

## NEWSLETTER June 2011

### ASEM FMM10, GODOLLO, 6-7 June 2011

#### **ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting**

#### **10<sup>th</sup> ASEM FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING HELD IN HUNGARY**

The 10<sup>th</sup> ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting was held in the Grassalkovich Castle in Godollo, near the Hungarian capital Budapest from 6-7 June 2011. 48 ASEM partners attended the conference which was opened by the Prime Minister of Hungary, H.E. Mr. Victor Orban and co-chaired by H.E. Catherine Ashton, High Representative and Vice President of the European Commission as well as by H.E. Janos Martonyi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Hungary.

The Meeting focused on "Working Together on Non-Traditional Security Challenges", a topic which - due to its transnational character - has substantial implications for the prosperity, security and stability in Europe and Asia, thus requiring a joint response through the multifaceted partnership in ASEM.

Ministers had significant discussions on regional and global issues with particular attention to the themes addressed at the ASEM 8 Summit in Brussels on 4-5 October, 2010. In preparation of the forthcoming ASEM Summit in Vientiane, Lao PDR in 2012, the Ministers also received an overview of the ASEM cooperation in its three pillars: the political, economic and socio-cultural fields.

The meeting came out with a lot of conclusions concerning global issues, international developments, regional issues and cooperation in ASEM. In their Chairs' statement, the Ministers also welcomed the outcomes of the ASEM Symposium on Technical Vocational Education and Training which was hosted by China in January 2011 and the recommendations from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Asia-Europe Meeting of Ministers for Education (ASEMME3) in Copenhagen May 2011. Moreover, they "...strongly supported the ASEMUNDUS initiative, the ASEM DUO Fellowship Program and the work of the ASEM Education Secretariat as well as of the ASEM Education Hub".

The 11<sup>th</sup> ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting will be hosted by India in 2013.

For detailed information please refer to:

[http://www.aseminfoboard.org/content/documents/ASEM\\_FMM10\\_Chair's\\_Statement\\_-\\_070611FinalAdopted\\_Version\\_with\\_Annexes.pdf](http://www.aseminfoboard.org/content/documents/ASEM_FMM10_Chair's_Statement_-_070611FinalAdopted_Version_with_Annexes.pdf)

### ACTIVITIES IN ASEM

#### **ERASMUS Mundus**

#### **ERASMUS MUNDUS CLUSTER SURVEY**

As announced in the February 2011 edition of this newsletter, the ASEM Education Secretariat at DAAD and the MENON Network have launched a survey aiming at assessing Erasmus Mundus activities with an Asian focus. The survey was addressed to all ERASMUS Mundus projects with Asian partners and/or targeting Asia. It should analyse general aspects of Asia-Europe co-operation within the different Erasmus Mundus Actions, such as the added value of working together, and challenges in the daily work. In addition, it sheds a light on more in-depth topics such as recognition of study periods abroad, quality assurance but also on university-business co-operation activities and sustainability strategies of the projects in question.

At the closing date (June 20<sup>th</sup>) the MENON server has received 362 answers. 20% of the answers are from EU coordinators, 32% from EU partners, and 36% from non EU partners (from Asia).

The consortium will now start analysing the results and check whether the sample can be considered representative. If necessary, institutions can be identified and contacted for further in-depth investigation in order to extend the sample and to improve the accuracy of the analysis,

The survey is conducted within the framework of the EU-funded project "Clustering Erasmus Mundus Courses and Attractiveness Projects",

#### **University Social Responsibility**

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> ASIA-EUROPE EDUCATION WORKSHOP**

From 5-8 June the 2<sup>nd</sup> Asia-Europe Education Workshop "Knowledge Societies: Universities and their Social Responsibilities"

was held in Innsbruck, Austria. The workshop was organized by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) together with the University of Innsbruck. About 30 representatives from higher education institutions, policy makers as well as business and media practitioners attended the meeting.

The workshop aimed at raising awareness on the social responsibility of universities in building knowledge societies, identifying key elements of knowledge transfer systems and universities' social responsibility (USR) in ASEM. Moreover it intended to give an overview on national and international research concerning this topic, to share good practices and examples, and to formulate recommendations to universities and governments. For detailed information, please visit:

[http://www.asef.org/index.php?option=com\\_project&task=view&id=691](http://www.asef.org/index.php?option=com_project&task=view&id=691)

## MULTI- AND UNI-LATERAL ACTIVITIES

### Higher Education Cooperation

#### UNIVERSITY OF INDONESIA SIGNED EDUCATION COOPERATION AGREEMENTS WITH EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

The University of Indonesia (UI) conducts education cooperation with universities in four European countries. During his visit to Europe, the Rector of the University of Indonesia signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with 15 universities in four European countries. In France, the UI signed cooperation agreements with six universities, in Germany and Italy with four each, in Spain with one.

