

NEWSLETTER October 2010

CONFERENCES

ASEM Process

ASEM 8 SUMMIT SUPPORTS ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ASEM EDUCATION SECRETARIAT

Heads of state and government, representatives from the European Commission and the ASEAN Secretariat met at the Eighth Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM 8) on October 4th - 5th to exchange views on ways to recover from and to prevent financial crisis. Leaders also coped with issues of global and regional relevance and with people-to-people relations between Asia and Europe.

The main session of the Summit dealt with the improvement of global economic governance. Finally the Summit approved the Brussels Declaration on more effective global economy.

The ASEM 8 Chair's Statement records and reflects all summit discussions. With regard to educational issues leaders welcomed the expansion of academic cooperation according to the 2nd Asia-Europe Meeting of Ministers for Education (ASEMME2) in Hanoi 2009, and applauded various activities stimulating the dialogue on key topics, such as mobility, quality assurance and credit recognition and transfer. The leaders also "strongly supported the establishment of the ASEM Education Secretariat that coordinates ASEM educational activities".

In addition ASEM 8 welcomed Australia, New Zealand and Russia as new ASEM member states.

Online: www.asem8.be/asem-8-chairs-statement-and-brussels-declaration

Asia-Europe Dialogue Event

4th CONNECTING CIVIL SOCIETIES (CCS4)

As an official side-event of ASEM 8, the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) organised for the 4th time the "Connecting Civil Societies Conference".

In his keynote speech the Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Deputy Prime Minister Steven Vanackere welcomed nearly 150 participants from 37 Asian and European countries. During the two days event the participants discussed a number of specific and challenging issues, including regional conflict

management; regional integration; the financing of higher education; challenges in lifelong learning policies; the role of youths in promoting public health; the right for information concerning environmental protection, development and anti-corrupt practices; and the role of arts in globalised urban contexts.

The results of the different workshops were submitted to the heads of state and government.

Online:

www.aseminfoboard.org/Calendar/Activities/?id=326.

ASEM TVET events

REMINDER: ASEM TVET SYMPOSIUM IS CALLING FOR APPLICATION

At the 2nd ASEM Education Ministers' Meeting in Hanoi, 2009, ministers "welcomed China's offer to organize a workshop, supported by Germany, on attractiveness, employability in TEVT in China".

On January 11th - 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.

Please contact Ms. Liu Jiaming from the Ministry of Education P.R. China for registration.

Contact details as well as the agenda and a concept paper may be obtained from the ASEM Education Secretariat website at

www.asem-education-secretariat.org/en/14600/index.html

ASEM TVET PRELUDE EVENT: SINO-GERMAN VOCATIONAL EDUCATION EXCHANGES CONFERENCE HELD IN QINGDAO

The 2010 Sino-German Vocational Education Exchanges Conference, focussing on "Expanding exchanges, exploring cooperation and promoting development" was held in Qingdao on October 14th 2010. Nearly 300 participants from education,

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science & technology, research and industry sectors from both countries participated in the meeting in order to hold in-depth talks on the reform and development of China's vocational education, the impact of industrial structure adjustment on TVET and the German dual education system.

Cooperation includes mutual recognition of vocational qualification certificates, boosting the establishment of the vocational education pre-warning, promoting the mutual recognition of Sino-German practical training teacher qualification certificates, strengthening the cooperation in digitization, especially the application of virtual technique in the vocational education; and spreading bilateral cooperation experiences to other countries.

For further information, please visit the English website of Qingdao government:

<http://english.qingdao.gov.cn/n2043295/n2048687/271154.html>

ERASMUS MUNDUS

Perception of Erasmus Mundus

ERASMUS MUNDUS STUDENTS AND ALUMNI VALUE QUALITY OF EDUCATION AND INTERCULTURAL ENVIRONMENT

How do Erasmus Mundus students rate their time in France? What do they identify as the strong points of this exchange programme? These were questions posed in a survey of Erasmus Mundus students and alumni conducted by CampusFrance, the National Agency for promoting French higher education abroad.

