

Young & Skilled: Invincible – The National High School Commercial Skills Competition in the Academic Year of 2017

(Courtesy of Lu, Jia Xuan at Division of Academic and Vocational Senior High Education)



The National High School Commercial Skills Competition in the academic year of 2017 is an annual event for the vocational schools in Taiwan. It will be held on 21st, 22nd, 23rd of November, 2017, at National Tainan Commercial Vocational School. This competition includes 11 skills, ranging from commercial advertising, web design, program design, document processing, computer graphics, accounting and information, food and beverage services, Chinese culinary, baking, business presentation, business English, with 11 individual prizes and two group awards for commercial advertising as well as food and beverage services. A total of 1,062 top vocational students from 194 schools nationwide, will demonstrate their excellent skills at this 3-day competition. The competition this year is hosted by National Tainan Commercial Vocational School and assisted by Nan Ying Vocational High School. The venues for food and beverage services, Chinese culinary, and baking skills competitions are provided by Nan Ying Vocational High School. The teachers and students of the two schools will provide the best quality services for the competitors.

This skills competition not only allows the best skills competitors from the vocational schools in Taiwan to gather together and learn from each other, but also enhances the skills level of the schools involved through exchanges among schools. So far, this annual competition has generated many role models and innumerable professionals. The theme for this year, "Young & Skilled: Invincible," aims to encourage young students across the country to march forward without any fear in the professional skills competition. The purpose of this competition is to enhance students' professional skills and provide opportunities for them to learn from each other. Furthermore, the award-winning students are able to attend the screening test held by a relevant department of any colleges, or universities of technology, directly without having to take a written test for college admission. The winner in each skill (Golden Hand Award) might even garner internship opportunities at an overseas business.

Principal Huang, Yao Kuan at National Tainan Commercial Vocational School will lead his outstanding team to host this skills competition. The teachers of the school's Department of Advertising Design even designed and developed the competition medals. In light of the fragile materials used in the past, they decided to utilize metal materials that were robust and could move from left to right after some modification, all the while incorporating the Sword Lion Culture, featured in Tainan, showcasing an interesting image of the "swinging Sword Lion." The medals will be presented to outstanding competitors and their coaches. There are three major colors to symbolize different themes, namely the "fiery sky" for the top three competitors, i.e. employing blazing fireworks as a metaphor for their amazing skills, the "golden earth" to match the "Golden Hand Award" winners for their excellent skills, and the "blue ocean" for the prize for excellence as they hold as great potential as the ocean. This has become one of the highlights of this annual event.

During the competition, National Tainan Commercial Vocational School will also host a matchmaking event between the industry and talents, in which businesses offer job opportunities while students can be guaranteed with a job before graduation. They will demonstrate the skills they have learned in school, bring new momentum to Taiwan's industries, and promote the core values of vocational education. In addition, to carry forward and promote vocational education, during the competition, the school will also invite the middle school teachers and students in its school district to observe each skill and the process in order to have

a close-up sense of what it is like to attend a competition like this and to convince them that they can also make it if they work hard.

The Ministry of Education said that competitions are a one-off event while skills advancement is an ongoing process. Hopefully, through holding commercial skills competitions, we will motivate competitors to advance their skills; as such, they will apply what they have learned to society, benefiting both the country and public. The students involved in this competition are all top skills future professionals from different schools, and they will gather in Tainan to demonstrate their wisdom, professional skills, and learning achievements. It is believed that vocational education will cultivate more professionals in the future, and hope the competitors will enjoy a bright career with their outstanding performance at this competition.