad Afiq Bin Abdul Rashid

Singapore Polytechnic

Skills Area: CNC Turning

Being part of WSS 2008 has given Afiq the opportunity to challenge and stretch himself to the limit to see how much he can endure, how quick he can think on his feet and how best to be focused. He has also ventured beyond the learning scope of the polytechnic education to other areas, such as broadening his knowledge and sharpening his technical skills. The experience gained and the friendships made from training and taking part in the competition had been fulfilling and enjoyable.

The WSS Gold medallist in CNC Turning is honoured to represent Singapore at the WSC.

The amicable 19-year-old, who is awaiting enlistment into National Service, aspires to carve a career in a reputable precision engineering company in future.

Timothy Jung Ming

Institute of Technical Education

Skills Area: Cooking

You can almost say that Timothy Jung, 20, lives in the kitchen. He spends long hours perfecting every cuisine he learnt. He serves nothing, but the very best.

Said Timothy: “I started cooking in my mother’s cafe six years ago. I haven’t stopped cooking till today. I love what I do. I had many influences. One of whom is my mum, who encouraged me to pursue it and put me through culinary school.”

This young man’s passion for cooking and the culinary arts has brought him to places beyond his dreams. Working alongside Chef Jason Tan of Julien Bompard at The Ascott, the master and student team did Singapore proud, when they clinched the Bronze Trophy in the

Asia Pacific Bocuse d'OR Culinary Competition in Shanghai in 2008. In January 2009, the team represented Singapore in the International Bocuse d'OR Culinary Competition in France. Come September 2009, he will once again don Singapore colours at the WSC.

On his ambitions, Timothy, who graduated from ITE with the prestigious Lee Kuan Yew Gold Medal, said: "I hope that one day I'd be able to run my own kitchen."

Ho Jun Yi

Singapore Polytechnic

Skills Area: Electronics

Ho Jun Yi, 20, loves mathematics and science. During his secondary school days, Jun Yi has represented his school in a number of mathematics competitions and won several awards. His most notable award is the individual Gold award in the prestigious Mathematical Olympiad. Apart from dabbling in science and math, Jun Yi also took part in technological competitions, such as the National Junior Robotics, Robo Racer and Micromouse Competitions during his school days. These competitions have helped him hone his programming skills.

After having spent three months at a Junior College, Jun Yi eventually decided to opt for Singapore Polytechnic, as he preferred a more practical learning approach. Training for the WSS 2008, as well as the WSC, has given him yet another hands-on opportunity to immerse himself in the things that he enjoys most, such as analysing, designing and building electronic circuits.

When asked about his career aspirations, Jun Yi shared: "I would like to work in an engineering company for several years, before going into the education sector to teach."

Joan Chong Lay Kheng

Nanyang Polytechnic

Skills Area: Graphic Design Technology

Joan Chong first dabbled in art as a child, when her mother taught her how to draw. Now all grown up at 21, the cheerful young lady, who recently graduated from Nanyang Polytechnic with a Diploma in Digital Media Design Animation, has taken her passion one step further – she will be representing Singapore in the WSC in September 2009.

The Gold medallist in the Graphic Design skills area at the WSS 2008 recalled: "My most memorable moment is the time when I stepped onto the stage to receive my medal during the WSS award ceremony. It was then that I realised the full impact of the competition on me and the whole group of competitors on stage."

On participating in the WSC, Joan said: "I will get to experience things which I had never thought to be able to do before. The opportunity to meet people from different countries and trades and sharing experiences with them will definitely widen my perspectives. It will also help me to understand more about the trade and improve my standard of design."

Shawn Chew Chek Phang

Ngee Ann Polytechnic

Skills Area: Industrial Control

The seed of passion was sown two years before Shawn entered polytechnic life, when he first learned of the WSC while in secondary school. A student with a practical bend, he is adept at hands-on problem-solving skills. Being no stranger to technology competitions, the student leader did his secondary school proud by bringing home many medals.