Students and alumni were asked to give their views on various aspects of study-abroad experiences in France, i.e. teaching-learning process, administrative procedures, accommodation and campus facilities and student services, and compare them to experiences made in other European countries. Twenty other countries were presented but the most frequently reported were Spain (27%), Italy (25%), Portugal (13%), United Kingdom (11%) and Germany (9%).

Results reveal that students decided for Erasmus Mundus because of better career opportunities, the quality of courses and the intercultural aspects. Students

Online:

http://editions.campusfrance.org/notes/en/note_campusfrance_25_en.pdf

Asemundus

FIRST CONTACT SEMINAR IN JAKARTA

From October 7th – 8th, the ASEMUNDUS consortium organized the first Contact Seminar on the European Commissions higher education programme Erasmus Mundus in Jakarta, bringing together European and Asian higher education representatives. The two days seminar provided information on funding opportunities for Asian universities in the realm of Erasmus Mundus and provided good practice examples of European-Asian cooperation within the programme.

In the opening, Prof. Dr. Fasli Jalal, Indonesian Vice-Minister of National Education, stressed the importance of international cooperation for Indonesian higher education institutions and also the huge potential, Indonesian universities have to engage in such cooperations. The seminar was chaired by Mrs Nina Scholle-Pollmann, Deputy Director of the ASEM Education Secretariat and Mr Marrik Bellen, head of NUFFIC NESO Indonesia. One important output of the seminar was the establishment of six Erasmus Mundus Promoters at Indonesian universities, which will be acting as multipliers in future information campaigns, supported by the European Commission and the ASEMUNDUS consortium.

The next Erasmus Mundus contact seminar will be offered in Korea early 2011.

Online:

<http://www.asem-education-secretariat.org/asemundus>

INTERNATIONAL

Audit helps with Internationalisation

GOING INTERNATIONAL – GERMANY'S HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS REVIEW THEIR INTERNATIONALISATION STRATEGIES

Germany's universities and universities of applied sciences want to become more international in their networks and increase their attractiveness for students and scientists from abroad. An audit team of experts will support the institutions to reach that goal by site visits, interviews and analysis of objectives and measures in practice. The German Rectors'

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Conference (HRK) and the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) presented the results of a pilot phase recently at the conference "Internationalisation in Practice: Challenges and Perspectives" in Berlin. The BMBF is funding the project until the end of 2013 with around 2.6 million Euros. In the course of the project, the universities will increasingly contribute and will carry out the audit themselves as from 2013.

During a pilot phase last year, six universities took part in the audit: Bielefeld University, the Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus, the Justus-Liebig-University Giessen, the University of Göttingen, the Mannheim University of Applied Sciences and the Munich University of Applied Sciences. Ten times as many had applied. For the second project phase, which began on 1 September 2010, some 45 further universities are chosen for participation.

ASEAN-China Cooperation on Student Exchange EXCHANGE OF 200,000 STUDENTS BETWEEN ASEAN AND CHINA BY 2020

More than 100,000 students from ASEAN countries are expected to study in China and a similar number of students from China at higher education institutions in ASEAN countries by 2020. This is one element of the Guiyang Declaration that has been set forth and signed by 11 ministers attending the 1st China-ASEAN Education Minister Roundtable Conference in Guiyang, China.

State Councillor Liu Yandong stated at the opening ceremony that the Chinese government will make 10,000 scholarships available within the next 10 years in order to meet this target. Furthermore, China proposed to implement the programme "Scholarships for Top-Talents Exchange" for students at post graduate and doctoral levels, with main majors including the fields: teaching, environment, medicine, climate and technology.