"The visit was intended to open opportunities for educational cooperation, cultural diplomacy, exchange of lecturers and students, and research cooperation between the University of Indonesia and the universities in these four countries," said Devi Rahmawati, Deputy Head of Secretariat Office UI.

For detailed information please refer to:

<http://kampus.okezone.com/read/2011/06/19/373/470045/ui-dan-empat-negara-eropa-teken-kerja-sama-pendidikan>

### Global University Ranking

#### EUA REPORT ON GLOBAL UNIVERSITY RANKINGS AND THEIR IMPACT

The European University Association published a report about World University ranking on June 17<sup>th</sup> 2011.

The "global university rankings and their impact" report, was commissioned by the European University Association (EUA) as a response to the recent growth in international and national rankings, and as a result of increasing questions from its members requesting information and advice on such rankings.

The report states that the main international university rankings provide an "oversimplified picture" of institutional mission, quality and performance, as they mainly focus on indicators related to the research function of universities.

For detailed information, please visit:

[www.eua.be](http://www.eua.be)

## VOCATIONAL EDUCATION TRAINING

### The Philippines

#### PHILIPPINE TVET ATTRACTING MORE STUDENTS

Interest to participate in Technical and Vocational Education in Bataan (the Philippines) increased rapidly. This was evident from the number of registrars in training institutions run by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and its partners. For the first few months of 2011 applicants for the skills development of technical education were almost doubled.

"This is a tremendous growth in the number of students enrolling in technical vocational courses. We are glad that people see as important TESDA programs to prepare students for the workforce of the 21st century," said Director General of TESDA Joel Villanueva in a recent visit here. Further he said that the Bataan should serve as a model for other provinces about how collaboration between TESDA, local government units and private organizations can help drive the

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technical vocational education among the people. For detailed information, please refer to: [http://positivenewsmedia.net/am2/publish/Cities And Towns 23/TESDA enrollees in Bataan increase this year.shtml](http://positivenewsmedia.net/am2/publish/Cities_And_Towns_23/TESDA_enrollees_in_Bataan_increase_this_year.shtml)

### Malaysia

#### MALAYSIA MOVES TO BOOST VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

According to Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education of Malaysia hoped to raise the number of students enrolled in local TVET institutions from the current 10% to 20% over the next five years.

The Malaysia government plans to rebrand the vocational schools into vocational colleges, transform Government Polytechnics and establish premier polytechnics to cater for the nation's needs for higher skills.

## QUALITY ASSURANCE

### China

#### THE CHANGING CONTEXT

Professor Kathryn Mohrman from Arizona State University recently published an article about quality assurance in China. In this article, the writer makes an analysis of the Chinese quality assurance context, policy implementation and future prospects from an American perspective.

She argued that the development of a quality-assurance system has been "a positive example of communication between the Ministry of Education and institutions, with changes in policy and procedures, based on the experience of the first five-year cycle." China has been moving from the state as education provider to the state as regulator, facilitator, and coordinator.

To read the whole article, please refer to:

[https://htmldbprod.bc.edu/pls/htmldb/f?p=2290:4:4397322684560073::NO:RP,4:P0\\_CONTENT\\_ID:115167](https://htmldbprod.bc.edu/pls/htmldb/f?p=2290:4:4397322684560073::NO:RP,4:P0_CONTENT_ID:115167)

## UNIVERSITY BUSINESS COOPERATION

### Laos/Thailand

#### POWER FIRM LAUNCHES EDUCATION PROJECT IN LAOS

A Thai electricity-generating company investing in Laos has offered both funds and its know-how to help strengthening the vocational skills of Laotian students. Ratchaburi Electricity Generating Holding (Ratch) recently signed a letter of intent with the Laos Ministry of Education in Vientiane, marking its first official corporate social responsibility project.

"The project is entitled Education for Career Empowerment. The company has allocated a Bt20 million budget for the five years from 2011 to 2015," said the company's president Noppol Milinthangoon.

Furthermore he said that the project was designed to match educational policy in Laos, which focused on educational development in parallel with vocational-skills development to produce individuals who will be able to support the country's rising economic growth and foreign direct investment, particularly in the electricity business.

The project is a form of celebration of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Thai-Lao friendship. It expresses the company's social responsibility to Laos while stressing its long-term investment in the country, Noppol said.

