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The Azerbaijani team was awarded the “Medal of Excellence” in cybersecurity at “WorldSkills Shanghai 2026” – the 48th WorldSkills Competition, held in Shanghai, People’s Republic of China, from September 22 to 27.

More than 1,400 participants from 70 countries and regions demonstrated their technical knowledge and practical skills across 64 skills at the international competition. The competition was organized across six main sectors.

Azerbaijan was represented in seven skills at the competition. Members of the “WorldSkills Azerbaijan” team competed in welding, automobile technology, rail vehicle technology, electronics, web technologies, cooking and cybersecurity.

The Azerbaijani delegation, headed by Ilgar Bayramli, Director of the State Agency for Vocational Education and official representative of the “WorldSkills Azerbaijan” platform, participated in the opening ceremony of the competition.

Azerbaijan was represented in cybersecurity by Ali Maharramli and Yusif Kazimli. The team scored 702 points and was awarded the “Medal of Excellence.” According to the official results, with this score, the Azerbaijani team outperformed the teams of Australia (698), Korea (696), Brazil (684), Thailand (682), India (681), Malaysia (680) and Japan (673).

This result marks Azerbaijan’s second “Medal of Excellence” achievement in the history of WorldSkills. The country previously received the “Medal of Excellence” in cooking in 2022.

The selection and preparation of candidates in cybersecurity were organized at the Azerbaijan Cybersecurity Center. The selection process included stages held in the “Capture the Flag” (CTF) format. At the final selection stage, participants’ technical knowledge and practical skills in defense and incident response, as well as attack methods and the exploitation of system vulnerabilities, were assessed.

In addition, at “WorldSkills Shanghai 2026” the 48th WorldSkills Competition, Orkhan Mustafayev, who competed in electronics, was awarded the “Best of

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Nation” medal, while Zarina Tahmazova received the “Best CCD Medal of Excellence” award.

It should be noted that in 2020, Azerbaijan was admitted as the 85th full member of WorldSkills International with the aim of developing professional skills, aligning vocational education with global standards, promoting youth on the international stage, and facilitating the integration of graduates into the labor market.

In 2023, the “WorldSkills Azerbaijan” Public Association launched its activities as a national platform.

“The WorldSkills” movement serves as a vital platform for developing professional skills, strengthening the link between education and the labor market, training youth in modern professions, and integrating international standards of excellence into the education system.

"The Medal of Excellence" awarded to Azerbaijan at the WorldSkills Shanghai 2026 competition is a testament to the ongoing efforts to develop professional skills in our country and expand youth participation in international excellence competitions.