SPOTLIGHT

ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING (ASAIHL)

The ASAIHL established in January 1956 is the oldest regional non-governmental organization in Southeast Asia. The main objective is to assist

member institutions to strengthen themselves through mutual self-help in order to achieve international distinction in teaching, research and public service. One of the most important functions of ASAIHL is to promote the development of academic exchange with a view to establish a closer network of co-operative arrangement to engender a greater appreciation of the educational differences which prevail within the region. Currently ASAIHL has 170 member institutions in 20 countries. ASAIHL is trying to establish a closer link with the European University Association by proposing a joint Board meeting to promote higher education partnership and support international cooperation to contribute to quality assurance and joint degree programmes as there is a need to foster mobility of students and academic staff within the South East Asian region and between the European Union. "We hope that the Newsletter of the ASEM Education Secretariat and the German Academic Exchange Service will help promote the closer relationship between universities in Southeast Asia and the European Union", Dr. Ninnat Olanvoravuth, Secretary-General of ASAIHL stated.

Online:

www.seameo.org/asaihl

UPCOMING EVENTS

MOBILITY UNDER THE MAGNIFYING GLASS: NEW INSIGHTS, OLD CHALLENGES, FUTURE PERSPECTIVES

December 3, 2010 in Brussels, Belgium

Mobility has raised high expectations in terms of individual, institutional, and even system-level impact. The effects of the phenomenon, to mention brain drain or commercialisation of transnational higher education are nevertheless worrisome.

The 4th ACA European Policy Seminar this year will present new research on European mobility trends and the caveats of statistical analyses. Latest policy-developments in the EU and European Higher Education Area (EHEA) contexts will be discussed as well as mobility strategies.

Online:

<http://www.aca-secretariat.be/index.php?id=462>.

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Press review

Multilateral

The Chronicle, October 17, 2010

EUROPE: In Europe, a Plan to Rank Rankings Takes Shape

University rankings organizations could soon find themselves on the receiving end of the kinds of evaluations that have made them so newsworthy and influential. At a conference here this month for academics and institutions focused on rankings, the organizer unveiled a project that would effectively rank the rankers. The IREG Observatory on Academic Ranking and Excellence, which was created a few years ago to develop quality-control mechanisms for rankings, announced that a volunteer trial audit of two or three rankings will soon be under way. The International Ranking Expert Group, or IREG, first met in Washington in 2004 and two years later came up with a set of principles on the ranking of higher-education institutions.

Online:

http://chronicle.com/article/In-Europe-a-Plan-to-Rank/124976/?sid=wb&utm_source=wb&utm_medium=en

Inside Higher Ed, October 5, 2010

GLOBAL: The State of Global Higher Ed

Colleges and universities are placing more emphasis on the global student experience despite a decline in funding, the third edition of a worldwide survey on internationalization in higher education found. The new International Association of Universities report analyzes data collected last year from 745 institutions in 115 countries, exploring global trends and individual regions to assess where, why and to whom internationalization is important, and what barriers to it exist. "Internationalization of higher education is not a new phenomenon, but the ways in which it is evolving and the importance it has taken on in recent years are unprecedented,"

Online:

<http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2010/10/05/international>

Australia

The Chronicle, October 15, 2010

Educators Say Australian Government Must Do More to Slow Drop in International Students

Australian educators expressed their frustrations with government officials Friday, saying they have not done enough to curb a decline in international students. During the final day of the Australian International Education Conference here, panels continued to be dominated by discussions about the country's difficulties recruiting students from overseas - and what needs to be done about the problems. In blunt language, Dennis Murray, executive director of the International Education Association of Australia, accused both the federal and state governments of failing to help resolve the issue. Although the Council of Australian Governments committed to developing a strategy to assist international students in August, little has been done, Mr. Murray said. "We are just told, 'Wait and see,' whenever we try and find out things like Where is the money coming from? or Who will be responsible at the top?" Mr. Murray said at the meeting, which attracted about 1,300 people from 32 countries.