Three months into his Diploma in Electrical Engineering course at Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Shawn was selected to be trained for WSS 2008. Since then, campus life had taken on an added dimension and his learning experience was enhanced considerably. When the going gets tough, the tough get going. This is certainly true of Shawn, who does not shy away from difficulties, but face them head-on. He went on to win the Gold Medal in the Industrial Control skills area at the WSS, and will represent Singapore at the 40th WSC in September 2009.

Shawn is extremely thankful to his trainers and lecturers who spared no effort in preparing him to attain world-class standards in skills.

Tan Jing Yuan

Singapore Polytechnic

Skills Area: Information Network Cabling

Tan Jing Yuan, 21, feels that taking part in the WSC is one of the most challenging journeys in life for him. He mused: "It is not the destination, but the journey that matters."

Jing Yuan recounts that, as a teenager reading about the WSC in the newspapers, being able to undertake such a journey himself seemed an unattainable dream. But with the help of his lecturers and coaches at Singapore Polytechnic, he has made the journey and embarked on a course that few polytechnic students will ever have the chance to experience.

While the technical skills learnt are substantial and invaluable, the intangible lessons of mental strength, adherence to proper work procedures, and self-discipline are priceless. Along the way, the support of those around him has encouraged and given him the confidence to do his best.

"I would like to thank my coaches, team members and family members for their support. With their help, I've realised that there is nothing I can't excel in if I work hard at it. And the journey will make for wonderful memories that will last a long time," he added.

Tan Thiam Shui

Nanyang Polytechnic

Skills Area: IT-PC/Network Support

Nineteen-year-old Tan Thiam Shui enjoys all things IT – surfing the Internet, trying out new software and creating computer applications. It is therefore no surprise that he hopes to go into software development in future and create the next killer application.

Lofty ambitions? Not so, especially for a confident young man like Thiam Shui. One who tries his best and perseveres till the end, Thiam Shui clinched a Gold Medal in the IT-PC/Network Support skills area at the WSS 2008.

Said Thiam Shui of his WSS training and experience: “I learnt a lot of stuff that was outside the school curriculum, such as setting up an enterprise network comprising Debian Linux servers, Windows servers and Cisco network equipment.”

This newfound knowledge would certainly stand Thiam Shui in good stead when he pits his skills against competitors from around the world in the 40th WSC in September 2009.

The earnest lad hopes to pursue a computer science degree, and then get a job as a software programmer, system administrator or a teacher in future.

Lim Yuan Jie

Temasek Polytechnic

Skills Area: IT/Software Applications

Lim Yuan Jie, 18, has always been interested in computers. As a boy, he tinkered with computers and software applications. This childhood interest led him to pursue a Diploma in Information Technology course.

Shared Yuan Jie: “It is really the satisfaction I get out of solving problems with the computer that keeps me going. I started honing my computing skills as a hobby initially, and received formal training at Temasek Polytechnic.”

Yuan Jie is excited about the chance to participate in the WSC. He looks forward to meeting other competitors and pitting his skills against the best in the area of software applications. This aspiration is what motivates Yuan Jie and propels him to work intensively at realising his dream.

Dickson Foo Chuan Ming

Singapore Polytechnic

Skills Area: Mechanical Engineer Design – CAD

Dickson Foo, 20, considers it an honour to be able to take part and represent Singapore in the WSC.

Dickson feels that every participant is a winner, regardless of whether he or she has made it into the finals or won any medals, as the experience gained by the participants through the training and participation in the competition is something that money cannot buy.

Furthermore, participants would be able to pick up valuable skills through their training for the competition.

Riding on the support of his family, teachers and friends – and coupled with his secondary school's motto "Be Our Best", Dickson is determined to do his best at the WSC.

"Nothing is impossible if we put in our best effort," he mused.

