

FROM THE FOUNDATION

June 2014

THIS MONTH:

Tapping into Water Innovation Challenge:
feedback from an exciting pilot event!

Board of Trustees meet in Singapore

More highlights from first ever Cote d'Ivoire
National Skills Competition

WATER INNOVATION CHALLENGE PIONEERS NEW, COLLABORATIVE FORMAT FOR SKILLS COMPETITIONS

- Our pilot Water Innovation Challenge has been successfully completed. The WSF team is now in the process of evaluating the event and planning for new and improved editions, building on the keen interest of industry partners and sponsors involved in delivering this first showcase in Singapore.
- The event was designed specifically to help WorldSkills representatives experiment with new approaches for running skills competitions, with primary goal to be innovative and stretch the barriers. Further to this, the resulting design work produced has a very real and very valuable end ‘customer’: the Healthabitat Sanitation Studio programmes in Nepal and Bangladesh.



(Clockwise, left to right): Team USA tackle a village hand pump installation; Team Australia following the first Pump Challenge time trial; Project Manager Grant Stewart (centre) inspects training documentation designed by the teams.

- The Innovation Challenge format is one that the Foundation is keen to explore, following this successful proof-of-concept. If your organization can see the potential in developing such a platform – either in Water, or for any other industry sector – we want to hear from you!
- WSF also wish to extend sincere thanks to the Institute of Technical Education, Singapore for their enthusiastic and generous support in hosting the event.

Water Innovation Challenge 2014: www.worldskillsfoundation.org/projects/innovation-challenges/

TEAM USA TAKE THE HONOURS IN SINGAPORE

- Regardless of the organizational innovation happening behind the scenes, there was really only ONE thing that mattered: the intense competition between representative teams from Australia (supported by RMIT University) and USA (supported by IAPMO, the American Society of Plumbing Engineers, and a number of other US Plumbing industry bodies).
- Teams were formed from a range of skillsets including Plumbing, Engineering and Graphic Design, with several participants having previous experience in National Skills and WorldSkills Competitions. The teams were also formed from a mix of vocational and academic education backgrounds. You can read more about the backgrounds of Team Australia participants here: <http://bit.ly/1m6rBXz> and Team USA participants here: <http://bit.ly/1q1Q1cf>
- After weeks of preparation at home, three intense days of competition in the Singapore heat, and a final round of in-depth project presentations to assessors and other industry observers it was Team USA who eventually came out on top.
- We wish to congratulate everyone involved with both Team Australia and Team USA for their pioneering work. The next step will be to oversee the development of their design work for actual implementation in the focus Sanitation Studio communities; we look forward to sharing this story over the coming months!



Team USA (above): Judith Torres, Sarah Parker, Tim Murphy, Nicholas Michalenko. Team Australia (below, left to right): Ali Suleman, Nurul Driver, Sean Munday, David Duddy.



Announcing the results: www.worldskillsfoundation.org/2014060-wic-results-announced/

“LIGHTS, CAMERA... ACTION!” SINGAPOREAN MEDIA STUDENTS ADD THEIR UNIQUE VIEW



The SST Students get to work, introducing themselves to each of the participants on the first morning

- The Water Innovation Challenge was also assisted by team of young Media Studies students from the School of Science and Technology in Singapore. With the average age across the group being just 15 years old, the team took on roles for interviewing, camerawork and editing – creating a high-quality series of highlights reels and documentary footage – with an inspirational level of professionalism and commitment.
- SST Media Studies teacher and supervisor of the



The camera crew get organized before returning to film the action in and around the Central Amphitheatre in ITE College East.

students at the event, Patricia Ng Seen Leng, was keen to share the value of this experience for her young team: "I don't think any amount of lessons within the four walls of the classroom could have made their Media Studies as meaningful as this event! We are pleased with the reception of the videos, but more important, we are really happy that the videos are promoting the message: that we could all bring our skills together for a good cause – and in this case, to come up with solutions for clean water and proper sanitation in developing countries like Nepal and Bangladesh."

- This style of collaboration – working with talented and enthusiastic local media students, offering their unique perspective on the action – is another aspect that we will hope to duplicate for future Innovation Challenges.

Check out the videos produced by the SST Media Studies student team...

Day 1 highlights reel: <http://youtu.be/Vho8V7qjihQ>

Day 2 highlights reel: <http://youtu.be/yfADUePY6LI>

Day 3/overall highlights reel: http://youtu.be/Qlv_Pt1zNY8

'OPEN STUDIO' ADDS NEW DIMENSION FOR GUESTS

- A further addition to our Water Innovation Challenge was the 'Open Studio': a networking and gallery area positioned adjacent to the action, designed to help guests to meet and exchange ideas with our key partners in plumbing, water and sanitation projects. With a range of detailed project information on display, our Open Studio was placed there to connect the right people in the right place at the right time. It succeeded in doing so, becoming a popular meeting point and working area for visitors and staff during the event.
- Following the positive feedback from those working in the Open Studio over the three days, providing such a space will continue to be a feature for future Innovation Challenge related projects.



The Open Studio doubled as a valuable presentation area for Water Innovation Challenge Teams during the three days.

FOUNDATION BOARD APPROVE NEW ROUND OF PROJECTS



New WorldSkills Foundation projects are presented and discussed during the Board of Trustees meeting in Singapore earlier this month.

- To coincide with the Water Innovation Challenge, the WSF Board of Trustees also met in Singapore on 1 June.
- In addition to evaluation on results and updates from current and completed projects, a number of exciting projects were presented and approved at the meeting.
- In line with targets in the new WorldSkills branding strategy, there will be more collaboration with UNIDO on projects in Africa – building on the success of the first National Skills Competition in Abidjan (see below) – continued expansion of the Healthabitat Sanitation Studio programme, and further development of the Virtual 3D Learning initiative.
- Potential of the Water Innovation Challenge and broader Innovation Challenge concept was also explored: the Project Development team will now begin to preparation for a second, improved edition of the Singapore event, with location and focus TBC.

“WORKING TOGETHER”: MORE HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FIRST EVER NATIONAL SKILLS COMPETITION IN COTE D’IVOIRE

- The success of the first National Skills Competition in Abidjan, Cote d’Ivoire was a result of joint effort from WSF, UNIDO, the European Union and the Cote d’Ivoire Ministry of Education
- The students and teachers from participating schools combined with our WorldSkills Experts to forge a true spirit of working together. One of the main legacies of WorldSkills Competitions is to give visibility to the importance of vocational education as one of the true tools of socio-economic transformation, and that was our goal in Abidjan during this first Ivorian Skills Competition.



WorldSkills Experts with the first group of Ivorian Champions following the closing ceremony.

See more from Abidjan and hear how the event impacted those involved: <http://youtu.be/IWfc0Z9LI6o>