Online:

http://chronicle.com/article/Educators-Say-Australian/124994/?sid=at&utm_source=at&utm_medium=en

Brunei Darussalam

The Brunei Times, September 29, 2010

MoE prioritises ICT in Education

The Minister of Education yesterday highlighted the importance of information communications technology (ICT) in accelerating human resource development in a knowledge-based economy. Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia Hj Abu Bakar Hj Apong said the 21st Century National Education System (SPN21) prioritises technology as an essential learning area with ICT as a delivery or enabling tool for the teacher-manager. During the opening of the 13th Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation Regional Open Learning Centre (Seamolec) Governing Board Meeting (GBM) and International Seminar,

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he said the SPN21 is the Ministry of Education's response to the need for a diversified-driven economy through a skilled and dynamic workforce, as outlined in the National Development Plan

Online:

<http://www.bt.com.bn/news-national/2010/09/29/moe-prioritises-ict-education>

The Brunei Times, August, 28, 2010

Internationalising Higher Education

A CLOSED round table meeting was held between the Ministry of Education and the British High Commission yesterday to discuss Brunei's strategy to internationalise its higher education. Practitioners and policy makers from both countries came together to discuss how British universities and other higher education institutions might continue to assist Brunei to achieve its goals.

...With education going global, he said that they would be on the look out for ways to accelerate the process in Brunei by encouraging strategic tie-ups and consortia and helping universities stay close to the market.

Online:

<http://www.bt.com.bn/news-national/2010/08/27/internationalising-higher-education>

China

People's Daily Online, October 13, 2010

Hong Kong Aims to Raise Higher Education Rate among Young People to 65% in Years

Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Chief Executive Donald Tsang said Wednesday the city was likely to raise the attending rate of higher education among young people to about 65 percent, from some 30 percent in 2000. "Education is the largest single expenditure item in our budget, representing over 20 percent of (Hong Kong's) total government recurrent expenditure," Tsang said in his annual policy address at the city's 60-member Legislative Council, which was live broadcast to Hong Kong's 7 million people.

Online:

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90785/7165471.html>

France

University World news, October 17, 2010

Priority for Higher Education and Research

Despite an austerity budget aimed at cutting at least EUR40 billion (US\$55.75 billion) from total state spending, for the fourth year running higher education and research remain a French government priority having been spared the deep cuts and job losses made in other areas of the 2011 budget. Minister for higher education and research Valérie Pécresse said the budget for her sector was "exceptional in the context of a reduction of the public deficit". But to fulfil the commitment of the French republic's President Nicolas Sarkozy to increase spending on higher education and research by EUR9 billion over five years, the minister is relying on extra-budgetary measures to boost this year's state allocation of EUR25.2 billion.

Online:

<http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20101015202621331>

efors News, October 14, 2010

Academic Year to last one extra Month

Following a vote by the administrative councils of French Universities, a tenth month of study in the academic year is to be introduced. Although framed as a ground-breaking move by the government, this initiative is full of contradictions and the disbursement of grants for this additional month seems doubtful.

Minister of Higher Education Valerie Pécresse has announced that the administrative councils of French Universities have unanimously voted to extend the academic year by an additional month. According to the Minister's statement on the radio RTL, this means that the academic year in France will now last from September to June. She qualified this initiative as an attempt to coordinate France's study period with that of other European countries and that the tenth month of study will allow for more professor support for students, personalised tutoring and better preparation for deadlines.

Online:

<http://news.efors.eu/en/Politics/higher-education-policy-academic-year-to-last-one-extra-month/>

Germany

University World News, October 3, 2010
Hard Facts about Soft Skills in Universities

When 29 ministers of European education met on 19 June 1999 to draft the Bologna Declaration and made a blueprint for the European Higher Education Area, they set out six objectives. These were: easily comparable degrees, undergraduate and graduate cycles, a common credit system, student mobility, quality assurance and a 'European dimension in higher education'. ... By early 2009, 80% of German universities were offering training in soft skills, either integrated in regular courses or organised by their career centres. At the University of Mannheim, for example, most BA students are required to earn about 12 of a total of approximately 180 credit points in soft skills.

Online:

<http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20101002085623288>

Greece

University Post, October 8, 2010
Greek Students Hit hard by Economic Meltdown

No financial support keeps students reliant on family networks. Many are forced to drop out or quit the country, explains Greek sociology student

The Greek economic crisis has not only affected universities' administration and staff, but in an indirect way, many of the students as well. Before the new Greek semester started this week, the University Post was in Greece to monitor the situation. Katerina Lamprakopoulou, a Greek Master's student in sociology and political science at National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, explained how the situation is now, some months after the introduction of new austerity measures in Greek universities.

