

## ■ Chronological Development to ISF2007 in Shizuoka

May 2000

The Vice Minister of Labor of Japan expressed the intention of Japanese government to host a jointly organized event, encompassing of the WorldSkills Competition (WSC) and the International Abilympics (IA), at the Informal Meeting of the Asia/Pacific Members of WorldSkills Organization held in Singapore.

June 2000

At the General Assembly Meeting of WS in Lisbon, the proposal of the 38<sup>th</sup> WSC in Finland (Helsinki) in 2005 and the 39<sup>th</sup> WSC in Japan (Shizuoka) in 2007 was unanimously adopted.

August 2000

At the Assembly Meeting of International Abilympic Federation in the Czech Republic (Prague), the proposal of the 7<sup>th</sup> IA in Japan (Shizuoka) to be held in conjunction with 39<sup>th</sup> WSC was adopted.

November 2003

The 6<sup>th</sup> IA was held in India (New Delhi).

December 2003

Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare convened a consultative committee to form the concept of the event including banner, active message to media and publications and the meaning of skills for the nation and individuals.

January 2005

Preparatory Committee, a predecessor of JOCISF, embarked on the basic planning: finance and sponsors, managing schedules, technical preparation, site infrastructure, official program, hospitality, public & media relations and promotion.

March 2005

The name, schedule, venues and general producer of the event were announced.

April 2005

JOCISF was established.

May 2005

MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) between JOCISF and WSI was signed.

May-June 2005

The 38<sup>th</sup> WorldSkills Competition was held in Helsinki.

October 2005

Symbol mark of ISF2007 was developed.

November 2005

Collaboration with the ministries concerned for the implementation plan of ISF2007 was approved by the Cabinet meeting.

The program of the 7<sup>th</sup> IA was approved at the IAF Executive Committee Meeting in Bahrain.

May 2006

WSI and IAF signed a MOU regarding mutual cooperation.

June 2006

JOCISF embarked on raising funds under the authorization by Ministry of Finance for tax concessions.

August 2006

Details of the 7<sup>th</sup> IA were reported by JOCISF and approved at the IAF Executive Committee Meeting in New York.

October 2006

Event mascots "SKILLSON & WAZABEE" were announced.

November 2006

A kick off event in Shizuoka celebrating Countdown 365 Days.

January 2007

His Imperial Highness The Crown Prince Naruhito assumed the office of Honorary President of JOCISF from 18 January to 21 November 2007.

April 2007

WSI Technical Committee was held in Tokyo.

July 2007

Construction of tents in Kadoike of Numazu started.

August 2007

Chief Experts Meeting was held in Switzerland (Lostruf) for the WSC.



### Symbol Mark of ISF2007

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A symbol mark was created to demonstrate creativity expanding infinity. This is represented through the bouncing shape which demonstrates the sequence of the movements which are feeling, thinking and imaging when people create things.



### WorldSkills Logo

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The design shows a hand, as expressed by five strong lines of color representing youth of all countries/regions, reaching out for new skills. The logo is incorporated as the symbol mark of each WorldSkills Competitions by placing the host city and year under the logo.

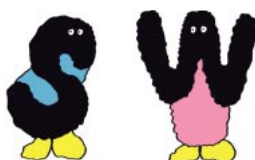


### International Abilympics Logo

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The logo for the Abilympics was designed by a famous Japanese artist; the late Taro Okamoto.

The laurel wreath of victory encircling the human figure symbolizes the strength and determination of the human spirit in overcoming disabilities. The symbol mark of the IA2007 was made by adding the year and venue.



### Official Mascots "SKILLSON & WAZABEE"

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They were born from our dream to have successful ISF2007 which encompasses both the WSC and the IA. SKILLSON & WAZABEE appeared throughout the competition site supporting the event to promote international exchange between Japan and other countries/regions.

## ■ The Competitors and Delegates Landed

### WorldSkills Competitors

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A mix of excitement filled the Gotemba, Fuji and Susono Villages on the evening of 11 November as more than 800 skilled champions from across the globe came together. During dinner, former Competitors joined together as WS Champions Exchange ambassadors representing 6 different Member countries/regions and they were onsite for the next 10 days to promote the Champions Exchange program whilst offering support to WSC competitors. The Champions Exchange Team: Ben Irwin (Australia), Daniel Burpitt (UK), Kian Ann Tan (Singapore), Ross Wasson (Ireland), Cornelia Imser (Austria) and Younghoon Kim (Korea).





Fujio Mitarai, President of JOCISF



Jack Dusseldorp, President of WSI



Fumio Kimura, President of IAF



Koichi Kishi, Senior Vice-Minister, MHLW



Yoshinobu Ishikawa, Governor of Shizuoka

## International Abilitylympics

The IA delegations arrived in Japan on 12 and 13 November. In consideration of the well being of the overseas participants after their long journey, a lounge was set up at Narita International Airport with the support and cooperation of Narita International Airport Corporation. Immigration and customs clearance procedure went smoothly, thanks to the full cooperation of the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Finance, Japan. Volunteers and staff members from the JOCISF welcomed the delegations at the airport to lend their support for the next leg of the journey, onwards to Shizuoka.

Shizuoka Prefecture promotes Universal Design. The concept of UD encourages the creation of a society and goods that enable people with and without disabilities regardless of age or nationality, to live comfortably. This concept was incorporated in various ways at the event. Buses for IA participants and visitors had wide doors and low floors.

