



APYouthNet Talk Show Summary #32

David Hoey
(June 2014, Bangkok)



Guests: **Mr David Hoey**, CEO of WorldSkills International

Host: **Mr Matthieu Cognac**, ILO Youth Employment Specialist

Camera, sound, editing: **Mr Julian Hadden**

Available at: <http://apyouthnet.ilo.org/podcast/>



Why the WorldSkills International was founded

WorldSkills International primarily promotes the vocational pathway as the first choice career option for young people. The organization showcases and inspires skills excellence, in other words, opening young people's eyes to the importance of skilled trades and technology, and how these can contribute to economic success to a country and personal fulfillment. The organization also fills a gap in career guidance, displaying a wide range of career options and choices available to young people.

On Society's Perception of the Right Education

David re-emphasized society's strong inclination towards academic pursuit. However, he believed that because the economic output of countries is dependent on what is produced, apart from intellectual property and research by academics, all countries still require high performing, high quality and skilled professionals to supply the necessary raw and processed work. For example, in the recent Olympics programme, skilled workers were employed to construct buildings, manufacture the medals given and provide transportation services and prepare food, among other things. He urged parents, educators, policy writers, government officials and captains of industry to be more open to vocation training as a professional option for employment. He compares skills to a "global currency", highly transferable and employable. Last year, the skills competition attracted 70 countries, their ministers and entourage, captains of industry and over 200,000 visitors. With a platform whereby hundreds of young skilled people, accompanied by their teachers and trainers, gather together from around the world to compete before the public in the skills of their various trades and technologies and test themselves against demanding international standards.

Thoughts on the Ideal Age for Working

David shares, whilst education systems concentrate on keeping students from grade 1 to grade 12, he believes that not giving them an option to pursue options other than academic careers may hamper their development. He said that people exposed to different career paths are more likely to stay with education longer. He encouraged youths between the ages of 13 to 18 to look at the skills available to them. In the competition, most youths realized that education is a more viable option to them after watching the skills displayed and economic output can improve when people specialize or choose industries and/or fields of studies that they are interested in. WorldSkills International has proven that the concept of skills competition works, as it fulfills three aims: driving up skills excellence, attracting more people into considering TVET as a career option, and encouraging all involved to strive and improve productivity. It also displays the difference between competence and excellence.

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