Online:

<http://universitypost.dk/article/greek-students-hit-hard-economic-meltdown>

Greece Greek Reporter, September 20, 2010
Papandreou Outlines New Higher Education Changes

The main guidelines of the government's planned changes in higher education were

outlined by prime minister George Papandreou at the commencement of a dialogue on the new draft framework law for tertiary education, held in Delphi on Sunday. Papandreou announced that a new system will be introduced under which students will gain entry into universities rather than specific university schools or departments, as is currently the case. The plan, proposed by the Ministry of Education, includes unifications of universities and technical institutions of higher education (TEI) through unifications, mergers and abolitions of departments.

Online:

<http://greece.greekreporter.com/2010/09/26/dialogue-opens-on-higher-ed-reform/>

India

The Times of India, October 17, 2010
UGC Rolls out Blueprint to Train Teachers as Efficient Managers

With the change in the socio-economic and political structure of the society and in the student profile, teachers in higher education in India are under tremendous pressure. Quality of education has taken a toll as teachers, besides performing primary task of teaching and research, are also discharging duties as deans, proctors, provosts, exam controllers, principals, department heads etc. Now with an aim to bring professionalism in the management of universities and colleges, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has issued guidelines on 'training and development of academic administrators in higher education'. At present, the higher education institutions are managed by teachers and clerical staff. The existing arrangement, as per the UGC, is inadequate to face the changing realities. The guidelines direct institutions across the country to develop training models to equip the existing staff with modern managerial tools.

Online:

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/6761344.cms?frm=mailtofriend#ixzz13LnwqIHT>

India Infoline, October 4, 2010
Sibal Says Foreign Universities Upbeat on India

The three centres of excellence - the Centre for Critical, Technical and Advanced Science, the

Virginia Bio Informatics Centre and the Virginia Transport and Technical Institute - would be set up with an Indian partner. Experts seem to be taking in the information with a pinch of salt. But others doubt claims, effectiveness of India campuses by Nafisa Ali New Delhi a day after his return from the US, Human Resource Development (HRD) Minister Kapil Sibal is satisfied with his relationship-building exercise with foreign universities. He said some US universities have shown keen interest in the innovation universities, or institutions for vocational training, that are to be set up in India. According to the minister, University of California, Berkeley and Columbia University "are excited about our innovation university and are awaiting the passage of the foreign universities bill." Others have also extended academic and financial support.

Online:

<http://www.indiainfoline.com/Markets/News/Sibal-says-foreign-universities-upbeat-on-India/4950783761>

Indonesia

University World News, October 17, 2010
Natural Sciences Lag behind

Indonesia's new academic year, just beginning, has again exposed the inadequacy of the country's higher education provision in the natural sciences. Few universities are offering such undergraduate courses, and the paucity of undergraduates in the natural sciences is reflected further up the higher education ladder in a lack of research students. Each year public spaces such as railway and bus terminals are draped in university programme advertisements, as are the print and electronic media. A survey of these over several weeks found a dearth of references to the natural sciences. The Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI) has for years tried to remedy this situation, pointing out that, among other things, there is a great deal of potentially valuable work to be done on the country's immense terrestrial and marine biodiversity.

Online:

<http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=2010101520182225>

The Jakarta Globe, October 12, 2010

World-Class Indonesian Universities are Possible, but They Won't Rise in Isolation

The second week of September brought some notable news for Indonesia's higher education establishments. In at least two subject areas, two Indonesian universities made it into the 2010 QS World University Rankings of the top 100 universities worldwide — cause for celebration indeed. Despite their subject area expertise, however, neither of the universities made it into the top 200 for overall performance. Ranking things is a popular pastime.