## ■ ISF2007 — Officially Open at Granship

On Wednesday 14 November, the Opening Ceremony as a symbolic joint event of the 39<sup>th</sup> WSC and 7<sup>th</sup> IA took place in Granship, Shizuoka City, with The Crown Prince, Honorary President of ISF2007, in attendance. It was blessed with fine weather of 18°C on average in daytime. The event began by marching-in of competitors from the outer area of Granship and cheering them on were more than 1,900 supporters outdoors and more than 4,700 participants and guests in the large and medium halls indoors.

The marching-in by teams of competitors/contestants from both the WSC and IA under the one flag was applauded. The champions appeared flushed with excitement and anxiously looked forward to the days of Competition to follow.

### <Program of Ceremony>

- Marching in
- Welcome Address by Fujio Mitarai, President of JOCISF
- Congratulatory Note by Jack Dusseldorp, President of WSI
- Congratulatory Note by Fumio Kimura, President of IAF
- Oath by Competitors/Contestants and Experts/Judges
- Special Message by H.I.H. The Crown Prince
- Welcome Address by Koichi Kishi, Senior Vice-Minister, Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare
- Welcome Address by Yoshinobu Ishikawa, Governor of Shizuoka

Three Competitors and three Experts for WSC and two contestants and one Judge for IA were given the opportunity to represent the rest of the participants and took the Oath of integrity, impartiality, transparency and fairness in their native language. After the Opening Ceremony, the competitors/contestants gathered together at an Exchange Program and enjoyed sharing stories of journey, homes and themselves.

Concurrently, the delegation leaders, VIPs and diplomats were welcomed at a separate reception. H.I.H. The Crown Prince attended both the Exchange Program and the reception. The ISF2007 was officially open!

## 6 The 39th WorldSkills Competition

The 39<sup>th</sup> WSC had 2,861 participants from 47 members including 812 competitors from 46 countries/regions for 47 skills. During the 4-day competition, 219,000 visitors were transported to WS Competition site. It recorded the largest number in participating Member countries/regions, registered participants, competitors and visitors.

### Competition Site

The WS Competition site at Kadoike area in Numazu City composed of 60,000m<sup>2</sup> including Numazu Technical Centre, Numazu Technical College, a couple of system architecture and 13 temporary large tents. System panels for tents and recycling materials to level land for constructions were hired and saved exhausting natural resources. It resulted environmentally friendliness.

#### <Land Space>

Kadoike area	68,890m <sup>2</sup>
Playground of Kokusan Denki Co. Ltd., (Hall 13,14)	14,000m <sup>2</sup>
Numazu Technical College playground (Hall 15, 16)	18,000m <sup>2</sup>
Total land space	100,890m <sup>2</sup>

#### <Floor Space>

Numazu Technical Training Centre	9,400m <sup>2</sup>
System Architecture	9,700m <sup>2</sup>
Large Tents	38,300m <sup>2</sup>
Gym of Numazu Tech. College	1,900m <sup>2</sup>
Total floor space	59,300m <sup>2</sup>



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## ■ WS Competition Program

Thursday	08 Nov.	Arrival of TD, Ex, I
Friday	09 Nov.	Welcome Reception for TD, Ex, I
Saturday	10 Nov.	Experts Training, Competition Preparations
Sunday	11 Nov.	Arrival of OD, TL, C, OO, O Competition Preparation
Monday	12 Nov.	One School One Country, Support Program Welcome Reception for OD, TL, C, OO, O Competition Preparation
Tuesday	13 Nov.	Familiarization, Competition Preparation
Wednesday	14 Nov.	Opening Ceremony, Exchange Program, Reception
Thursday	15 Nov.	Day 1 of competition
Friday	16 Nov.	Day 2 of competition
Saturday	17 Nov.	Day 3 of competition
Sunday	18 Nov.	Day 4 of competition
Monday	19 Nov.	Assessment, Excursions for OD, TL, C, OO, O
Tuesday	20 Nov.	WS Welcome Festival at Competitors' Village Excursions for TD, Ex, I
Wednesday	21 Nov.	Optional Tour, Closing Ceremony Farewell Party
Thursday	22 Nov.	Departure





## ■ One School One Country Support Program

Schools in Numazu, 46 elementary and junior high, supported WS Members and corresponded with competitors before the competition, and cheered on the competitors during the Competitions.

On 12 November, 1,200 competitors and delegates visited 39 schools.

### Extracts from WS report— “Overwhelming welcome for the Dutch Team at Kanaoka Elementary School”

It was a great welcome starting with a lunch, each Dutch team member went in a different class of the school, together with all the children. Every class prepared a few questions for each candidate and although the two languages would suggest that communicating was not really easy, the children and team members had a great time together, especially when one of the team members came into the school, dressed as a lion!

After lunch, the Dutch team was welcomed in the big school hall, where all 850 children were waiting for them to perform a beautiful program. The team marched into the impressive hall while Dutch flags were waving everywhere and a famous Dutch victory song was played.

All the children of Kanaoka Elementary School made music, songs, or spoke and danced to the best of their ability, an impressive and warm way of welcoming a team from the other side of the world. Moreover the school really took the effort in getting to know the Dutch culture and sharing some of their Japanese to the Dutch team. An overwhelming and inspiring experience of which all the Team members said that they did not know how to express their feelings and how to tell people back home, what it actually meant. An experience they, and hopefully the Japanese children of Kanaoka Elementary School, will never forget for the rest of their lives.

