

Introduction

Labor, which began from the skill to create, is the foundation of a nation's economy and industry. Various skills are essential for a nation in the 21st century. Although the importance of the skills and the vocational training supporting them has been receiving renewed recognition, fewer young people are entering manufacturing industry. Furthermore, the postwar baby-boomer generation will start turning 60 and retiring from 2007, creating a shortage of skilled workers. For this reason it is essential that the experience and expertise of these skilled workers be transferred to the younger generation quickly and smoothly.

Effective measures must be taken to ensure succession of skilled workers in industry. These include promoting the attractiveness of skills in various fields and helping young people to learn and acquire them in order to find a job of choice. This will contribute to the vocational independence of young people and ease the current employment problems.

Also, in the 21st century we should realize a "Society for All" – where people respect each other's personal qualities and individuality – by promoting the participation of people with disabilities in socioeconomic activity. Skills play a key role in helping them achieve vocational independence and economic stability.

The International Skills Festival for All, Japan 2007 aims to promote this concept of a skill-oriented nation that will open the way to a "Society for All."

Themes

(1) Focusing on the value of skilled people and the importance of top-level skills

Acquiring good skills is one of the most fundamental human abilities. By mastering skills, people gain stability, as well as experiencing joy and self-fulfillment. In the 21st century we need to re-focus on skilled people and the importance of skills. The skilled should play a more active role in our society.

(2) Experiencing the value of skilled people and the importance of top-level skills

The WorldSkills Competition and the International Abilitylympics, taking place simultaneously for the first time, will provide an excellent opportunity for people to rediscover how the acquisition of skills enhances self-expression and the pleasure of living. It is also an opportunity for visitors and the general public to once again experience the wonder and excitement of seeing skilled competitors with and without disabilities rising to the challenge of achieving difficult tasks. Competitors are also

motivated to further improve their skills, as well as being offered opportunities to widen their horizons by meeting other highly skilled competitors from all over the world.

(3) Spreading recognition of the value of skilled people and the importance of top-level skills

The International Skills Festival for All, Japan 2007 will lead to increased recognition of how skilled people and top-level skills are important to building the firm foundation of a nation. By spreading this concept to many people around the world, especially to the younger generation, it will become a focus for the 21st century and take firm root in different areas of society.

Official name

The International Skills Festival for All, Japan 2007 (ISF2007)

The 39th WorldSkills Competition, 7th International Abilitylympics and various non-competition events will be held together under the name ISF2007.

ISF 2007 Message

Thanks for the Skills

Saying “thanks” here is not merely an automatic response to something, but is a sincere expression of gratitude.

Skills have supported human society throughout history and continue to be essential for us in the 21st century. We can experience joy and self-fulfillment by making use of the skills in our jobs – and for this reason we would like to express our thanks for such skills.

The WorldSkills Competition and the International Abilitylympics, taking place simultaneously, provide an excellent opportunity for people with and without disabilities to rediscover how the acquisition of skills enhances self-expression, the pleasure of living, and as a result, society itself. We would like to spread our recognition of skills as a movement from Japan around the world. Our festival message is “Thanks for the Skills”.

Schedule

➤ Grand Opening Ceremony of the ISF2007

Date: Wed 14 November 2007

Venue: Granship (Shizuoka Convention & Arts Center)

Shizuoka City

➤ 39th WorldSkills Competition

Event period: Wed 7 November – Wed 21 November 2007

Competition period: Thu 15 November – Sun 18 November 2007

Closing Ceremony: Wed 21 November 2007

Venue: Numazu City

➤ 7th International Abilympics

Event period: Tue 13 November – Sun 18 November 2007

Competition period: Thu 15 November – Sat 17 November 2007

Closing Ceremony: Sun 18 November 2007

Venue: Shizuoka City

Organizers

Host:

Japan Organizing Committee for the “International Skills Festival for All, Japan 2007”
(JOCISF 2007)

Under the auspices of:

WorldSkills (WS), International Abilympic Federation (IAF) and Rehabilitation International
(RI)

Competition site

1. Fundamental principles

Preparation of the competition venue aims to give:

(1) Practical experience of a "Society for All."

