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SINGAPOREAN CLINCHES TOP SCORER AWARD AT WORLD SKILLS COMPETITION 2009

Singapore delivers best showing ever at “Olympics of Skills” with three Golds, one Bronze and eight Medallions for Excellence

Despite being one of the youngest competitors at the 40th WorldSkills Competition 2009, 19-year-old **Tan Thiam Shui** beat over 900 talented youths from 51 countries/economies to bag the most prestigious award – the **Albert Vidal Award**. The Award is given to the Overall Top Scorer of the biennial International Skills Competition. The Nanyang Polytechnic student is also the Gold Medal Winner in the **IT-PC/Network Support** skills area and winner of the Best-of-Nation Award. One of Singapore’s strongest skills area, the win marks Singapore’s fifth consecutive Gold in IT-PC/Network Support in the Competition held in 2009, 2007, 2005, 2003, and 2001.

2 Three other Singaporeans also struck gold at the four-day International Competition, which ended on 5 September 2009. **Adeline Mah Ching Yee** and **Carolyn Choo Fang Yi** bagged **Gold** in the **Caring (Team)** skills area, displaying model best practice and high standards of patient care, and outshining competitors from Finland, France, Sweden and the Netherlands, among others. Both are *Nitec* in Nursing graduates from ITE, and are currently pursuing a Diploma in Nursing at Nanyang Polytechnic. Singapore also won **Gold** in 2007 when Caring was introduced for the first time then. **Joan Chong Lay Kheng**, also from Nanyang Polytechnic, became the first Singaporean to win a Gold Medal in the skills area of **Graphic Design Technology**.

3 Thiam Shui, Adeline, Carolyn and Joan were among the 19 young skilled talents who represented Team Singapore at this year's WorldSkills Competition – dubbed the “Olympics of Skills” – held in Calgary, Canada, from 2 to 5 September 2009. They pitted their skills and wits in 16 of the 45 skills areas, and won for Singapore a total of **three Gold medals**, as well as **one Bronze** in **Mobile Robotics**, **eight Medallions for Excellence** and a **People's Choice Award** for **Web Design**. All in, Singapore scores its best showing to date.

4 Singapore's three Gold medals at the WorldSkills Competition 2009 puts it on par with six other countries – France, Ireland, Brazil, United Kingdom, Chinese Taipei and host country, Canada. Korea topped the medal standing with 12 Golds, followed by Japan (seven Golds), Switzerland (six Golds) and Austria (four Golds).

5 The Medals and Medallions for Excellence won by Team Singapore are:

Name of Competitor	Competition Area	Medal
Tan Thiam Shui	IT-PC/Network Support	Gold and Albert Vidal Award (Best Score for Competition)
Adeline Mah Ching Yee & Carolyn Choo Fang Yi	Caring (team competition)	Gold
Joan Chong Lay Kheng	Graphic Design Technology	Gold
Edmund Tey Tian Long & Chen Ye Seng	Mobile Robotics (team competition)	Bronze
Nur Amalina Bte Zakaria	Web Design	Medallion for Excellence* and People's Choice Award**
Chua Ka Wen	Beauty Therapy	Medallion for Excellence
Johnathon Lim Wei Chong	CNC Milling	Medallion for Excellence
Ho Jun Yi	Electronics	Medallion for Excellence
Lim Yuan Jie	IT/Software Applications	Medallion for Excellence
Dickson Foo Chuan Ming	Mechanical Engineer Design – CAD	Medallion for Excellence
Lau Chin Boon & Ho Hong Gim	Mechatronics (team competition)	Medallion for Excellence
Yew Rui Qi	Restaurant Service	Medallion for Excellence

*Given to competitors who scored at least 500 out of 600 points in the Competition.

**Voted by public visitors based on projects done for WSC 2009.

6 All in, the 16 skills areas Team Singapore competed in at the WorldSkills Competition 2009 were:

- Beauty Therapy
- Caring
- CNC Milling
- CNC Turning
- Cooking
- Electronics
- Graphic Design Technology
- Industrial Control
- Information Network Cabling
- IT-PC/Network Support
- IT/Software Applications
- Mechanical Engineer Design – CAD
- Mechatronics
- Mobile Robotics
- Restaurant Service
- Web Design

7 Singapore was represented at the WorldSkills Competition 2009 by students from the Institute of Technical Education (ITE), Singapore Polytechnic, Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Nanyang Polytechnic and Temasek Polytechnic. For the who's who of the Singapore representation, see **Annex A**. All competitors had won top honours at the local equivalent of the WorldSkills Singapore Competition – the WorldSkills Singapore – held the year before. The local equivalent is organised by the ITE.

8 The WorldSkills Competition 2009 saw the largest Singapore contingent the ITE has led so far, in collaboration with the five polytechnics. A delighted Mr Bruce Poh, Singapore's Official Delegate to WorldSkills and Director & CEO/ITE, shared: "Team Singapore has delivered an excellence performance yet again. Despite the stiff competition from the world's best skilled talents, our competitors have proven their mettle and done the nation proud. This is our best showing at the WorldSkills

Competition to date – three Golds, one Bronze, eight Medallions for Excellence and the Albert Vidal Award. While we are happy with the medal haul, every competitor is a winner, and we hope that all will continue to excel in their future careers. I would also like to put on record my appreciation to the Singapore Experts and Coaches, and various institutions, who were focused and worked tirelessly to prepare the competitors for this life-changing experience.”

