

SIMON BARTLEY'S SPEECH OPENING CEREMONY – 11.08.15

Boa noite – those are my first of two words of Portuguese. The third is Obrigado!

Obrigado, thank you, everyone. Thank you São Paulo 2015 Competition Organizer, thank you SENAI, thank you CNI, thank you Sponsors, thank you Volunteers.

Thank you for everything that you have done to prepare for this, our 43rd WorldSkills Competition - and our first in Latin America. Your dedication and hard work will make sure that our Competitors have the opportunity to show the world a level of expertise that ensures our message that young people are more than capable of 'Improving our world with the power of skills' is heard louder and clearer than ever before.

Tonight we choose;

Over 1,150 skilled young professionals choose to represent their countries and regions, and their professions as Competitors;

Over 1,100 dedicated trainers, teachers, and industry representatives choose to represent their countries and regions, and their professions as Experts;

Over 800 of us choose to be volunteers;

We all choose to be part of the greatest skills movement in history, raising the awareness of the power of skills to transform lives, economies, and society.

And if we are choosing, so is the world! Tonight the world is choosing to join us.

Our families, our friends, our work and college colleagues have chosen to be part of the millions on social and digital media watching you in every time zone on every continent and in every country of the world. They want you to succeed, they need you to succeed!

My final words tonight are to our Competitors.

The next four days are going to be tough, tougher than anything that you have experienced so far. But let me ask you to do four things:

Compete fairly and in the spirit of friendship and mutual development;

Make friends with your fellow Competitors, the next four days are the first days of the rest of your lives, lives where you will treasure those that you have met here;

Share what you are doing with everyone - colleagues, Experts, WorldSkills, the world!

And finally – you will never have another experience like São Paulo so - Enjoy yourselves. Good luck to you all.