

# UK- India Celebration of World Class Skills 2016

## India Skills Week

15-17 July 2016

The British Council, the British High Commission and the Department for International Development (DfID) joined hands with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), Government of India to celebrate the India Skills Week from 15-17 July 2016 at New Delhi. The opening ceremony on 15 July - celebrated as UN World Youth Skills Day - witnessed the Hon'ble President of India inaugurating the event. The three day event saw substantial participation from skills stakeholders including more than 35,000 students, 4000 corporates, 1000 government representatives, and 8000 influencers and parents.

The UK was an active partner to the India Skills Week events through seminars, youth engagement and expo to showcase its offer in skills training. The British Council (continuing its previous association with MSDE in supporting knowledge exchange for skill competitions) facilitated the participation of a delegation of six representatives from WorldSkills UK at the India Skills Week. The delegation conducted master classes for competition experts; shared best practices on organizing skill competitions at the Skills Seminar; and engaged with the youth in active interactions.



**Bird's eye view of the India Skills Week (top pic);  
UK Expo at the event**

# INDIA SKILLS WEEK

One of the major objectives of the National Policy for Skills Development and Entrepreneurship is to make vocational training aspirational for the youth. Skill competitions have been seen as one of the means to help drive up standards in training programmes for young people and in building awareness and aspirations in technical skills

In order to showcase the UK's experience in skill competitions, the British Council, working with WorldSkills UK and the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), brought a delegation of experts and competitors from WorldSkills India to the UK to experience the national Skills Show held in Birmingham in 2015. The delegation primarily focused on engaging young competitors and key experts in the Skills Show. The selection of the candidates was led by the NSDC and included competitions in five regions of India.

## The Skills Show UK

The Skills Show is the UK's largest skills and career advice events with an **annual footfall of 75,000**. It is **unique among the 75 other countries** associated with the World Skills on account of its sheer scale, focus on careers advice and attracting parents and young learners. For a short film on the Skills Show see: [www.youtube.com/user/SkillsShowThe](http://www.youtube.com/user/SkillsShowThe)

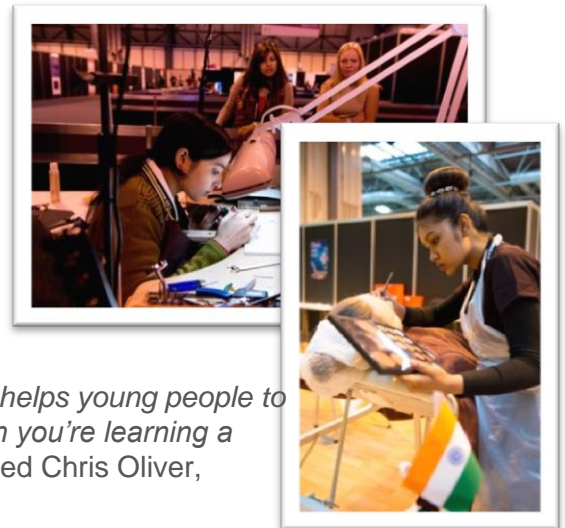
Leighton Ernsberger, Assistant Director, Bengaluru and Skills, British Council India elaborating on the need for such collaboration said, "Skill India is one of the Indian government's top priorities and rightly so. The relationship between the UK and India in the sector tends to focus on developing skills, but there is also a need to create a demand for skills. Skills competitions are an excellent means of rewarding and recognising talent and reaching out to a wide audience."



The exposure provided at the Skills Show had far reaching benefits for both the Indian and their UK counterparts.

*This platform provided me a huge amount of exposure and helped me know my own strengths and weakness. It also added more value to my existing skills sets because I learnt from the best practices of my UK counterparts. My confidence level has increased and my family, friends and employers see me in high esteem, said Ashwini, one of the enthusiastic Indian participants at the Skills Show UK competitions.*

*It is fascinating to see the different skills that international participants bring. It broadens the scope of the industry and helps young people to realise that the world is a far smaller place than it was. When you're learning a craft like this, you're learning an international language, opined Chris Oliver, Curriculum Leader at the Goldsmiths Centre UK.*



**Indian participants at Skills Show UK in 2015**

# INDIA SKILLS WEEK

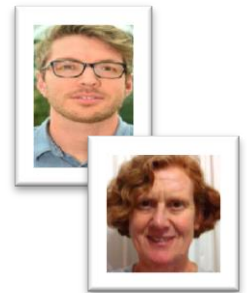
## Delegates from WorldSkills UK at India Skills Week 2016

Following on from the success of participation of students of WorldSkills India in the UK's Skills Show in November 2015, a delegation from the UK visited India Skills Week from 15-17 July 2016 in Delhi. The visits, facilitated by the British Council India, cemented a partnership between WorldSkills UK and counterparts in India.

At India Skills Week 2016, a team of UK training experts, skill champions (young people who have participated previously in skills competitions at national or international level) and WorldSkills UK staff visited employers and training providers to learn more about the training programmes in India. The UK delegation joined in the celebrations for the World Youth Skills Day and provided inputs to seminars on skills competition, development and entrepreneurship.

