

ROBSON BRAGA DE ANDRADE'S SPEECH OPENING CEREMONY – 11.08.15

Ladies and gentlemen,

Welcome to the WorldSkills São Paulo 2015 Opening Ceremony.

This is a special moment for national industry: for the first time ever, Latin America is hosting the greatest vocational education and skills excellence Competition in the world.

Throughout this week, approximately 1,200 young professionals from 59 countries and regions will demonstrate skills, talent and enthusiasm for the professions they have chosen. They are determined and have what it takes to compete and be classified as the best in 50 skills related to trades, technological and service-oriented careers.

The National Confederation of Industry (CNI), which gathers industry Federations around Brazil, is proud to host such a great Competition with WorldSkills International.

To fulfil this mission, we have received essential support from SENAI, SENAC and SEBRAE.

With this magnificent event, we are highlighting the importance of vocational education in Brazil and other countries, for our businesses and for the overall society.

Vocational education provides opportunities for millions of young professionals joining the labour market with the goal of building the present and the future of our countries.

SENAI – the National Service for Industrial Training– is the greatest vocational education organization in Latin America, providing designed courses for all industry sectors, from basic vocational courses to undergraduate and graduate courses.

Over the past 73 years, SENAI has trained 65 million workers, which is almost one third of the current Brazilian population.

SENAI is present in 2,700 municipalities with innovation and technology institutes that provide certification services, as well as product and process development for the entire industry.

Ladies and gentlemen,

This event is a dream come true!

National champions from 59 countries and regions will compete to define the best in each skill.

WorldSkills São Paulo 2015 represents a renewed commitment from the Brazilian industry to pursue technological innovation and productivity growth.

We believe that vocational education is essential, as it provides access to quality jobs and better wages.

I would like to thank Mr. SIMON BARTLEY, the WorldSkills President, and WorldSkills International, because this partnership has allowed us to demonstrate vocational education to the world.

On behalf of Brazilian industry, I would also like to thank all of the companies that have supported this effort. Your help has been essential. I am very proud to thank all those who make SENAI such an extremely important institution for industry and Brazil.

On behalf of RAFAEL LUCCHESI, I would also like to greet all of the students, instructors, employees and managers.

A special thanks to my fellow Presidents of the industry Federations. Without you, this event would not have been possible.

I would also like to greet all of the Delegations, Technical Teams and the Jury. Dear Competitors, our valuable youth, my final message to you is a message of faith and trust.

Always believe in your skills and capacities. Take advantage of the opportunities that come up in your lives! Study, train and contribute to building a better prosperous world for everyone.

You are already champions! Thank you!