### **Thank You & Congratulations from The Technical Committee Chairman & Vice Chairman**

We are sincerely pleased to congratulate everyone for their excellent work in the preparation and management of the largest and best WorldSkills competitions to date. These are not just our sentiments but the verdict of the (independent) Quality Auditor: Ms Ellen du Bellay. Quote “The 2007 WorldSkills Competition was of exceptional quality, the best of the three competitions that have been assessed by the Quality Auditor.”

We want to recognise and thank all Technical Delegates, the Chief Experts, the Deputy Chief Experts, the Experts, the Workshop Supervisors and the JOCISF Technical Department led by Mr Shinichi Ozawa who worked tirelessly to ensure successful competitions.

Our special thanks go to the Secretary General, David Hoey and his staff. The performance of this team was outstanding and an inspiration to all who worked alongside them.

We are proud of the success achieved by all at WSC2007 and, in our elected roles we are happy to represent another great team, the WorldSkills Executive Board.

Arigatou

Liam Corcoran  
 Technical Delegate, Ireland  
 Chair Technical Committee  
 Vice President Technical Affairs

Veijo Hintsanen  
 Technical Delegate, Finland  
 Vice Chair Technical Committee



## ■ Competition Day 1 (15 Nov.)

In 17 halls, at 8 a.m. on 15 November, Experts and Workshop Supervisors welcomed the arrival of Competitors. Day 1 of the WSC kicked off at 9a.m. The media and visitors were anxiously waited to get their first glance of the Competition in action until 10 a.m. The Competition site was beautifully surrounded by fresh flowers arranged on site by local students and gardeners. The test projects have been developed by the Experts in their skill over months and months of preparation and 30% has been changed on site. The Competitors were busy going over blueprints, details for their skill.



## ■ Competition Day 2 (16 Nov.)

The Crown Prince arrived at the WSC site at 10 a.m. He watched several of the skills in the morning receiving a warm welcome by Chief Experts and Workshop Supervisors and visitors. Many spectators came to see him to the Gate when he left at noon. In the morning 130 VIP leaders from over 15 countries representing government, education, training, industry and organisations arrived to see the Competition for the first time. They were led in small groups throughout the site. The VIPs joined other guests (a total of 200 participants) in the WS Leaders Forum, in which the vice-governor of Shizuoka welcomed them. Meanwhile, the Competitors continued to work away on their test projects throughout the day. With more than 30,000 school children, students and general public, the Competition site was a thriving place of activities. Mt. Fuji has also been gracing them with her presence and provides the perfect back drop to the Competition site.





### ■ Competition Day 3 (17 Nov.)

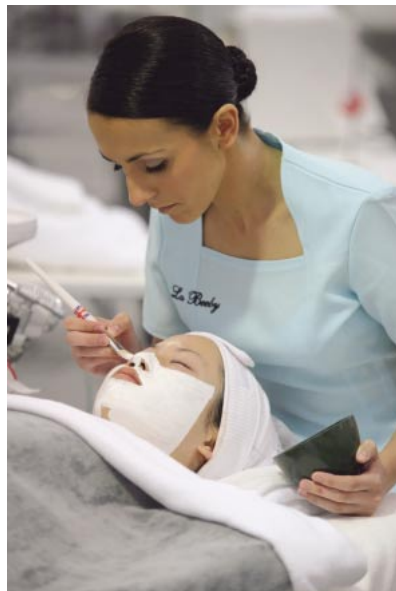
The WSC has been extremely well attended by tens of thousands of visitors. Spectators were perched at the side of each skill area tentatively watching the competitors at work. Web cameras on each competitor helped the spectators get up close and personal with the competitors to truly witness and understand the complexity of the projects and tasks that were being worked on.

Over 500 domestic and international media provided the coverage of the WorldSkills Competition worldwide. The online Media Centre photo gallery was expanding at a phenomenal rate as photographers from around the world uploaded photos onto the website. Interviews were hosted throughout the site and broadcasts around the world were conducted everywhere.

The Competitors were sensitive to the acts of others around them, but remained calm and concentrated as they only had one more day to realize their goals.

### ■ Competition Day 4 (18 Nov.)

Visitors continued to flood the Competition site. Months and sometimes years of training were all leading up to this day. They worked hard to finish their projects. Audiences easily understood from the pressured face of competitors that the test project was so hard to accomplish. The Minister of Health, Labor and Welfare, Yoichi Masuzoe, visited the competitions during spare moments of his busy schedules. The countdown began and finally whistled. Competitors recognized that their long days came to an end, and praised each other. On the other hand, the Experts had a long day for marking ahead.







## ■ WorldSkills Welcome Festival

A welcome festival was arranged by Shizuoka Pref. and municipalities at the Gotemba Main Village on 20 November. There were four zones within the area: a Japanese Cultural Experience zone, a Stage Event zone, an Exchange Event zone and a Tourism/Public Relations zone. The four zones attracted 4,000 participants.



## ■ Closing Ceremony

The 39th WorldSkills Competition officially came to an end on 21 November. The Closing Ceremony was a wonderful display of energy and excitement. All 47 skill categories announced their champions, followed by the Best of Nation and finally the Albert Vidal Award.

The Albert Vidal Award is named after the founder of WorldSkills International, Francisco Albert-Vidal. He was responsible for the achievement of setting the original goals in a changing world: 33 years as an untiring promoter in his position as Secretary General and seven years as President of the International Organization he was constantly presenting new ideas. The International Organization was shaped into what it is today through his efforts. In memory of Albert Vidal, the Award signifies the Competitor that achieves the highest score out of all the Competitors.