• Design a venue where wide range of visitors with and without disabilities can easily participate.

(2) Recognition of the theme of ISF2007.

• Create a venue where visitors experience how acquisition of skills expands people's potential especially in working life.

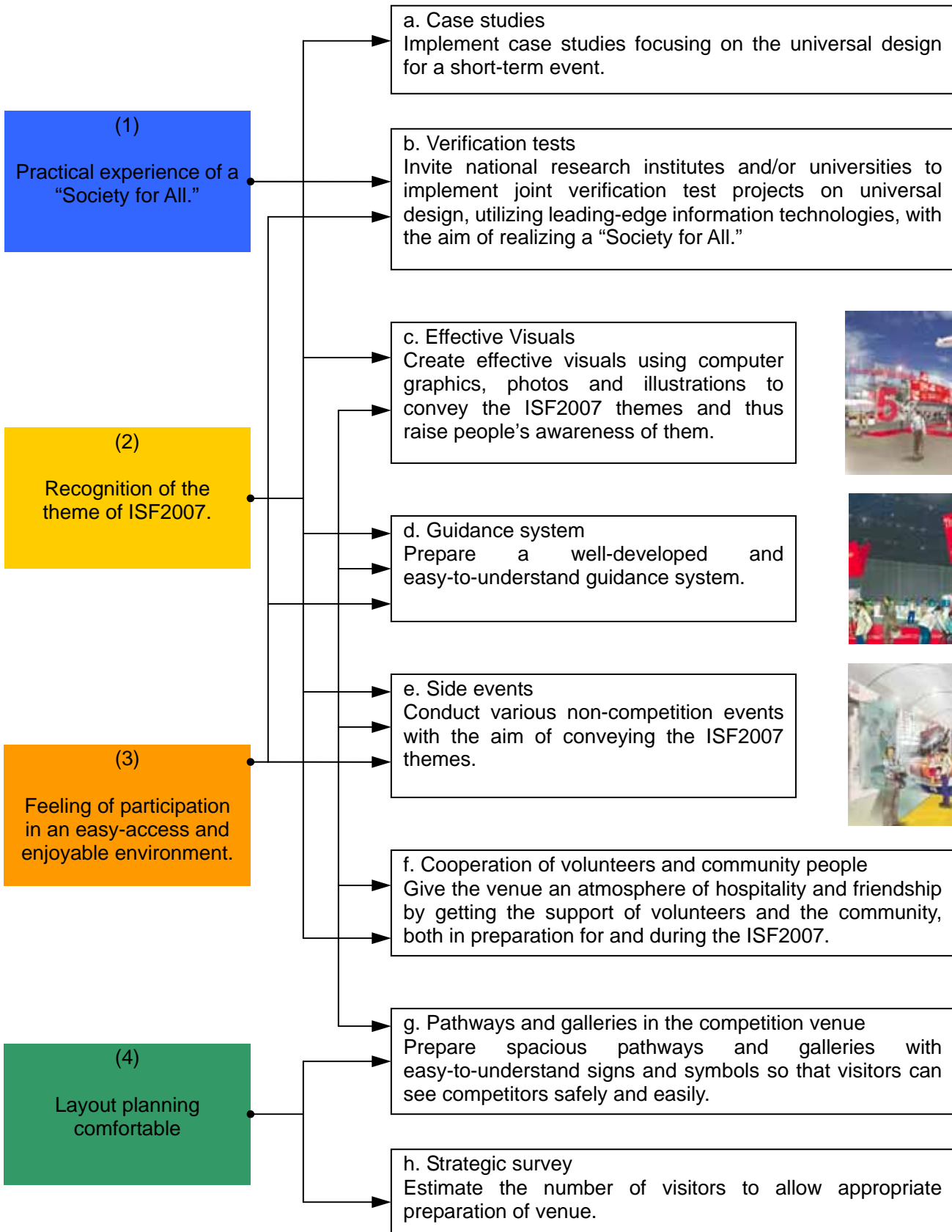
(3) Feeling of participation in an easy-access and enjoyable environment.

