

SKILLED TO EXCEL

Increased spotlight on the value of skills pay off

With the nation's increased recognition of the importance of skills, Team Singapore has reciprocated by achieving a **record number of Medals and Medallions for Excellence** at the global stage of the biennial WorldSkills Competition (WSC) 2015 at São Paulo, Brazil. Team Singapore won **One Silver Medal, Two Bronze Medals and 14 Medallions for Excellence**. Despite facing stiff competition, the Team performed well, receiving **at least a Medallion for Excellence in 17 out of the 20 skills areas it participated in**.

2 This year's WSC is the largest to date, in terms of number of competitors and number of countries participating. There were a total of 1,189 competitors from 59 countries and regions competing in 50 areas. The Competition is an excellent platform to recognise Singapore's top skilled talents, and our youths have proven that our country can be proud of their high skill levels. For a small nation, Singapore's youths stood tall against fierce competition from the best skilled talents from all over the world. **Annex A** lists the competitors who make up Team Singapore.

3 The Medals and Medallions for Excellence that Team Singapore achieved are listed here.

No.	Competitor Name	Institution	Skill Area	Award
1	Lee Wei Meng, Daniel	Nanyang Polytechnic	IT Network Systems Administration	Silver and Best of Nation Award
2	Lim Ling	Nanyang Polytechnic	Health & Social Care	Bronze
3	Quek Wen Hui, Josephine	Temasek Polytechnic	Visual Merchandising	Bronze
4	Amanda Chan	Temasek Polytechnic	Web Design	Medallion for Excellence
5	Chew Rong Kang	Nanyang Polytechnic	IT Software Solutions for Business	Medallion for Excellence
6	Dinesh Mangalanathadurai Lin YongQiang	Nanyang Polytechnic	Mobile Robotics	Medallion for Excellence

No.	Competitor Name	Institution	Skill Area	Award
7	Elaine Sz Hui Min	Institute of Technical Education	Hairdressing	Medallion for Excellence
8	Farisha Dhamiera Bte Bohari	Institute of Technical Education	Restaurant Service	Medallion for Excellence
9	Loh Fook Lee	Institute of Technical Education	Cooking	Medallion for Excellence
10	Muhammad Bin Mahmoud Abdullah Ng	Republic Polytechnic	Information Network Cabling	Medallion for Excellence
11	Muhammad Miqdad Bin Mazlan	Nanyang Polytechnic	Mechanical Engineering Design-CAD	Medallion for Excellence
12	Ng Ming Yang	Nanyang Polytechnic	CNC Turning	Medallion for Excellence
13	Ng Wei Xin	Nanyang Polytechnic	Electronics	Medallion for Excellence
14	Ong Zheng Jie	Singapore Polytechnic	CNC Milling	Medallion for Excellence
15	Poh Yong Han Peh Xian Bin, Eugene	Nanyang Polytechnic	Mechatronics	Medallion for Excellence
16	Tan Xinyi	Temasek Polytechnic	Graphic Design Technology	Medallion for Excellence
17	Vanessa Quek Hui Min	Institute of Technical Education	Beauty Therapy	Medallion for Excellence

4 Mr Bruce Poh, Singapore's Official Delegate to WorldSkills International and Director & CEO, ITE, said, "I am very proud of our young men and women from ITE and the Polytechnics. They have proven that with their skills, they can stand on the world stage and shine bright for Singapore despite facing very strong competition. With greater interest and recognition in skills worldwide, more countries and young people are investing in skills pathways and careers. The Team's performance is only possible because of the support of their families, coaches, experts, institutions and our sponsor, the Singapore Workforce Development Agency. I want to thank every person and organisation which has contributed to the development of these skilled talents. I am also happy that this competition has opened our competitors' eyes to the skills standard across the world, and inspired them to pursue skill excellence in their respective areas and contribute even more to our home."

5 To recognise the importance of skills deepening and mastery for better careers and future, and build a strong Singapore core talent pipeline, the Singapore Workforce Development Agency and the WorldSkills Singapore Council have jointly enhanced the cash prizes award and

introduced a new Skills Commitment Award. This was announced by Education Minister at the Sending-Off Ceremony for Team Singapore@43rd WSC on 29 Jul 2015. For more details, please refer to **Annex B**.