The JOCISF handed on WS flag to the next host WorldSkills Calgary 2009.

The Vice President of JOCISF, Shunkichi Miyoshi, delivered speech as closing. A Farewell Party, also supported by Numazu Citizens, for all the participants was extremely well attended and enjoyed by all.

### <Program of Ceremony>

- Speech by Jack. Dusseldorp, President of WSI
- Speech by Wataru Ito, Vice Minister of Health, Labor and Welfare
- Speech by Mamoru Saito, Mayor of Numazu
- Awarding Ceremony
- Hand-over of WSI flag
- Closing Speech by Shunkichi Miyoshi, Vice President of JOCISF



The Albert Vidal Award earned by Canadian in Cooking, Nicolas Drouin who are praised by J.Dusseldorp, President of WSI

## ■ WS VIP Experience and Leaders Forum

The WSC welcomed 130 VIP leaders from over 14 countries representing government, education, training, industry and organizations. They experienced the brilliant of skills and as well as food, culture, hospitalities in Japan.

On 16 November, on the other side of the Competition, the WS Leaders Forum was held. At the beginning, the Vice Governor of Shizuoka Prefecture, Kenichi Hanamori, gave a warm welcome. With 200 leaders in attendance Dr. Ji Oh Song Executive Vice President/Senior Advisor for Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd., gave a dynamic and interactive keynote presentation on Samsung Electronics. All the VIPs were captivated by Dr. Song's message.

## ■ Gokigen!

Numazu City, who was also responsible for arranging the One School One Country Support Program, put a lot of heart and effort to welcom WS family members in town. During the days of the competition, Kadoike Park, located less than a minutes walk away from the Competition site, was filled with exciting events. The visitors joined international exchange event and enjoyed food court that served traditional dishes from Japan. In Monozukuri area people tried their hand at origami and bamboo craft.

On 21 November, Numazu City welcomed the Worldskills by hosting a spectacular festival outside of Kira Messe Numazu. The festival also involved the live broadcasting of the Closing Ceremony and after the ceremony, Numazu citizens offered a warm atmosphere by Yosakoi dancer's and parade float.

## ■ Excursions for Participants

Taking the great number of participants into consideration, two types of excursions were arranged — Hakone and Izu.



## ■ Optional Tours for Experts

A set of optional tours for Experts and Technical Delegates was arranged on 9 November. There was a choice of visiting the Competitors' Village, a shopping trip to electronic retailer, visiting a museum or taking a historical tour. On November 21 there was an option to visit to one of the largest machine tool production factories in Japan, Toshiba Machine, whose headquarters is in Numazu. A hundred experts and observers participated in this tours.

## ■ Global Skills Village

The exhibitors were 17 WS Members, WSI, International Labor Organization and 7 Global Sponsor Partners. It showcased the profile of their countries/regions and organizations to the visitors during the days of the competition.

## ■ Event Sponsor Village

Event Sponsors representing 22 companies introduced their products and information during the days of the competition.

## ■ Japan Skills Village

From leading-edge industries to everyday lives of people, Japanese traditional skills and the art of manufacturing skills were introduced to 60,000 visitors through displays and demonstrations. The Japan Skills Village was co-sponsored by the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (MHLW).

## ■ Happy Hour

To show its appreciation for their hard work, JOCISF invited the dedicated WS volunteers and staff to the restaurant Fuji where they can develop relationships and exchange information. Experts, Technical Delegates, Interpreters, Official Delegates, WSI Executive Board members and the Secretariat joined for an one and half hour gathering. On the last day of the competition, much more participants gathered and celebrated in the Global Skills Village.



Minister, Yoichi Masuzoe, with the representatives of Switzerland

## 7 The 7th International Abilympics

The 7th IA had 910 participants from 34 countries/regions including 360 contestants for 26 vocational skills and 4 leisure & living skills from 23 countries/regions.