Online:

<http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/commentary/world-class-indonesian-universities-are-possible-but-they-wont-rise-in-isolation/400972>

The Jakarta Globe, October 11, 2010

Indonesian Education Out of Sync With Market

Manpower Minister Muhaimin Iskandar is calling on the education sector to equip students with skills that will help them in the job market. ...Intellectual unemployment, or joblessness among those with a university degree, reached 1.2 million last year, a new high, up from 740,000 in 2007 and 473,000 in 2006, according to data published by a national working unit of the Central Statistics Agency (BPS). Even though less than 3 percent of Indonesians possess a bachelor's or higher degree, the number of university graduates continues to exceed the demand of the work force.

Online:

<http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/education/indonesian-education-out-of-sync-with-market-minister/400763>

Japan

The Japan Times, October 19, 2010

Study abroad key to Japan's future

Overseas education vital for Japan to stay in the game.

The lack of student interest in studying abroad is casting a shadow over the future of this quickly greying nation, according to a noted German business professor. "I can't overemphasize the importance of studying abroad," David Bach, the 35-year-old dean of programs at the IE Business

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School in Madrid, said in a recent interview with The Japan Times. "It's incredibly important for Japan to have global managers. I think a global management education experience is a very important contribution to that, knowing people from all over the world, learning from them and learning a foreign language."

Online:

<http://search.japantimes.co.jp/member/member.html?mode=getarticle&file=nn20101019f1.html>

The New York Times, September 26, 2010
Students Scarce for Japan's New Graduate Schools

In a country with a shrinking population, the latest trend in Japan's higher education is something of a mystery: the number of universities and academic programs is rising. The growth is sharpest for professional graduate schools, where the number has soared from practically zero in 2003, when accreditation began, to 130 now, in fields ranging from law and business to clinical counseling and education. But there is one obvious problem: not enough students are signing up. The Japanese government says that nearly half of professionally oriented programs, aside from law schools, have yet to fill their stated student capacity. And the problem has been especially acute in graduate programs in education.

Online:

http://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/27/education/27iht-eduLede27.html?_r=1&ref=education

Malaysia

Bernama.com, October 13, 2010
150,000 Foreign Students Aimed For Public, Private Universities by 2015

The Higher Education Ministry is targeting intake of 150,000 foreign students into Malaysia's public and private higher learning institutions by 2015.

Its minister Datuk Seri Mohd Khaled Nordin said to achieve the target, four clusters of key courses for the first degree and the Master's degree would be focused on for foreign students. "The four are our strengths -- Islamic banking, hospitality and tourism, engineering and health sciences," he said after witnessing the signing of

a memorandum of understanding between Help International Corporation Berhad and Seri Alam Properties Sdn Bhd. Mohd Khaled said the target, if met, would not only help turn Malaysia into a regional education hub, but could also increase the nation's per capita income.

Online:

<http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v5/newsindex.php?id=534852>

The Star, October 10, 2010

Perks for selected business faculties

Business faculties that are selected into the government's special programme for Top Business Schools will enjoy some flexibility not offered to other institutions. The faculties are set to have their curriculum and resources enhanced under the Higher Education Ministry. One of the perks is to allow lecturers to be involved in business. "If lecturers have the opportunity to serve in the board of a corporate organisation, they can then deliver first-hand accounts of their own business practices to their students.

"The whole idea of the project is to strengthen the curriculum in these schools," Deputy Higher Education Minister Datuk Saifuddin Abdullah said at the opening of a forum entitled "New Beginnings- Connecting Through Entrepreneurship" at Universiti Tun Abdul Razak (UniRazak) in Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday. The forum was a pre-event leading to the Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW) celebrations which will take place from Nov 8 to 21.

Online:

<http://thestar.com.my/education/story.asp?file=/2010/10/10/education/7168413&sec=education>

New Zealand

Universities New Zealand – Te Pōkai Tara (Universities NZ) News, October 12, 2010
Universities Welcome Additional Funding for More Student Places

Universities New Zealand – Te Pōkai Tara (Universities NZ) welcomes the government's announcement to invest more money into university student places for 2011 and 2012. This decision is in accord with what universities have been pointing to for some time – that investment in university education and research is central to New Zealand's

future growth. Results University graduates enter the workforce highly skilled and prepared to take on the increasingly complex problems we face. They earn higher salaries and contribute disproportionately to government revenues.