About Singapore's participation in WSC

6 The WSC is the largest-scale vocational education and skills excellence event in the world. There has been rising focus on the value of skilled talent in Singapore, and the WSC is one platform to nurture and recognise our best youth talents. Singapore first participated at the WorldSkills Competition (WSC) in 1995. Last year, at the 42nd WSC in Germany, our competitors clinched three Gold Medals, two Silver Medals and nine Medallions of Excellence. For a small nation, Singapore has performed outstandingly, outshining other advanced countries. ITE, in conjunction with the five Polytechnics, organises and supports Team Singapore's participation at WSC. For more information on WSC and Singapore's participation, please refer to **Annex C**.

Invitation to Media

7 Members of the media are invited to publicise Singapore's performance at the WorldSkills Competition 2015. For further information and/or arrangement for interviews, please contact:

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Institute of Technical Education

in Collaboration with:



and Sponsored by:



Website: www.worldskills.sg

TEAM SINGAPORE FOR WSC 2015

No.	Competitor Name (In Alpha-Order)	Institution	Skill Area
1	Amanda Chan	Temasek Polytechnic	Web Design
2	Chew Rong Kang	Nanyang Polytechnic	IT Software Solutions for Business
3 & 4	Dinesh Mangalanathadurai Lin YongQiang	Nanyang Polytechnic	Mobile Robotics
5	Elaine Sz Hui Min	Institute of Technical Education	Hairdressing
6	Farisha Dhamiera Bte Bohari	Institute of Technical Education	Restaurant Service
7	Joell Thng Chong Shu	Singapore Polytechnic	Industrial Control
8	Lee Wei Meng, Daniel	Nanyang Polytechnic	IT Network Systems Administration
9	Lim Ling	Nanyang Polytechnic	Health & Social Care
10	Loh Fook Lee	Institute of Technical Education	Cooking
11	Muhammad Bin Mahmoud Abdullah Ng	Republic Polytechnic	Information Network Cabling
12	Muhammad Miqdad Bin Mazlan	Nanyang Polytechnic	Mechanical Engineering Design-CAD
13	Ng Ming Yang	Nanyang Polytechnic	CNC Turning
14	Ng Wei Xin	Nanyang Polytechnic	Electronics
15	Ong Zheng Jie	Singapore Polytechnic	CNC Milling
16	Phang Ying Xian Bryan	Temasek Polytechnic	Aircraft Maintenance
17 & 18	Poh Yong Han Peh Xian Bin, Eugene	Nanyang Polytechnic	Mechatronics
19	Quek Wen Hui, Josephine	Temasek Polytechnic	Visual Merchandising
20	Tan Xinyi	Temasek Polytechnic	Graphic Design Technology
21	Vanessa Quek Hui Min	Institute of Technical Education	Beauty Therapy
22	Wong Chun Siong	Institute of Technical Education	Electrical Installation

**NEW REWARDS FOR TEAM SINGAPORE'S MEDALLISTS
AT THE 43RD WORLDSKILLS COMPETITION**

(I) INCREASE IN AMOUNT OF CASH PRIZES

Background

- To signal the **rising importance of skills**, the Cash Prizes for Team Singapore's WSC 2015 Medalists have been increased.
- The **Singapore Workforce Development Agency (WDA)** as Team Singapore's sponsor for their participation in WSC 2015 is contributing the Cash Prizes.
- Previously, Cash Prizes were funded by the WorldSkills Singapore Council Fund.
- Aside from the Cash Prize, Medallists will also receive a Medal from the competition organisers.

Cash Prizes for Various Medalists in 2013 and 2015

Type of Medal	WSC 2013	WSC 2015
	Value of Award	Value of Award
Albert Vidal Award*	\$3,000	\$30,000
Gold	\$7,000	\$20,000
Silver	\$5,000	\$10,000
Bronze	\$3,000	\$5,000
Medallion for Excellence	-	\$1,000

**The Albert Vidal Award is a prestigious award named after the founder of the WorldSkills international. In memory of Albert Vidal, this Award recognises the Competitor that achieves the overall highest score out of all Competitors in all Skill categories. The winner of the Albert Vidal Award would also be a Gold Medal winner, and hence receive \$50,000 in all (\$20,000 for the Gold Medal and \$30,000 for the Albert Vidal Award).*