Lau Chin Boon & Ho Hong Gim

Nanyang Polytechnic

Skills Area: Mechatronics (Team Event)

Team-mates in the Mechatronics skills area – Lau Chin Boon, 19, and Ho Hong Gim, 24 – have been training hard for the ultimate task at the WSC in Canada. The opportunity to represent Singapore at the International competition motivates the duo of Nanyang Polytechnic graduates to do their best.

Hong Gim added: "We see the WSS as the springboard to propel us onto the world stage. It is indeed a once-in-a-lifetime chance to represent Singapore at the WSC and bring honour to our country."

For Chin Boon, the encouragement from his trainer and performances by past NYP winners also inspired him. "I have been training hard for about four years to prepare myself for this competition. Now the chance for me to perform has finally come. I hope to apply what I have learnt, and achieve the goals I have set for myself," said Chin Boon, who believes in doing things once and well. He plans to work in the automation industry in future, or as a lecturer at NYP.

Edmund Tey Tian Long & Chen Ye Seng

Nanyang Polytechnic

Skills Area: Mobile Robotics (Team Event)

Edmund Tey, 20, has always been interested in robotics and had taken part in robotics competitions in secondary school. Having built a foundation in Robotics, he decided to compete in the Mobile Robotics skills area in the WSS 2008 to further develop his potential and skills.

Edmund's team-mate, Chen Ye Seng, 20, shared the same thoughts. He said: "This trade allows me to display my skills on not only programming, but also the ability to adapt and apply what I have learnt to solve problems and challenges in flexible programming."

The duo bagged the Gold Medal at the WSS, and are on their way to represent Singapore at the WSC, come September 2009.

Yew Rui Qi

Institute of Technical Education

Skills Area: Restaurant Service

The desire to learn more than was being taught in the standard school curriculum prompted Yew Rui Qi to sign up for the WSS 2008.

Said Rui Qi: "I wanted to learn more restaurant service skills, and by training for the WSS, I discovered that I picked up many valuable tips along the way. I see myself progressing and learning more things that many other students may not have the chance to do so. One of the most interesting things to me is learning how to carve fruits and meat items. It is fascinating to learn such skills, as this is something that we Asians seldom do."

Rui Qi did well at the WSS and won the Silver Medal in the Restaurant Service skills area. She will be representing Singapore at the 40th WSC.

On how she is gearing up for the WSC, Rui Qi shared: "It is practice, practice and more practice! I try to remember and follow what my lecturers had taught me during the training and I also practice both in school and at home."

Nur Amalina Bte Zakaria

Temasek Polytechnic

Skills Area: Web Design

Nur Amalina Zakaria, 20, has just graduated with a Diploma in Internet and Multimedia Development from Temasek Polytechnic. Amalina realised her love for web design when she was 13. Computer Studies lessons in her secondary school opened her eyes to the world of digital design and she found it absorbing and stimulating.

Pursuing a diploma in the field of web design in Temasek Polytechnic's Informatics & IT School has given her many opportunities to develop her interest, including the chance to participate in the WSS 2008. She eventually won the Gold Medal in the Web Design skills area, and will pit her skills against other talents at the WSC.

Amalina's dream of becoming a well-known web designer has been her main source of inspiration for the competition. She believes that without effort, there can be no achievement and this is her motivation for the WSC. Another source of inspiration comes from fellow Singaporean, Viridis Liew, who managed to come out tops on the international stage.

Amalina's other interests include MMORPGs, gaming, online shopping, watching her the Discovery Channel, Harry Potter and Spongebob Squarepants.

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**Chairman/ITE's Interaction Session
with WorldSkills Calgary 2009 Team Singapore Competitors**

**Function Room, ITE Headquarters
10 Dover Drive, Singapore 138683**

Friday 7 August 2009

0900 hours	Arrival of WSC Competitors
0930 hours	Arrival of Mr Bob Tan, Chairman/ITE, Guests and Members of the Media Teambuilding Activities
1000 hours	Reception/Chairman's Interaction Session with Team Singapore Media Interviews
1100 hours	End of programme

**ITE Headquarters
10 Dover Drive, Singapore 138683**