Online:

<http://www.nzvcc.ac.nz/node/482>

Pakistan

University World News, October 17, 2010

Funding for Students abroad Suspended

Some 400 Pakistani students admitted to foreign universities with prior assurance that their studies would be financed by the government, will not be able to go after the government ordered the Higher Education Commission to stop scholarship payments. "We have been asked to tell the selected students and universities that the government does not have enough money for their education abroad," Higher Education Commission (HEC) sources told University World News. The funding cut is part of an ongoing row over higher education funding in the wake of major floods and a redirection of funding priorities.

Online:

<http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20101015203000261>

The Nation, September 26, 2010

Pakistan Allocates Lowest Budget for Education

Pakistan is at the bottom of those countries list, which allocate the lowest amount of its budget for education, as less than 1.5 per cent of the federal budget is consumed on education in the country.

This was stated by University of Engineering and Technology Peshawar Vice Chancellor Imtiaz Hussain Gilani at a ceremony organised by the PFL Education here at a local hotel on Saturday. He said we spend on our education even less than most of the third world countries including Nepal and Bhutan.

Online:

<http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Regional/Lahore/26-Sep-2010/Pakistan-allocates-lowest-budget-for-education>

UK

The Guardian, October 12, 2010

Immigration Cap will Drive away Academic Talent

Universities fear the cap on immigration could seriously damage our vital academic industry. Cabinet ministers will this week consider controversial plans to cap the number of skilled workers coming to the UK. University heads warn that the restrictions, which come in the wake of steep funding cuts, will create a damaging "perfect storm" for British higher education.

Universities already face restrictions on the number of international academics and researchers they can sponsor to work here after the government announced an interim cap on migration of non-EU highly skilled and skilled workers in July. Ministers want to reduce numbers from 196,000 last year to tens of thousands by 2014.

Online:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2010/oct/12/internationalstudents-higher-education>

eGov monitor, October 6, 2010

Building on the 2007 skills strategy, the new strategy takes into account the changed economic climate and the new challenges facing businesses looking to support sustainable employment.

The new Skills for Scotland strategy has been simplified with an aim to empower individuals and businesses to access help and support more effectively and better meet the needs of the key economic sectors and industries of the future.

Launching the Strategy during a visit to Gems Engineering Ltd in Glasgow - one of the first employers to take advantage of the Flexible 5000 programme - Skills and Lifelong Learning Minister Keith Brown said:

"Our original Skills for Scotland Strategy was published three years ago when economic conditions were very different from those currently faced by individuals and employers across the country".

Online:

<http://www.egovmonitor.com/node/38837>

Vietnam

Viet Nam News, October 21, 2010

Advanced training programmes failing to attract students

The Ministry of Education and Training has evaluated advanced training programmes in universities to gain insight into the quality of the programmes.

As many as 35 advanced training programmes, with similar curricula to those in the world's leading universities, were introduced in 23 key universities in 2006.

Despite similar lessons, programme quality differed from one institution to another, Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Thien Nhan said at a conference in held Ha Noi on Tuesday to review the five-year implementation of the programmes in key universities.

...Head of the Ministry's Higher Education Department Tran Thi Ha said 10 programmes would be completed this year and assessed by the Asia-Pacific Quality Network.

Online:

<http://vietnamnews.vnagency.com.vn/Social-Issues/Education/204908/Advanced-training-programmes-failing-to-attract-students.html>

PUBLICATIONS

10 YEARS ENQA (2000-2010): A DECADE OF EUROPEAN CO-OPERATION IN QUALITY ASSURANCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION

ISBN: 978-952-5539-47-9

On the occasion of its 10th anniversary, ENQA published a collection of views and articles to celebrate the accomplishments in quality assurance of European higher education from the early 1990's until 2010. The publication gives an overview of ENQA's major milestones and identifies opportunities and challenges for the next decade.

Online:

enqa.eu/files/ENQA%2010th%20Anniversary%20publication.pdf

NOTE:

Some links might not take you automatically to the website. In this case please copy the link.

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