(II) SKILLS COMMITMENT AWARD

- The WorldSkills Singapore Council has introduced a new Skills Commitment Award, which is sponsored by WDA.
- Under this scheme, winners of the Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals, will be encouraged to work in the same industry as their competition Skill Area, for at least five years after graduation.
- \$1,000 will be given to those who work in the same industry, over a five-year period. This will add up to \$5,000.
- This would encourage these skilled youths to continue in their respective career sectors where they will be able to deepen their skills even more, mentor other workers and contribute to a skilled workforce.

WORLDSKILLS COMPETITION

Overview of WorldSkills Competition

Over its 60-year history, the WorldSkills Competition (WSC), organised by WorldSkills International, has come to symbolise the pinnacle of excellence in skilled trades and technologies training.

Every two years, hundreds of young skilled people, accompanied by their teachers, coaches and trainers, gather together from around the world, to compete in the skills of their various trades and test themselves against demanding international standards. They represent the best of their peers drawn from regional and national skills competitions.

First introduced as a national skills competition in Madrid, Spain, in 1947, to raise the image of vocational training in the country, the WSC became an international competition in 1950 with two participating countries – Spain and Portugal.

From an initial 12 competitors, the Competition has since grown to attract **1,230 competitors from more than 60 countries/regions competing in 50 skills areas** at this year's Competition. These competitors will be divided into 50 different skill areas, It has been hosted by numerous cities and countries around the world, including Dublin (Ireland), Glasgow (UK), Brussels (Belgium), Amsterdam (the Netherlands), Lyon (France), Montreal (Canada), Seoul (South Korea), St Gallen (Switzerland), Helsinki (Finland), Shizuoka (Japan), Calgary (Canada), London (UK), and most recently Leipzig (Germany).

More high-tech and diverse skills areas have also been included over the years, such as Health & Social Care, Mobile Robotics, Graphic Design and Beauty Therapy.

The experience and results gained through participating in the WSC provide valuable feedback both to the individual competitors, and to institutions where these participants have been trained. For some, it is recognition for outstanding achievement, while for others, it provides the motivation and knowledge to aspire to higher standards. Many competitors have gone on to do very well in their careers. For the onlookers, it is an eye-opening experience to see highly-competent young skills talents in action. The Competition is particularly effective in the context of providing positive career role models for school-aged youths.

Singapore's Participation in WSC

ITE's participation in WorldSkills was initiated in 1992, when then-Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, at the inauguration of ITE as a post-secondary education institution, suggested that ITE raise the image of technical education and profile of skilled professions by taking part in international skills competitions.

In 1993, ITE joined WorldSkills International, non-profit organisation whose mission is to promote the image of skills and skilled careers through competitions and exchanges for youths. In 1994, ITE organised the first National Skills Competition (now known as WorldSkills

Singapore Competition) and led the first Singapore team to participate in the WSC in 1995 held in Lyon, France.

Eleven WorldSkills Singapore (WSS) Competitions have since been organised biennially by ITE, in conjunction with the Polytechnics. The WSS is open to Singaporeans (not older than 21 years old) from secondary schools, Junior Colleges, Polytechnics, ITE, companies and other institutions of higher learning. Top medal winners from the WSS are then selected to represent Singapore at the WSC. The last WSS Competition was held in July 2014.

In 2008, Singapore took part in the ASEAN Skills Competition, a regional version of the WSC, for the first time. The last ASEAN Skills Competition was held in Hanoi, Vietnam, in October 2014.

Team Singapore's Track Record at WSC

The WSC 2013 in Leipzig, Germany saw the 22-member Team Singapore participating in a record number of 20 skills areas. The contingent, led by ITE, in collaboration with the five polytechnics, won three Gold Medals, two Silver Medals and nine Medallions for Excellence, in the face of advanced countries such as Australia, Canada, Germany, France, UK and USA.

