

## **National selections begin for World Skills India 2012; Qualifiers to represent India in International Competition (Germany) in July this year**

**NEW DELHI, January 2, 2013.** The national selections for World Skills India 2012 in three trades namely Cooking, Confectionary and Restaurant Services were organised at the Institute of Hotel Management, New Delhi from December 18 to 20, 2012. The participants below the age of 22 years competed from various parts of the country. The participants who qualify will represent India at the World Skills International Competition in Germany in July 2013. For the three trades, two merit participants each have been selected from the competition. They will now undergo a rigorous training programme and another round of selection in February 2013. Those selected at this level will represent India in Germany.

The national competition was held after conducting two regional competitions for North and South region respectively. In each regional competition youth from more than 30 colleges participated to showcase their skills. From each region, three students were selected to participate in the national competition. The South region competition was conducted at Army Institute of Catering in Bangalore in May 2012 followed by the North regional competition in October 2012 at IHM in New Delhi.

These competitions will enable the youth to learn more about vocational trades and will help them to seriously consider these trades as a career opportunity. The hospitality sector has a huge demand for skilled Chefs and Restaurant Managers and in the absence of market information there is little awareness about the employment opportunity in the sector.

This competition is a part of the series of events that Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) in partnership with National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) is working on to identify skilled youth from various trades who can represent India in the 42nd World Skills Competition (WSC), which is the largest international Vocational Skills Competition. India is participating in different skills in the competition, which is gaining the stature of Olympics in Skills. WSC is conducted once in two years, and will be held in Germany from July 2-7, 2013. FICCI is anchoring competitions for Fashion Technology and Graphic Design.

In its 60 years history, World Skills International has come to symbolise the pinnacle of excellence in vocational training. Every two years thousands of young skilled people, below the age of 22 years, from across the world compete in a variety of skills ranging from welding to web designing. The competitors pitch their skills against the best of the best, and compete for Gold, Silver and Bronze medals in various trades and test themselves against demanding international standards. The competition is organised by the Amsterdam-based not-for-profit organisation, World Skills International. They represent the best of their peers drawn from regional and national skill competitions held currently in 52 countries and regions.

India became the 48th member country of the Amsterdam-based World Skills International (WSI) in 2007. The National Skills Development Corporation (NSDC) represents World Skills activities through World Skills India. India won its first Silver medal in 2009 amongst 900 competitors from 51 countries.

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