### Contest Site

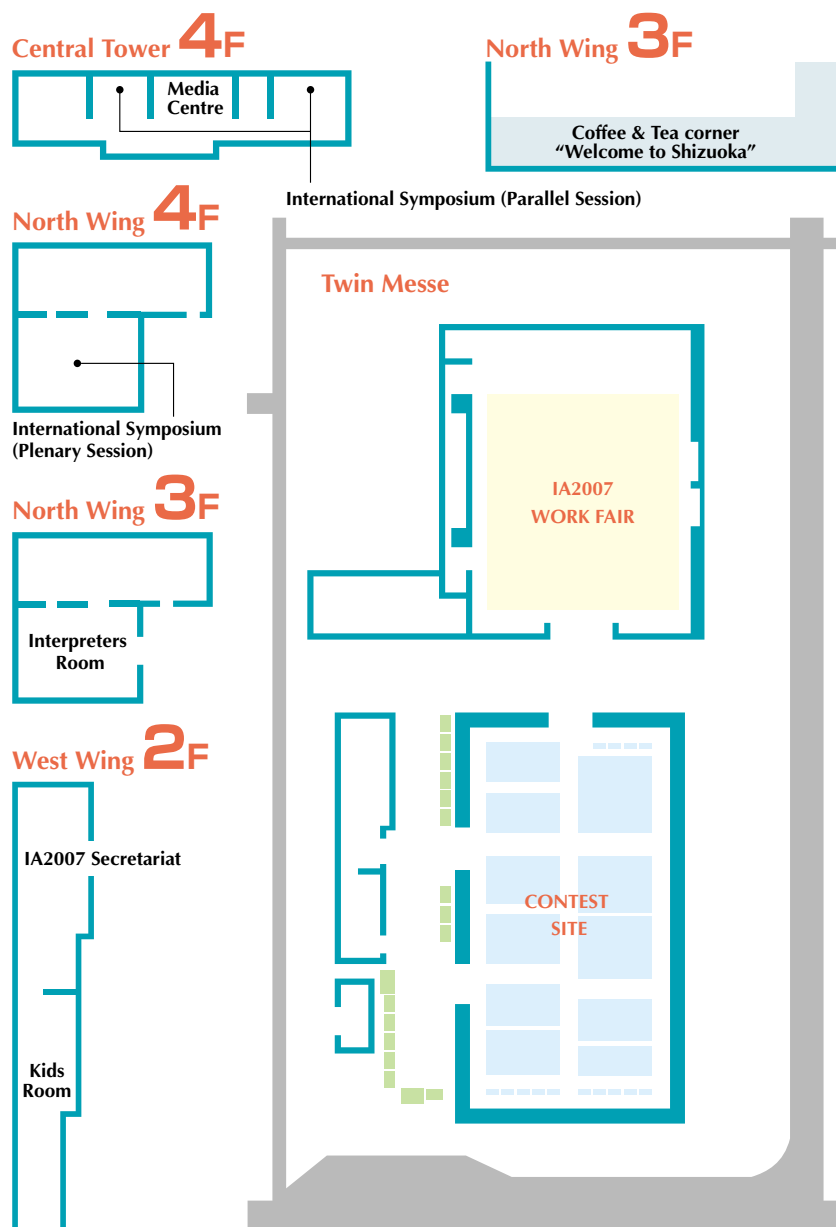
The 7th International Abilympics took place mainly at Twin Messe in Shizuoka and at three adjacent places for satellite exhibitions.

Universal Design was adapted in every way for safe and easy use by contestants, participants and visitors.

<Floor Space>

Twin Messe	45,273m <sup>2</sup>	Competitions, IA2007 Work Fair
Shizuoka Art Gallery	330m <sup>2</sup>	Satellite Exhibition (Artworks)
Granship 6F	538m <sup>2</sup>	Satellite Exhibition (Artworks)
Parche 5F Gallery	70m <sup>2</sup>	Satellite Exhibition (Posters)
Nanbu Gymnasium	1,280m <sup>2</sup>	Staff rooms, Volunteer Centre
Total floor space	47,491m <sup>2</sup>	

### Map of Event Site



## IA Program

Monday	12 Nov.	Arrival of Participants
Tuesday	13 Nov.	Arrival of Participants, Shizuoka Friendship Program
Wednesday	14 Nov.	Opening Ceremony, Exchange Program, Reception
Thursday	15 Nov.	Day 1 of Contest, IA2007 Work Fair Satellite Exhibitions, Excursion (Side Events: Shizuoka Friendship Program, NHK Heart Concert, and 3 kinds of opinion/experience exchange meetings for 1) disabled workers, 2) employers, and 3) specialists, aiming at employment promotion and ability development of persons with disabilities)
Friday	16 Nov.	Day 2 of Contest, IA2007 Work Fair, Satellite Exhibitions, International Symposium, IAF Assembly, Excursion (Side Event: Shizuoka Friendship Program)
Saturday	17 Nov.	Day 3 of Contest, IA2007 Work Fair, Satellite Exhibitions, Excursion (Side Event: e-AT Seminar 2007)
Sunday	18 Nov.	Performing Arts Festival, Closing Ceremony, Farewell Party, Satellite Exhibitions
Monday	19 Nov.	Departure





## ■ Contest Day 1 (15 Nov.)

Contestants from various countries/regions gathered at the contest site on the morning of the first day of the contest. Because of the late arrival of some contestants and staff members, the contest schedule was postponed by 30 minutes. The daily program thus opened at 9:30 a.m., with no serious confusion. His Imperial Highness The Crown Prince, Honorary President of the event, arrived at the contest site at around 10 a.m. He stayed to watch all of the contests, including the Flower Arrangement and Embroidery, and the IA2007 Work Fair. He smiled back at the visitors who waved at him, creating a friendly atmosphere.



Eleven contests were held on Day 1. The eyes of all visitors were captivated by the serious determination of the contestants and the excellent finesse of the works they completed. The evaluation process for some contests lasted late in the night.

## ■ Contest Day 2 (16 Nov.)

At 9 a.m., a crowd gathered in front of the bulletin board to read the result of the contests held on the previous day. When the results were posted, the venue was filled with a loud roar of contestants and officials. Some prizewinners cried in jubilation, and some who missed a prize expressed regret. Still, all of the contestants had bright faces.



Contests began at 9 a.m. with a large crowd of spectators looking on. Nine contests were held on Day 2, including the contests on Electronic Circuit Connection Techniques and PC Assembly. Some contestants in the Photography contest took photos of the contestants competing in the other contests. They captured expressions of shyness on the faces of the other contestants, and scenes of dedicated efforts focused on the creation of works. As soon as the events were over, the judges started the evaluation of contestants' works.