The table below summarises Team Singapore's performance at the WSC from 1995 to 2013:

TEAM SINGAPORE'S TRACK RECORD AT WSC

WorldSkills Competition Series		No. of Skill Areas Participated	Total No. of Medals & Medallions for Excellence
WorldSkills Competition 2013, Leipzig, Germany		20	14
3 Gold Medals	Beauty Therapy		
	Health and Social Care		
	IT Network Systems Administration		
2 Silver Medal	IT Software Solutions for Business		
	Information Network Cabling		
	CNC Milling		
	CNC Turning		
9 Medallions for Excellence	Cooking		
	Electrical Installations		
	Graphic Design Technology		
	Hairdressing		
	Mechanical Engineering Design - CAD		
	Mobile Robotics		
	Restaurant Service		
WorldSkills Competition 2011, London, UK		19	14
4 Gold Medals	Beauty Therapy		

WorldSkills Competition Series		No. of Skill Areas Participated	Total No. of Medals & Medallions for Excellence
	Caring		
	IT Network Systems Administration		
	IT Software Solutions for Business		
1 Silver Medal	Mechanical Engineering Design - CAD		
2 Bronze Medals	Network Cabling		
	Visual Merchandising		
7 Medallions for Excellence	CNC Milling		
	Graphic Design Technology		
	Industrial Control		
	Ladies'/Men's Hairdressing		
	Mobile Robotics		
	Restaurant Service		
	Web Design		
WorldSkills Competition 2009, Calgary, Canada		16	12
3 Gold Medals	Caring		
	Graphic Design Technology		
	IT/PC & Network Support (*Albert Vidal Award)		
1 Bronze Medal	Mobile Robotics		
8 Medallions for Excellence	Beauty Therapy		
	CNC Milling		
	Electronics		
	IT/Software Applications		
	Mechanical Engineering Design-CAD		
	Mechatronics		
	Restaurant Service		
	Web Design		
WorldSkills Competition 2007, Shizuoka, Japan		13	10
3 Gold Medals	Caring		
	IT/PC & Network Support		
	Mechanical Engineering Drawing & Design CADD		
1 Bronze Medal	Industrial Control		
6 Medallions for Excellence	CNC Turning		
	Graphic Design Technology		
	Industrial Electronics		
	IT/Software Applications		
	Mobile Robotics		
	Web Design		

WorldSkills Competition Series		No. of Skill Areas Participated	Total No. of Medals & Medallions for Excellence
WorldSkills Competition 2005, Helsinki, Finland		10	6
2 Gold Medals	IT/PC & Network Support (* Albert Vidal Award)		
	IT/Software Applications		
1 Bronze Medal	Web Design		
3 Medallions for Excellence	Industrial Electronics		
	Mechanical Engineering Drawing & Design CADD		
	Mechatronics		
WorldSkills Competition 2003, St Gallen, Switzerland		11	9
2 Gold Medals	IT/PC & Network Support		
	Mechatronics		
1 Silver Medal	IT/Software Applications		
1 Bronze Medal	Graphic Design		
5 Medallions for Excellence	CNC Milling		
	Industrial Electronics		
	Industrial Control		
	Mechanical Engineering Drawing & Design CADD		
	Restaurant Service		
WorldSkills Competition 2001, Seoul, South Korea		10	7
2 Gold Medals	IT/PC & Network Support		
	IT/Software Applications		
2 Silver Medals	Graphic Design		
	Mechanical Engineering Drawing & Design CADD		
1 Bronze Medal	Mechatronics		
2 Medallions for Excellence	CNC Milling		
	Industrial Electronics		
WorldSkills Competition 1999, Montreal, Canada		10	6
2 Gold Medals	Information Technology		
	Industrial Electronics		
4 Medallions for Excellence	Mechanical Engineering Drafting CAD		
	Mechatronics		
	Industrial Wiring		
	Cookery		

WorldSkills Competition Series		No. of Skill Areas Participated	Total No. of Medals & Medallions for Excellence
WorldSkills Competition 1997, St Gallen, Switzerland		8	5
1 Gold Medal	Mechatronics		
1 Silver Medal	Industrial Electronics		
3 Medallions for Excellence	Engineering Drafting CAD		
	Information Technology		
	Restaurant Service		
WorldSkills Competition 1995, Lyon, France		8	4
1 Gold Medal	Industrial Electronics		
1 Bronze Medal	Mechatronics		
2 Medallions for Excellence	Milling		
	Cookery		