

NEWSLETTER November 2010

ASEM CONFERENCES

ASEMME3

Preparation of the third Asia-Europe Meeting of Ministers for Education

In preparation of the 3rd Asia-Europe Meeting of Ministers for Education (ASEMME3), the Danish host has sent out the invitations for the first Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) which will be held in Copenhagen, Denmark in January 2011. From January 24th to 25th, the country representatives will discuss key topics of the coming Ministerial Meeting, namely balanced mobility of students and staff, quality assurance in cross boarder higher education, lifelong learning and university-business cooperation.

In order to prepare a discussion paper for the SOM based on information from all ASEM members and to provide necessary background information to all Senior Officials, the Danish host has set up a questionnaire relating to the four topics. ASEM members are asked to give feedback by 17th December 2010 to:

ASEM Education Secretariat
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ASEM RECTORS' CONFERENCE

Stakeholders meet in Korea

The 2nd ASEM Rectors' Conference (2nd ASEM RC) themed "Asia-Europe University Cooperation: Contributing to the Global Knowledge Society" was held at Korea University in Seoul from October 26th to 27th through the joint efforts of ASEF with Korea University (KU) and the ASEAN University Network (AUN). It gathered around 80 university leaders and high-level representatives of ASEM higher education institutions, networks, organisations and a select number of student participants. The meeting was also attended by the Director of the ASEM Education Secretariat.

The discussions at the conference focused on the role of universities in building knowledge societies. The conference recommendations to be

presented to the 3rd Asia-Europe Meeting of Ministers for Education (ASEMME3) in May 2011 highlight the:

- (1) recognition of and support for universities as instruments for economic growth and for the creation of knowledge societies;
- (2) effectiveness of knowledge transfer and knowledge sharing;
- (3) support for curricular reform and education for global citizenship;
- (4) widened perspectives for mobility; and
- (5) support for student involvement in the programming of the ASEM education process.

The biennial ASEM Rectors' Conference, recognised as an official dialogue partner by the Asia-Europe Meeting of Ministers for Education, serves as a platform for stakeholder participation in the ASEM Education Process.

Online: www.asef.org.

ASEM WORKSHOP

Last Notice of the ASEM TVET Symposium in Qingdao, China

On January 11th and 12th 2011, the Ministry of Education, P.R. China, with the German Ministry of Education and Research as co-chair, and supported by the ASEM Education Secretariat, will host the ASEM Technical and Vocational Education and Training Symposium in Qingdao, China.

The event is designed to establish a platform for ASEM countries to share effective policies and best practices in developing TVET and to tackle with challenges caused by the financial turmoil.

The symposium welcomes active participation of all ASEM member countries.

In order to ensure that more countries could benefit from the outcomes of this symposium, the organizers can offer to cover accommodation costs for two participants per country for two nights (standard room, max. 500RMB/night) as well as working buffet during the meeting.

In general, travel costs cannot be reimbursed. In case of extreme hardship, a lump sum might be given towards airfare to some Asian developing countries upon special request and after evaluation of the organizers.

Please kindly register as soon as possible and feel free to contact Ms. Liu Jiaming (Liaison Officer in MOE, China) at asem@moe.edu.cn

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

OECD EDUCATION MINISTERIAL MEETING Investing in Human and Social Capital – new Challenges

From November 4th to 5th 2010, the OECD Education Ministers met in Paris. The conference was chaired by Austria and co-chaired by New Zealand and Mexico and brought together Ministers from 38 countries in order to discuss the vital role education and training systems play in the member countries when preparing future societies and economies.

During this meeting the following main challenges were discussed:

- Tackling the effects of the crisis on education
- Matching skills to new needs
- Equipping effective teachers for the 21st century
- Reinforcing the social benefits of education

Online:

<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/53/16/46335575.pdf>

UPCOMING EVENTS

QUALITY ASSURANCE AND RECOGNITION IN HIGHER EDUCATION

ASEM Seminar in Cyprus

From December 6th to 7th the Cyprus Ministry of Education and Culture will held an ASEM conference on one of the key topics, identified for the upcoming Meeting of Ministers for Education. The outcomes of this conference will be taken into account by the political decision makers when discussing on quality assurance in cross boarder higher education. The seminar will be opened by the Cyprus Minister of Education and Culture Andreas Demetriou, by Ms Andreoulla Vassileiou, Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism, Sport, Media and Youth from the European Commission, by Dr. Supachai Yavaprabhas, Director of SEAMEO-RIHED and by Dr. Siegbert Wuttig, Director of the ASEM Education Secretariat.