### ■ Contest Day 3 (17 Nov.)



As on Day 2, the crowd of contestants and officials in front of the bulletin board outside the contest venue cried out, in excitement or consternation, when the results were posted. Ten contests were held on Day 3, the last contest day. Many of the contests, especially Basket Making, Dental Techniques, and Wood Carving, require very delicate skills. Contestants in the Computer Programming contest tackled the new challenge of producing a program to operate an industrial robot. Both the contestants and visitors seriously watched the motions of a 2-meter-long robot arm slowly draw a precise drawing.



As on the two previous days, the events lasted until 4 p.m. Partly because it was the final day, the visitors who cheered the contestants gave a particularly big applause when the end of the contests was announced. This was the end of all of the 30 contests held over the three days. The evaluation process continued into the very late night for some of the contests. In spite of this, all the judges left the site with bright faces, as did the contestants after the contests.



## ■ IA2007 Work Fair (Demonstration and Exhibition) (15-17 Nov.)



Aiming at “Promoting the Employment of Persons with Disabilities and Realizing a Society for All,” the IA delegations and private companies and organizations at home and overseas presented demonstrations and exhibitions in about 190 booths. Posters and live demonstrations introduced successful employment cases and cutting-edge assistive technologies as well as various products and projects based on the Universal Design concepts. All of the information and materials showcased were presented in easy-to-understand ways and received enthusiastically. The experience programs proved to be especially popular. Shizuoka Prefecture and Shizuoka City presented the “Welcome to SHIZUOKA” booth and the Shizuoka Hospitality Corner to introduce the charms of Shizuoka, including its tourist attractions and specialty products, while persons with disabilities served tea to visitors. A variety of fun stage events were also held for three days to entertain visitors.



### <Satellite Venues> (15-18 Nov.)

Satellite exhibitions were held at three locations in Shizuoka City. Exhibitions included unique artworks and attracted visitors.

Art Exhibition 1: Discovering Brilliant Talents—Trial for Business

Art Exhibition 2: Energy of Expression: Impact of l’Art Brut

Poster Exhibition 2007: Exhibition of original pictures and photos of the posters to publicize the “Employment Support for Persons with Disabilities Month”.







## ■ International Symposium (16 Nov.)

The International Symposium was held on November 16 at the contest venue under the theme of “Good Skills, Good Job: Realizing a Society for All.”

The symposium had 18 speakers from 9 countries/regions, with the participation of 250 people from 21 countries/regions.

In the Plenary Session held in the morning, speakers from International Labor Organization, McDonald’s Corporation (USA) and Canon Inc. (Japan) gave keynote presentations. The parallel sessions were held in the afternoon under the three themes: “Enjoying My Working Life,” “Supporting Disabled Workers” and “International Abilympics: a Valuable Step in My Career.” The symposium was wrapped up by a plenary session with summaries of the speeches and discussions of the parallel sessions. Ms. Debra Perry (ILO) made a speech on “A New Commitment: Skills Training for People with Disabilities.” She reported the current employment and training status of persons with disabilities and introduced practical strategies. She also focused on a Society for All, which requires partnership among private firms, governments, NGOs, and persons with disabilities.

Mr. Don Crosby (McDonald) spoke on the theme of “Sharing a Corporate View of Developing Programs for Employing and Deploying Disabled Workers.” He focused on the pioneering efforts in the employment of persons with disabilities in the U.S., and the idea of diversity and “ability (not disability).” On behalf of private firms in Japan, Mr. Kazuto Ono (Canon) presented a speech entitled “What is Human Resources Management Based on the Respect for Human Life and Dignity?” He spoke on the system of personal counseling and mental health facilities adopted by his company for employees. Audience at the symposium voiced various opinions after the insightful presentations. This provided a meaningful opportunity for both speakers and audiences to think about and exchange information on the employment of persons with disabilities.

## ■ Shizuoka Friendship Program (13, 15-16 Nov.)

Shizuoka City organized the Shizuoka Friendship Program to promote understanding of disability issues and to promote international understanding, and to welcome delegations during the event.

Delegation members were warmly welcomed by students of primary and junior high schools and schools for children with disabilities. And they were very pleased to see the floral decorations with cheering messages and banners made by students, as well as the hand-made fans given to them as a token of the visit.

Delegation members fostered friendship with students, and students were impressed by the efforts of the contestants when they visited the contest site to cheer them.

## ■ Excursions (15-17 Nov.)

Eight courses of excursions were prepared for the IA delegation members. They provided visits to Shizuoka tourist spots and local vocational rehabilitation facilities over the three days (Nov. 15 to 17) aiming at deepening their understanding about Japan and Shizuoka Prefecture. These excursions were very popular among the participants.



## ■ Performing Arts Festival (18 Nov.)

The Performing Arts Festival was held on the theme of “Art, Culture and Cultural Exchange.” Splendid performances by artists with and without disabilities, including a pianist, traditional art performers, and Japanese harp performers, fascinated about 2,200 contestants, officials, and other visitors. The exciting demonstration by a local musket conservation group also amused visitors.



## ■ Closing Ceremony (18 Nov.)

The Closing Ceremony was attended by 2,200 people, including the participants in the contests, the IA2007 Work Fair, and the International Symposium. Remarks by RI Secretary General and Minister of Health, Labor and Welfare were followed by the Awarding Ceremony, the presentation of commemorative gifts to delegations from local primary school students, and the hand-over of the IA Flag to the next IA host of South Korea. The Awarding Ceremony also provided contestants an opportunity for international exchange. Contestants who won prizes and delegation officials shared their joy, and participating contestants praised one another for their various accomplishments.