The delegation from WorldSkills UK who participated at the India Skills Week included:

- Ben Blackledge, Director of Education, WorldSkills UK
- Jill Goddard, Head of Planning and Funding, WorldSkills UK
- Sue Simpson, Key expert in beauty and wellness
- Frazer Minskip, Key expert in auto repair
- Naomi Radbourne, Skills champion in beauty & wellness
- Elijah Sumner, Skills Champion in auto technology



WorldSkills UK delegates at the India Skills Week seminar

At the seminar, Ben Blackledge highlighted that the Skills Show in UK is all about inspiring young people to consider vocational training by allowing them to experience the huge range of careers that are on offer and to interact with employers and industry experts. "Each year, overseas participants attend and compete against UK students. This gives young people an opportunity to hone their skills and allows them to experience what it is like to take part in an international competition as a way of preparing for the forthcoming WorldSkills Abu Dhabi 2017."

In the United Kingdom, **WorldSkills UK** has the responsibility for managing skills competitions, showcases, and experiences aimed at educating young people about apprenticeships and training programmes, inspiring them to discover more about these skill routes. Working with partners in education & industry, WorldSkills UK delivers skills competitions at local, regional, national & international level in over 60 skills areas, involving 16,000 young people and over 300 colleges and training organisations each year. Over 700,000 throughout the UK have been involved in WorldSkills UK events & competitions over last four years.

# INDIA SKILLS WEEK

A brief summary of the UK sessions at the India Skills Week is given below:

## **Master Class 1: *The Complete Guide to being WorldSkills Expert***

This session provided an in depth look at all the benefits and challenges of being a WorldSkills Expert by highlighting how to get the most out of the role, how to influence the direction of competitions and prepare experts and their competitors to excel at international competitions.

WSUK representatives were the facilitators of the session, which was attended by a focussed group of 52 competition organisers and experts



## **Master Class 2: *Accelerated Training: Tips and Tricks on how to create World-class Competitors***

This session will provided an overview of the process and methods used in the UK to turn talented college students into world class competitors in just 18 months. WSUK representatives were the facilitators of the session, which was attended by a group of 300 competition organisers and experts

## **UK Session 3: *The Wider impact of Skills Competitions: Up-skilling a Nation***

This session provided an insight into how the UK is using Skills Competitions to improve the teaching and learning in the UK education system. The session examined how Skills Competitions have been used to inspire and equip young people in the world of work through a truly integrated model.

The session was attended by more than 190 competition organisers and experts, state skill mission representatives, and other stakeholders interested in skills competitions.



*Master-class for competition experts (top pic); Seminar in progress at India Skills Week*

## **Seminar Session: *Enabling Global Mobility of Indian Workforce - Transnational Skill Standards***

Leighton Ernsberger was a speaker at the session which was attended by more than 367 T2 representatives from the skills sector.

# INDIA SKILLS WEEK

The two **Skills Champions from the UK**, who represented the sectors of Beauty Therapy and Automotive Engineering, played a particularly important role in the visit. They shared their journeys and experiences of competitions and the impact these had on their employment and personal developments with fellow competitors, training managers and educational professionals in a truly inspiring and impressive way.

Elijah Sumner, who won a Medallion of Excellence in Automotive Technology, WorldSkills Sao Paulo 2015, is now a highly sought after self-employed and contract automotive electrician in south Wales. His competition journey started whilst he was an apprentice with a major UK automotive company and took him through national finals and on to represent the UK. Alongside the high level and specialised training in technical skills that he received, Elijah especially credits his success in competitions in helping him to perform at his best in highly challenging situations.

*Participating in competitions has boosted my confidence and has set me in great stead for setting up and managing a successful business in automotive engineering, he says.*

Naomi Radbourne also developed her skills in a highly impressive way through competition experience. She has now run a very successful beauty therapy business in Staffordshire for four years, something that she puts down to the skills and confidence gained through competitions. Naomi studied academic qualifications in school and could have taken a university route, but her interest in beauty therapy took her into college training where she was spotted as having great talent and selected for skills competition. She doesn't regret her decision in any way. She achieved a silver medal at the UK's national finals in beauty therapy and has continued to play a critical role in competitions, as a mentor for other competitors and a technical advisory for beauty therapy competitions since then. Competition experience transformed Naomi's confidence and aspirations.

*Few young people can establish their own business at the age of 18 and I credit this achievement with the way in which competitions have improved my self-belief and enabled me to turn my passion into a thriving business. I strongly encourage others to participate in competitions. It can change lives wherever there is passion and a willingness to learn and to work hard, says Naomi.*

WorldSkills UK and WorldSkills India will continue to work together to shape skills competitions experiences for young people. For more information on WorldSkills UK, please visit [worldskillsuk.org](http://worldskillsuk.org)



**WorldSkills UK skill-champions with WorldSkills India competitors at Pragati Maidan**

## Improving Employability through Competitions

Research by WorldSkills UK has shown the important role skills competitions play in developing a young person's employability skills. When asked about their experiences of competing, over 95% of competitors believed their technical and employability skills had improved, while over 80% felt competing had increased their confidence, team working, time management and ability to work under pressure. This impact on standards and performance is key; and colleges, training providers and employers use competitions as a crucial route to improve curriculum quality and learner performance across the curriculum.