FIFTH EUROPEAN QUALITY ASSURANCE FORUM Quality Assurance in European, national and institutional contexts, Lyon, France, 18-20 November 2010

From November 18th to 20th the University Claude Bernard Lyon I, France, acted as host of the fifth European Quality Assurance Forum which was co-organised by ENQA, ESU, EUA and EURASHE and supported by the Lifelong Learning Programme of the European Commission. This forum provided a discussion platform for international experts in quality assurance in order to foster a common European understanding of quality assurance. The 2010 Forum sought to examine how quality assurance tools and processes implemented at institutional and agency level: a) relate to European and national level policy discussions and decisions, and b) interact with and support institutional quality assurance frameworks and quality culture.

Online:

<http://www.eua.be/events/upcoming/EQAF-2010/Programme.aspx>

Learning Outcomes

STUDENT ASSESSMENT

AHELO Project of the OECD

The Assessment of Higher Education Learning Outcomes (AHELO), is a project initiated by the OECD based on the 2008 OECD Education Ministers Meeting in Tokyo with the focus on the evaluation of the quality of higher education.

This new tool, utilized by the OECD, will carry out an evaluation of generic skills and discipline-specific skills of students from all over the world during the years 2011 and 2012. Universities, students, policy-makers, and employers should benefit from this project.

Online:

http://www.oecd.org/document/22/0,3343,en_2649_35961291_40624662_1_1_1_1,00.html

International

EDUCATION COOPERATION

Singapore strengthens Education and Research Collaborations with Sweden

To further promote exchanges in the fields of education, research and innovation between Singapore and Sweden, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed on October 18th 2010. The National University of Singapore (NUS), Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and Singapore Management University (SMU) have signed MOUs, academic and research collaboration agreements and student exchange agreements with 13 Swedish institutions to date. Both NUS and NTU currently offer joint PhD degrees with Karolinska Institutet (KI). Bilateral student exchanges are also active. At any one time, there are more than 100 Singaporean students studying in the NUS Overseas College in Stockholm and other Swedish universities.

Online::

<http://www.moe.gov.sg/media/press/2010/10/singapore-strengthens-education-research-collaborations.php>

EDUCATION COOPERATION

Philippines and Vietnam to Forge Ties on Academic Cooperation

The Philippines Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the Vietnam Ministry of Education and Training (MOET) have signed on October 26th 2010 a memorandum of agreement (MOA) on academic cooperation for a period of five years.

Various topics regarding educational cooperation were included in the MOA, including promotion of academic networking and exchanges, staff and student mobility, staff training, credit transfer, qualifications recognition, aso.

Online:

<http://www.pia.gov.ph/?m=12&r=&y=&mo=&fi=p101117.htm&no=85>

PRESS REVIEW

Multilateral

OECD, November 5, 2010

Education: Governments must invest in Education for the 21st Century

Reforming education systems around the world will be key to reinforcing the social and economic benefits of education according to ministers meeting in Paris.

Read the chair's summary at

<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/53/16/46335575.pdf>

University World News, October 31, 2010

EUROPE: U-Multirank pilot study underway

While universities were digesting the results of the three major world rankings, the European U-Multirank consortium launched a study into a new multi-dimensional global ranking aimed at comparing similar institutions and programmes in terms of their missions and profiles. This month it announced that 107 institutions from more than 40 countries had joined the study. U-Multirank has been planned for some time, and presented at conferences and stakeholder meetings. The purpose is to "design and test the feasibility of a multi-dimensional global university ranking".

Online:

<http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20101029220919562>

U-Multirank website at

<http://www.u-multirank.eu/>

Times Higher Education, October 28, 2010

Warning: developing regions may fall off the world map

Universities need to face up to the potential negatives of internationalisation, including the risks of some developing regions being left behind and of student mobility becoming "elitist". This is one of the messages of the International Association of Universities' (IAU) third Global Survey Report on Internationalisation of Higher Education. Another key finding of the survey, based on responses from 745 institutions worldwide, is that overseas undergraduate

students represent less than 1 per cent of the student body internationally. Universities in Asia and the Pacific report the biggest increase in level of importance assigned to internationalisation, with 39% of respondents indicating that, for their leaders, the process had "substantially increased" in importance in the three years since the previous survey.

Online:

<http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/story.asp?sectioncode=26&storycode=413986&c=1>

Australia

Media Centre of Senator the Hon Chris Evans, Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills, Jobs and Workplace Relations, November 5, 2010

Education a key to sustainable relationship with China

The exchange of students, academics and education officials continues to strengthen the ties between China and Australia, Minister for Tertiary Education, Senator Chris Evans, said today.

At the end of a four day visit to China with a delegation of higher education leaders, Senator Evans said Australia remained committed to a strong bilateral relationship which stretched beyond trade and economics.