### <Program of Ceremony>

- Speech by Tomas Lagerwall, RI Secretary General
- Speech by Yoichi Masuzoe, Minister of Health, Labor and Welfare
- Awarding Ceremony
- Presentation of Gifts to Contestants from Shizuoka
- Speech by Zenkichi Kojima, Mayor of Shizuoka
- Hand-over of IA Flag
- Closing address by Toshikazu Togari, Vice President of JOCISF



## ■ Farewell Party (18 Nov.)

The Farewell Party was held for contestants, officials, and other concerned persons in a relaxed atmosphere. Guests basked in the afterglow of the event while enjoying nice chats. It became a truly exciting time as the last event of the International Abilympics, uniting the performers and audience.



## 8 Support for Participants and Visitors

Various efforts were made to have everyone understand the event easily and participate in the events safely and comfortably.

### ■ Security of Information

#### **Interpreting**

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Simultaneous interpreting and sign language interpreting were provided for official events such as the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, skills contests, international symposium, and IA2007 Work Fair. In addition, language and sign language volunteer interpreters were also placed to guide the event site. A large-screen was set up at the opening and closing ceremonies to show the scene on the stage. Subtitles in the official languages and sign language interpretation were provided.

#### **Voice Code**

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Guidebooks and leaflets with voice codes were compiled to help persons with visual disabilities and to deepen the understanding of visitors on assistive technologies. Code-readers were placed at the event site.

#### **Voice Guide System with Faint Radio Wave**

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A radio voice guide service was provided for persons with visual disabilities and general visitors at the event site.

### ■ Accommodations

#### **WorldSkills Competition**

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Competitors' Village was the first for WorldSkills.

The Experts and Technical Delegates were accommodated in 17 hotels within a distance of 30 minutes by bus, in Numazu, Mishima and near Competition site area. The Official Delegates and Observers had choice of their hotels in Shinagawa, Shin-Yokohama and Atami.

It was helpful for JOCISF to provide the Competitors' Village and to have good understanding on the situation of the local accommodations. Special thanks go to our Members.

#### **International Abilympics**

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The IA participants stayed in around 20 hotels in Shizuoka City.

JOCISF gave first place to the accessibility for hotel assignment.

Accommodations were also improved to meet UD concepts, with funding support from a grant program, and with the provision of special equipment such as door knock sensor and shower chair for specific participants prepared by Shizuoka Prefecture to help the contestants stay comfortably at their hotels and inns. Mr. Yasuhiro Yamazaki, an expert producer of UD, oversaw and supported these efforts.

## ■ Transportations

### **WorldSkills Competition**

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The transportation was vital for the event. No direct public transportation was available between WSC site and hotels/stations. JOCISF provided Competitors, Experts, Technical Delegates, etc., with buses. In order to run the buses based on the program which varied from day to day, the time table was complicated. For tons of enthusiastic visitors, Shizuoka Prefecture carefully planned and controlled transportations by buses for groups, by private cars for park-and-ride and by shuttle buses. The shuttle buses departed JR Numazu and JR Mishima Stations respectively for WSC site ran every 5-10 minutes in a continuous loop from 8:30 during the days of the Competition.

### **International Abilympics**

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During the contests, nearly 30 special buses – low floor, with lift or with no step – were hired for contestants and delegation officials connecting hotels and contest venue.

Shizuoka Prefecture secured and controlled shuttle buses connecting the contest venue and JR stations of Shizuoka and Higashi-Shizuoka and the parking lot. Parking lots at the venue were available for people with disabilities.

Data: 1,168 buses for WS participants arranged by JOCISF.  
788 buses for IA participants arranged by JOCISF  
2,319 shuttle buses for public at large arranged by Shizuoka prefecture

## ■ IT Network Infrastructure

### **WorldSkills Competition**

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IT network Centre in the WSC headquarters was built up:

- 1 to watch the site by camera for total information control;
- 2 to send the scene of competition and the ceremonies to large screen installed in each hall;
- 3 to operate Competition Information System (CIS) of WS and to network central server with PC in each workshop for calculation;
- 4 to provide internet connection for the media centre at the WSC site and Opening/Closing Ceremony venues;
- 5 enable the use of a broadcast system where a short mail can be sent to the selected mobile phones simultaneously;
- 6 to provide internet connection for the Global Skills Village, Event Sponsor Village, and Competitors' Village alongside of internet café for email service.

### **International Abilympics**

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For smoother operation of IA, JOCISF provided internet connection for the Secretariat, Media Centre, Exhibition Hall and Volunteer Centre for effective work and communication. Local companies cooperated with live video footage on website for promotion. An internet café for IA participants was made available on site. It was a huge success.

## ■ Safety, Disaster Relief and Medical Care

The occupational safety and health on both events was ensured under the supervision of Japan Industrial Safety and Health Association.

Medical services were made available in each event venue for first aid to the injured and sick. Through the local fire-fighting team, ambulance was on stand by at the competition site to transport people to the local hospitals if necessary. Staff of fire stations were patrolling around the site and took precautions against fire and disaster.

Security guards were on duty for 24 hours and watched over the site and at the restricted area.

## ■ Utilities and Other Supports

### **Information Counter**

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Information counters were set up at several locations at the sites for both events to provide information for concerned parties and general visitors.