• Design a layout where visitors can easily and efficiently find their way around the site, using Japan's leading-edge information technologies.

(4) Layout planning comfortable

• Create a comfortable venue by making pathways, lounges, restrooms and eating facilities spacious and accessible for everyone.
• Put the highest priority on safety.

2. Major strategies



5. Guidebook and guidance system

(1) Guidebook

- Prepare handy, compact guidebook that can easily be carried around.
- In addition to introducing each skill, it will include up-to-date information on skill-related topics and trends.

Sample guidebook



Sample site guide



(2) Personal guides

On-site guides

- Prepare guided tours around the competition venue as well as special staff to explain practical details of skills in each competition.
- Many volunteers, including students and skilled workers, will serve as guides.



(3) Audio guidance system

• Prepare an audio guidance system so that visitors, including those with visual disabilities, can easily find each competition venue and listen to an explanation of the competition taking place. They can use a special receiver provided by the organizer.

(4) Introduction displays

• Prepare easy-to-understand location/route maps in the event venues and introduction boards for each competition skill. This will include the following:

- Introduction of skill and competition rules
- Points of interest
- Way in which the task is carried out (using films and/or displaying sample work)
- Introduction to the skill and its application in our daily life
- Live coverage of competitors in action
- Introduction of each competitor
- Results of past competitions

Video display



Display of event names, corporate sponsors, etc.

- Object display showing processes
- Display showing key points for each competition, etc.

6. Non-competition events in Numazu City

(1) Exhibitions

We will provide exhibition space for major corporate sponsors where they can present their activities and their special role in Japanese society.

➤ Exhibition gallery

Set up exhibition galleries using outdoor walkways between buildings to present companies' social contributions through manufacturing and the excellent skills of skilled technicians prized by companies.



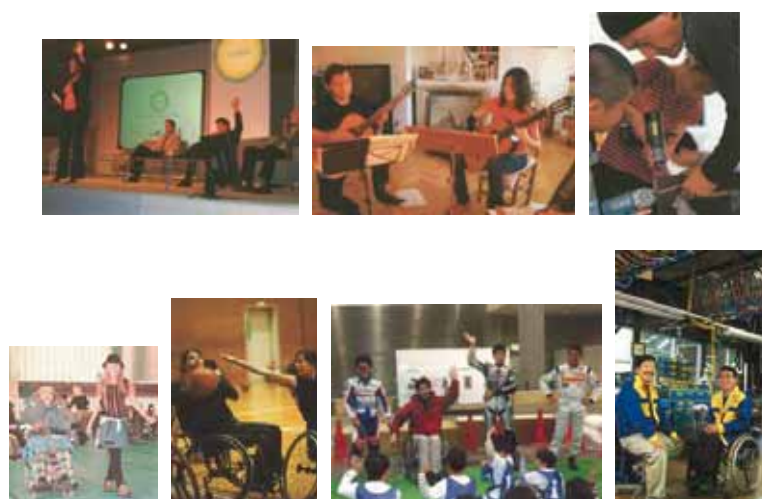
➤ “Thanks Skills” workshop (Workshop and demonstration site)

Prepare workshop and demonstration site to encourage friendly exchanges between visitors and skilled workers (including medalists from past competitions).



➤ “Thanks Skills” stage

Set up a special stage for interactive programs including talk show and performances by medalists from past competitions, well-known musicians and athletes with and without disabilities, thus helping audiences to learn about the meaning of skills while enjoying the events.



➤ Super skill restaurant

Create new local and international dishes using fresh ingredients from Shizuoka Prefecture. Persons with disabilities will take an active role as restaurant staff members.



(2) Global Skills Village

The Global Skills Village is the exhibition space for participating countries/regions to present their initiatives in the fields of skills training, human resources development and related businesses. Specialists, competitors, visitors and the general public can meet here to exchange opinions.

