

Teachers duo win top 'Albert Vida Award' at WorldSkills

SHANGHAI Technology and Innovation Vocational College clinched the gold in the Industry 4.0 category at the 47th WorldSkills Competition in Lyon, France.

Lu Junwei and Xie Huixuan also snatched the "Albert Vida Award," China's first win in this category and only the second time this distinguished accolade was bestowed.

The WorldSkills Competition grants the "Albert Vidal Award," named after the founder of the WorldSkills Organization, to the top scorer in all categories. This year, Lu and Xie's team outperformed all competitors in the Industry 4.0 category to win the honor.

The Industry 4.0 competition is a team event that focuses on the integration of smart digital technology in manufacturing and industrial processes.

Participants must be knowledgeable with mechanical automation, networking and industrial software, as well as have excellent organizational, communication, design and troubleshooting abilities.

This year's competition attracted contestants from 21 countries, including Switzerland, Germany and South Korea, and marked China's debut in the Industry 4.0 category. Lu, 23, focused on computer information, while Xie, 20, worked on mechanical electrical automation modules.

Both had previously earned silver medals in the national skills competition and placed first in assessments for the national training team, guaranteeing their spots to represent China.



Models in paper costumes captivate the audience at the closing ceremony of the 47th WorldSkills Competition in Lyon. — Ti Gong

Donghua's innovative paper costumes wows Lyonese

AT the closing ceremony of the 47th WorldSkills Competition in Lyon, France, on September 15, Donghua University's innovative paper costumes charmed the audience with their distinctive blend of tradition and modernity.

The university team used paper as the primary material, combining traditional and modern aspects to demonstrate the fusion of Eastern and Western cultures through design.

"We selected 20 paper series outfits and 10 'Future' series designs from nearly 100 proposals, bringing them from Shanghai to Lyon," said Professor Zhang Zufang of Donghua University's College of Fashion and Design. The costumes, made of lightweight, durable paper, included

laser-cut fabrics, photochromic materials, AI-generated designs and 3D printing, pushing the limits of traditional garment-making and demonstrating the seamless integration of technology and art.

The production team also used the ancient Chinese mortise and tenon technique for costume creation, which eliminated the need for traditional sewing or adhesives. The designs featured symbolic elements like Shanghai's white magnolia, which represents purity, and the iris, which represents friendship. The combination of Eastern architectural delicacy and Western grandeur communicated dynamic harmony, representing their motto: "Where there is a skill, there is a way."

This huge endeavor involved nearly 50 team members, ranging from senior professors in their seventies to freshmen. Despite several obstacles, they successfully demonstrated Chinese cultural features, the essence of Shanghai and the enthusiasm of young talent in vocational skills.

"It was a great honor to represent Shanghai and our country at such a prominent international event," said Xia Kunpeng, an undergraduate student majoring in fashion design and performance. "To stand on a global stage at this age and present the charm of China's young generation fills me with excitement and pride."

Shanghai will host the 48th WorldSkills Competition in 2026.

Songjiang hosts unicorns at Pujiang Forum

A SUB-FORUM of the 2024 Pujiang Innovation Forum on unicorn innovation and development was held recently at the G60 Science and Technology Innovation Corridor in Songjiang, aiming to support unicorn companies' expansion into new industries and promote regional economic development.

Nearly 100 representatives from unicorn companies, investment institutions, new economy experts and government officials from across the country gathered to exchange views, showcase achievements and discuss the latest developments and future trends.

One of the unicorn companies,

Huihe Healthcare, shared insights on "Innovative Medical Devices: China's Path to the World." Huihe Healthcare, which was incubated in Songjiang five years ago, has achieved leading technological innovations in cardiac valve intervention, vascular intervention and electrophysiology intervention. Its chief executive Lin Lin expressed excitement about the company's success, attributing it to the support of Songjiang District. Huihe expects breakthrough sales performance this year.

Songjiang District is home to 81 national-level "Little Giants" in specialized and new industries, along with 1,237 municipal-level specialized

and innovative enterprises, ranking among the highest in the city. With research and development expenditure reaching 6.79 percent, primarily from enterprises, Songjiang's business sector plays a leading role in driving regional industrial development.

During the opening ceremony, Songjiang District Party Secretary Wang Huajie highlighted the district's commitment to leveraging its position as the hub of the G60 Science and Technology Innovation Corridor. The district aims to integrate education, technology and talent to achieve innovation and industry coupling. It plans to establish a mechanism to identify and nurture high-growth companies

and build a comprehensive innovation industry development system. The district also plans to focus on constructing laboratories, R&D institutions, proof-of-concept centers and pilot production centers, as well as promoting high-quality incubators for 6G and satellite internet.

Additionally, Songjiang will focus on integrating advanced manufacturing and modern services, with an emphasis on high-end, intelligent and green industries. It aims to enhance its competitiveness in areas such as next-generation information technology, artificial intelligence, biomedicine, high-end equipment, and new materials.