### **Interpreting Service via Call Center**

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The Japan Organizing Committee provided 24-hour telephone interpreting service for event participants to help them communicate with Japanese and English interpreters from Nov. 8 to 22. There were 85 calls between 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. during the period.

### **Pictogram Signs**

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Pictogram signs were utilized for all visitors, so that they could be easily understood.

### **Post Office**

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A temporary post office was set up where it was possible to buy stamps and mail letters and parcels.

### **Money Exchange & ATM (cash machine)**

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A money exchange booth and a satellite linked mobile ATM were made available at WSC site.

### **For Religious Custom**

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Prayer rooms were available at each event site.

### **Variety of Menus**

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Meals for people with special dietary needs were available at each event site.

### **Internet Access**

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Internet LAN at the internet café was available at each event site and Competitors' Village.

### **Service Desk**

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The desk enabled visitors to make free use of wheelchair, and served as a "lost & found" desk.

### **Vehicles for Wheelchair Users**

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The vehicles specifically designed for persons with disabilities were available at each event site.

### **Day-care Room**

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A day-care room with nursery experts was available for visitors at each event site.

### **Sales of Official Products**

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Official mascots and products were available at the shop at each event site.



Gold Medal of the 39<sup>th</sup> WSC



Gold Medal of the 7<sup>th</sup> IA

## 9 Communications and Media Relations

### ■ Promotional Campaign in Schools

The first mission was to attract school students. For this purpose, JOCISF produced 20,000 copies of guidebooks for elementary and junior high school students mainly across Shizuoka and other adjacent prefectures. Another 5,000 copies were sent to 638 technical high schools over the nation to let students have preliminary knowledge about the Competition and the world of professional skills prior to their visit to the event. The guidebooks were utilized in the formal classes of vocational skills. In 2005 and 2006, the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, in line with policies to promote Monozukuri (to make or to create products by high level skills and technology), which will contribute to the nation's industrial progress, and as well to get the youth to familiarize vocational skills, entrusted JOCISF with publishing a promotional magazine "Skill" for school students.

News on Monozukuri activities from JOCISF website and dispatch of former champions as Monozukuri Ambassadors to their alma mater to introduce work skills to students were other activities.

Shizuoka prefecture positively encouraged school students and children to be interested in skills, by sending promotional teams to their schools, holding hand-work classes, networking with students on website and publishing a Children's Newspaper.

### ■ Promotions in Shizuoka

The first mission was to attract 200,000 people to the event. Shizuoka Prefecture took three steps for this goal: 1) enhance public awareness by publications and audio visual aids; 2) motivate people with expectations by forums and meetings; 3) encourage people to get involved in the event.

### ■ Public and Media Relations by JOCISF

For public awareness, JOCISF produced and disseminated several kinds of posters and leaflet prior to the event. The posters were placed at stations of Shinkansen between Tokyo and Osaka, JR train stations in Shizuoka, Service areas of highway and public offices.

For promotion, JOCISF commissioned prominent people, with a General Producer at the head of the list, as producers to supervise universal design, architecture and poster design, food and IT requirements. For media coverage, JOCISF organized a series of symposium, press conferences, countdown event and site tour prior to the event getting support from producers.

JOCISF opened a website for overseas participants and visitors in July 2005 and for domestic in April 2006 linking with WSI. JOCISF also opened media registration site to keep in touch with them and finally accepted 570 Japanese registrants and 130 overseas registrants. During the event, the online and onsite media centre supported their coverage. In the Opening and Closing ceremonies, the representatives of each media were accepted due to the limited capacity of the facilities. The daily report and highlight photos from WorldSkills website were highly appreciated by media.

## 10 Donations

JOCISF was authorized for tax concessions from 1 June 2006 to 13 November 2007, and received contributions from 1,465 organizations, companies and individuals in cash (700.4 million yen) and also sponsorship from 33 organizations and companies in cash (300.06 million yen) to cover the preparation and operating costs.

Other in-kind contributions (equipment, and resources) from 213 organizations and companies were utilized for Competition.

## 11 Many Heartfelt Thanks to You

It is a great honor for us all in the JOCISF to have received such praise from concerned parties at home and overseas, and to have brought the International Skills Festival for All, Japan 2007 to a successful close. We sincerely extend our appreciation to WSI and IAF officials, and the various organizations and private firms involved for understanding the purpose of the event, volunteers for their support and cooperation.

This provided Japan the opportunity to serve as the host of WorldSkills Competition for the third time in the entire history of the event and for the first time in 22 years; and as the host of the International Abilympics for the second time in its entire history and for the first time in 26 years. Past events were held in the major cities of Tokyo and Osaka. We believe that the hosting of this event in a local city increased the value of the event. Local residents provided unprecedented warm hospitality, and international exchange programs were very active. This means that the event contributed to the promotion of international exchange, one of the event missions.

Infrastructure for the events was arranged with the support of experienced human resources in the private sector. Solving the various fundamental issues related to the management of the event, such as accommodations, meals, and transportation, was never an easy task. We appreciate the understanding and cooperation of all the officials of Member countries and regions, and other concerned parties.

We strongly hope that this event will help increase the value of skills and skilled persons. We sincerely wish to extend our hope for the success of the 40<sup>th</sup> WorldSkills 2009 in Calgary, Canada, and the 8<sup>th</sup> International Abilympics 2011 in Seoul, Korea.

Thank you very much, again.

征矢 紀 臣

Noriomi Soya  
Executive Director, Japan Organizing Committee  
for the International Skills Festival for All, Japan 2007