Online:

http://www.deewr.gov.au/Ministers/Evans/Media/Releases/Pages/Article_101105_163104.aspx

The Australian, October 25, 2010

Top universities warn on loss of quality

The academic integrity and international competitiveness of Australia's universities faces being seriously compromised.

This would occur if the Gillard government goes ahead with plan to approve thousands of additional student places without a corresponding boost to the sector's funding. According to the coalition of the country's eight elite universities, known as the Group of Eight, the federal government's proposal to provide an additional 110,000 undergraduate student places by 2020, and 235,000 by 2030, is putting quantity over quality and will result in much higher fees or greatly diminished academic standards

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Federal Ministry
of Education
and Research

Online:

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/top-unis-warn-on-loss-of-quality/story-fn59niix-1225943004357>

China

Asia One, October 26, 2010

China will be 2nd most powerful nation by 2050'

The country's top think tank has predicted China will be the world's most powerful nation, second only to the United States, by the year 2050. China will also strive to be among the top five most competitive countries of the G20 by 2020, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) said in its Report on National Competitiveness of China, which was released on Monday. The country has remained among the top five powerful nations with regard to economic growth since 1992 and is expected to overtake the United States to become the world's largest economy by 2030, the report said. According to data for the first half of this year, China has eclipsed Japan to become the world's second-biggest economy after three decades of blistering growth.

Online:

<http://news.asiaone.com/News/Latest%2BNews/Asia/Story/A1Story20101026-244261.html>

Denmark

University World News, November 7, 2010

Drive to boost study abroad

The Danish Ministry for Science, Technology and Education has launched a campaign to substantially increase the number of Danish students studying abroad. Charlotte Sahl-Madsen, Minister for Science, Technology and Development, said she wants studying abroad to become the rule rather than the exception. "It is important that as many Danish students as possible study abroad. At the same time I wish to attract talented foreign students to study in Denmark - and hopefully work here, upon completing their studies," she said.

In 2008, only 2.7% of Danish students awarded a degree had studied abroad as a part of the

degree. The number taking a full degree abroad has fallen by 25% since 2002-03.

Data just published by the ministry for 2008-09 show that 8,466 Danish students were studying outside Denmark, while 16,657 international students came to Danish institutions. The number of foreign doctorate students has increased 80% in three years.

Online:

<http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20101105222243715>

Finland

University World News, October 31, 2010

Finland top for affordability accessibility

Finland has both the most affordable and accessible system of higher education, according to a study of 17 countries undertaken by Canadian research group Higher Education Strategy Associates (HESA). Norway is a close runner-up. The country rankings were derived from a composite of six different measures of affordability and four measures of accessibility, in the study by Alex Usher and Jon Medow titled Global Higher Education Rankings 2010: Affordability and accessibility in comparative perspective.

Online:

<http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20101029223616117>

France

University ranking by job success causes stir

A ranking of French universities according to their graduates' job prospects has been published by the Ministry for Higher Education and Research and welcomed by Minister Valérie Pécresse. But the exercise has been criticised by a specialist in graduate employment rates, the body representing university presidents, and by a national students' federation.

Ranking *Taux d'insertion professionnelle des étudiants par université et discipline* available at <http://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/pid24447/taux-d-insertion-professionnelle-des-etudiants-par-universite-et-discipline.html>

India

University World News, October 31, 2010

Central universities agree to credit transfer

In a move that could significantly enhance the mobility and choice of students, central universities across India have agreed to create an inter-university credit transfer system. Vice-chancellors of 40 central government-funded universities recently met and agreed on a common credit system, the details of which are yet to be worked out. "Universities will have to change over to a choice-based credit system. This means students will have more choice and flexibility in subjects they want to study," said a senior government official. The transfer policy does not include private universities or the yet-to-be-established innovation universities. But government sources indicated that any new university established with government involvement could be brought into the new system.

Online:

<http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20101029223244666>

India EduNews.net, October 29, 2010

Need to deregulate education

National Knowledge Commission chairman Sam Pitroda on Thursday stressed the need to deregulate education, calling it the need of the hour. "We don't need central or state control on universities and colleges. Today the challenge is to deregulate education," Pitroda said, addressing a conclave organized by the Indian Institute of Technology alumni group PanIIT. "That's what we did to economy in 1991. That is what we need to do to education in 2011," he stressed. Pitroda also emphasized that there was need to urgently pass the educational reform bills, expressing dissatisfaction over the fact that they have been delayed.

