

MINISTER RENATO JANINE'S SPEECH OPENING CEREMONY – 11.08.15

Welcome to the greatest vocational education and skills excellence Competition in the world: the WorldSkills Competition.

Vocational education began in Brazil over 100 years ago, with 19 artisan training schools created in 1909 by President Nilo Peçanha. Initially, there was a distinction between higher education and vocational education. The Ministry of Justice was responsible for higher education and the Ministry of Agriculture was responsible for vocational education. The Ministry of Education, was then created in the 1930s, and became responsible for both.

Since then, vocational training courses have been adapted to the country's socio-economic reality, ranging from secondary schools, technical and agro-technical schools, learning services, technological centres and institutes. According to the Brazilian model, public and private initiatives collaborate to promote and enhance vocational education for citizens and society's development.

We are entering the 21st century motivated by a new model that unites work, science, technology, innovation and culture. Vocational education, for the current and future scenarios in Brazil – is one of the critical policies to promote personal and socioeconomic development as well as enhance national productivity and competitiveness.

WorldSkills was created by Spanish and Portuguese citizens in 1950. The Olympic spirit is used to demonstrate the importance of knowledge and professional skills to the world, in a highly competitive setting between global economies. However, WorldSkills also teaches us that the fair play concept should be enhanced in the global competitiveness scene. Similarly, at the Olympics, competing is always the most important. Winning is nice, but it's not the primary purpose. The first and most important competition begins with ourselves. The desire to overcome our own limits is more important than simply overcoming our fellow Competitors. During this Competition process, we exchange and learn from those who excel. It's the type of game where everyone wins because learning is the primary goal. Those who lose also win. They gain experience and learning opportunities.

This is the first time, in sixty-five years, that the WorldSkills Competition will be held in Latin America. Vocational education has gone through intense progress in the past decades in Brazil. As the Minister of Education in Brazil, I feel lucky to witness this great Competition held in our continent for the first time. Brazil is honoured to welcome everyone from around the world. We are happy to welcome all PRONATEC and foreign students!

I'm thrilled to see how humanity has improved, acknowledging the value of vocational education. Having an entire Competition dedicated to vocational education clearly demonstrates progress. Above

all, I am proud of the young students here. I would like to ask you to also feel proud for yourselves. You guys are great! Most importantly, I'd like to highlight the value of gratitude. Pride is worthless without gratitude. Be grateful to your teachers, schools, families, and country. No one is successful alone; you are now standing on the shoulders of giants. Who are these giants? You live with them daily. They are your parents and teachers.

May the best win! Dear champions and Competitors, never lose sight of the great social responsibility you carry.

Enjoy the Competition and this skills excellence celebration!