9 Singapore’s track record at past WorldSkills Competitions is at **Annex B**. The WorldSkills Competition is a biennial event organised by WorldSkills International (www.worldskills.org), a non-profit organisation that promotes skills excellence and the status of skilled professions through competitions, youth forums and exchange programmes.

Media Invitation

10 Members of the media are invited to publicise Singapore’s excellent performance at the WorldSkills Competition 2009. For further information and/or arrangements for interviews, please contact:

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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**.

Annex A**WORLDSKILLS COMPETITION 2009: TEAM SINGAPORE**

S/N	Competitor	Skills Area	Competitor's Institution
1	Chua Ka Wen, 21	Beauty Therapy	ITE
2 & 3	Adeline Mah Ching Yee, 20	Caring (team competition)	Nanyang Polytechnic
	Carolyn Choo Fang Yi, 21		Nanyang Polytechnic
4	Johnathon Lim Wei Chong, 19	CNC Milling	Singapore Polytechnic
5	Muhammad Afiq Bin Abdul Rashid, 19	CNC Turning	Singapore Polytechnic
6	Timothy Jung Ming, 20	Cooking	ITE
7	Ho Jun Yi, 20	Electronics	Singapore Polytechnic
8	Joan Chong Lay Kheng, 21	Graphic Design Technology	Nanyang Polytechnic
9	Shawn Chew Chek Phang, 19	Industrial Control	Ngee Ann Polytechnic
10	Tan Jing Yuan, 21	Information Network Cabling	Singapore Polytechnic
11	Tan Thiam Shui, 19	IT-PC/Network Support	Nanyang Polytechnic
12	Lim Yuan Jie, 19	IT/Software Applications	Temasek Polytechnic
13	Dickson Foo Chuan Ming, 20	Mechanical Engineer Design - CAD	Singapore Polytechnic
14 & 15	Lau Chin Boon, 19	Mechatronics (team competition)	Nanyang Polytechnic
	Ho Hong Gim, 24		Nanyang Polytechnic
16 & 17	Edmund Tey Tian Long, 20	Mobile Robotics (team competition)	Nanyang Polytechnic
	Chen Ye Seng, 20		Nanyang Polytechnic
18	Yew Rui Qi, 19	Restaurant Service	ITE
19	Nur Amalina Bte Zakaria	Web Design	Temasek Polytechnic

SINGAPORE'S WORLDSKILLS COMPETITION TRACK RECORD IN TERMS OF MEDAL RANKING (1995 TO 2007)

WorldSkills Competition 2007, Shizuoka, Japan (*Ranked 5th*)

1. **Gold Medal** for IT/PC & Network Support
2. **Gold Medal** for Mechanical Engineering Drawing & Design CADD
3. **Gold Medal** for Caring
4. **Bronze Medal** for Industrial Control
5. **Medallion for Excellence** for CNC Turning
6. **Medallion for Excellence** for Graphic Design Technology
7. **Medallion for Excellence** for IT/Software Applications
8. **Medallion for Excellence** for Mobile Robotics
9. **Medallion for Excellence** for Web Design
10. **Medallion for Excellence** for Industrial Electronics

WorldSkills Competition 2005, Helsinki, Finland (*Ranked 12th*)

1. **Gold Medal** for IT/PC & Network Support
2. **Gold Medal** for IT/Software Applications
3. **Bronze Medal** for Web Design
4. **Diploma** for Industrial Electronics
5. **Diploma** for Mechanical Engineering Drawing & Design CADD
6. **Diploma** for Mechatronics

WorldSkills Competition 2003, St Gallen, Switzerland (*Ranked 7th*)

1. **Gold Medal** for IT/PC & Network Support
2. **Gold Medal** for Mechatronics
3. **Silver Medal** for IT/Software Applications
4. **Bronze Medal** for Graphic Design
5. **Diploma** for CNC Milling
6. **Diploma** for Industrial Electronics
7. **Diploma** for Industrial Control
8. **Diploma** for Mechanical Engineering Drawing & Design CADD
9. **Diploma** for Restaurant Service

WorldSkills Competition 2001, Seoul, South Korea, 2001 (*Ranked 9th*)

1. **Gold Medal** for IT/PC & Network Support
2. **Gold Medal** for IT/Software Applications
3. **Silver Medal** for Graphic Design
4. **Silver Medal** for Mechanical Engineering Drawing & Design CADD
5. **Bronze Medal** for Mechatronics
6. **Diploma** for CNC Milling
7. **Diploma** for Industrial Electronics

WorldSkills Competition 1999, Montreal, Canada (Ranked 10th)

1. **Gold Medal** for Information Technology
2. **Gold Medal** for Industrial Electronics
3. **Diploma** for Mechanical Engineering Drafting CAD
4. **Diploma** for Mechatronics
5. **Diploma** for Industrial Wiring
6. **Diploma** for Cookery

WorldSkills Competition 1997, St Gallen, Switzerland (Ranked 13th)

1. **Gold Medal** for Mechatronics
2. **Silver Medal** for Industrial Electronics
3. **Diploma** for Engineering Drafting CAD
4. **Diploma** for Information Technology
5. **Diploma** for Restaurant Service

WorldSkills Competition 1995, Lyon, France (Ranked 16th)

1. **Gold Medal** for Industrial Electronics
2. **Bronze Medal** for Mechatronics
3. **Diploma** for Milling
4. **Diploma** for Cookery