Online:

http://indiaedunews.net/Today/Need_to_deregulate_education_-_Sam_Pitroda_12850/print.asp

Japan

International Unit, November 3, 2010

Recent trends in the internationalisation of Japanese higher education

Japan, with nearly double the population of the UK, has a higher education market shared by over 1,200 institutions including universities and junior colleges, with 3.1m students. Unlike the UK or the US, 80% of higher education depends on a very large market-driven private sector where the students pay higher tuition fees compared to 86 state universities. Declining birth rates increasingly makes it difficult to secure sufficient enrolment levels. Japan's higher education sector has been driven by a series of changes especially after the 'corporatisation' of national universities in 2004.

Online:

<http://www.international.ac.uk/resources/InternationalFocus63.03.11.10.pdf>

Malaysia

Bernama, November 10, 2010

Ministry blueprint on lifelong learning to attain high income status

In line with attaining a high income status, the Higher Education Ministry has formulated a blueprint on the Enculturation of Lifelong Learning (LLL) for Malaysia 2011-2020. The Minister, Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin, said the blueprint was formulated based on a study on the country's needs for knowledgeable, skilled and competent human capital, via LLL initiatives. He said, among the four strategies in the blueprint were provision of an adequate financial support to inculcate LLL as a way of life, and upgrading mechanisms and infrastructure to facilitate LLL.

Online:

<http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v5/newsindex.php?id=542140>

Bernama, November 9, 2010

UiTM to introduce double tracking diplomas

Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) will be introducing double tracking diploma studies to assist students who

do not perform very well academically to land jobs. Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin said it would involve evaluation of students up to the third semester and those who do not meet the GPA (Grade Point Average) requirement would be assisted in obtaining hands on industrial training so that they can take up employment on getting their diplomas.

Online:

<http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v5/newsindex.php?id=541926>

Bernama, November 3, 2010

Free or reduced tuition fee for students pursuing degree, PhD after 50

Students pursuing their degree or PhD at Higher Learning Institutions after reaching the age of 50 may enjoy free or reduced tuition fee under a proposal by the Higher Education Ministry. Deputy Education Minister Datuk Saifuddin Abdullah said the proposal would be based on terms and conditions set after submission to the cabinet for approval. "The objective of such an initiative is to increase the number of PhD holders to 60,000 by 2023," he said when winding up debate on the Supply Bill 2011 for his ministry at Dewan Rakyat here Tuesday.

Online:

<http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v5/newsgeneral.php?id=540424>

UK

University World News, October 31, 2010

Academic-industry engagement on the rise

Academics in the United Kingdom are becoming increasingly engaged with industry, with research activity and funding among the leading motivating factors for the growing and more widely spread involvement. These are among the key findings of surveys of more than 6,000 academics. Respondents had been involved in creating nearly 700 companies in recent years. A recently published report by the Advanced Institute of Management Research (AIM) drew on surveys of academics funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, and explored changes and links

between academics and industry from 2004 and 2009.

Online:

<http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20101029220436438>

Advanced Institute of Management (AIM) Research | Publication

The republic of engagement exploring UK academic attitudes to collaborating with industry and entrepreneurship

Drawing on a unique set of surveys of academics funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), this report explores changes in the way academics engage with industry in the UK between 2004 and 2009. Although there are new and increasing pressures for academics to engage with industry, the nature and extent of this industry engagement remains an area of choice for individual academics.

Download the publication at:

<http://www.aimresearch.org/uploads/file/Publications/Academic%20Publications/AIM%20REPUBLIC%20OF%20ENGAGEMENT.pdf>

PUBLICATION

LEADERSHIP FOR WORLD CLASS UNIVERSITIES: CHALLENGES FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

This book focuses especially on developing and middle-income countries, which face special problems where higher education is expanding most rapidly. Key themes include; strategic planning, governance of academic institutions, the role of the academic profession, fundraising, student access and equity, and the impact of globalization.

This book is edited by Philip G. Altbach

Paperback, ISBN: 978-0-415-80029-7, Publish Date: November 9th 2010, Imprint: Routledge, Pages: 272 pages, Price \$44.95

<http://www.routledge.com>

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EDUCATION TODAY 2010: THE OECD PERSPECTIVE

This book is discussing about the OECD opinion about the state of education, how the problems of today education and about the student performance, educational spending and equity in education. This book consists of eight chapters in which the report examines early childhood education, schooling, transitions beyond initial education, higher education, adult learning, outcomes and returns, equity, and innovation.

OECD Publishing, ISBN: 9789264090620,
Language: English, Pages: 88 pages,
Price € 16,-

Publication Date: 13 Oct 2010, Version:

E-Book (pdf).

Source:

http://www.oecd.org/document/10/0,3343,en_2649_33723_46389642_1_1_1_1,00.html

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