The Laotian Ministry of Education focuses on attracting more students to vocational education especially in the field of electrical power and energy to support the country's development in the long term.

This project should work as a model for other private companies to follow.

For detailed information please refer to:

<http://www.nationmultimedia.com/2011/06/15/business/Power-firm-launches-education-project-in-Laos-30157832.html>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Germany

#### ASEM SEMINAR ON QUALITY ASSURANCE

Following the Chair's Conclusions of the Copenhagen Meeting (ASEMME3), Germany hosts an expert seminar on regional quality assurance. This seminar will take place in Bonn from 5-6 July 2011 and will bring together about 50 experts from National and International Accreditation Agencies and Networks. The seminar is conceived as a follow-up of previous seminars which have been held in Berlin and Cyprus in 2010. The ASEM Education Secretariat will inform about the discussions and outcomes of this seminar in the next edition of the newsletter.

For further information, please refer to the official website of the ASEM Education Secretariat:

[www.asem-education-secretariat.org](http://www.asem-education-secretariat.org)

## PRESS REVIEW

### Australia

*The Economic Times, June 3, 2011*

#### **AUSTRALIA: Number of overseas students continue to fall in Australia**

Australia's education industry has witnessed an 8.7 per cent drop in international enrolments this year, particularly from India following a spate of violent attacks on Indians. Tightening of student visa rules by Australia is also blamed for the sharp decline in the enrolment of the foreign students. Australian education providers have reported an 8.7 per cent drop in international enrolments during the first three months of this year compared with the same period last year, 'The Age' reported. The hardest hit enrolments were recorded in the vocational education and English language areas, where numbers fell more than 21 per cent on March last year. The report said the biggest challenge for the sector is the Indian market where the numbers all sectors fell by 30.4 per cent, continuing the year's trend, outlined in figures released in April for February enrolments.

Online:

[http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2011-06-03/news/29617368\\_1\\_enrolments-australian-education-providers-foreign-students](http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2011-06-03/news/29617368_1_enrolments-australian-education-providers-foreign-students)

*Skills Australia*

#### **AUSTRALIA: Launch of skills for prosperity – a roadmap for vocational education and training**

This report puts forward comprehensive reforms for the way the Australian vocational education and training (VET) sector is developed, organised and financed. Our recommendations for its future express an ambitious vision of growth to meet future skills needs and through this, the realisation of improved workforce participation, enterprise productivity and social inclusion.

The report draws on the experience and expertise of a broad range of stakeholders, who generously contributed their views through more than 140 submissions and through consultations attended by nearly 500 people.

For further information visit the Skills Australia website at <http://www.skillsaustralia.gov.au/SkillsProsperity.shtml>.

Download the Skills prospect Roadmap at [http://www.skillsaustralia.gov.au/PDFs\\_RTFS/SkillsProsperityRoadmap.pdf](http://www.skillsaustralia.gov.au/PDFs_RTFS/SkillsProsperityRoadmap.pdf).

### China

*Xinhua, May 23, 2011*

#### **"Enrolment crisis" looms for Chinese universities**

For decades, attending universities has been the Chinese version of the "American Dream", promising a rise from rags to riches for those who have studied hard and invested heavily in education.

A recent slump, however, in the number of students enrolling to take the college entrance examinations has awakened Chinese universities to an inconvenient truth: the era of glory has gone and they will soon have to contend for the decreasing number of students.

This year, central China's Henan Province reported a decrease of 97,000 applicants for the national college entrance exam (NCEE). It is the largest year-on-year drop for the province after the number of applicants took a downward spiral in 2008.

The province, however, after registering 855,000 applicants for the exam in June, still ranks the first in China.

More alarming is that the trend is becoming national. According to a report on eol.cn, a major portal reporting on education in China, this year's NCEE registration has dropped 10 percent in Anhui, 6 percent in Beijing, and 12 percent in Shanghai.

Online:

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english2010/china/2011-05/23/c\\_13889505.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english2010/china/2011-05/23/c_13889505.htm)

## India

*The Hindustan Times, May 24, 2011*

### Education without borders

The Indian higher education system, which had considerably stagnated for a while, is on its way to a significant transformation. Even until the Foreign Educational Institutions (Regulation of Entry and Operations) Bill 2010 is passed, Indian colleges are making a solid effort to partner with foreign institutions for joint ventures. Students will have access to more specialised, flexible course options, better research facilities and international perspective. They will also be able to save heavily on travel, accommodation and living expenses. Read here about some of these collaborations.

Online:

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/Education-without-borders/Article1-701454.aspx>

## Japan

*Daily Yomiuri Online, May 31, 2011*

### Govt to ease visa rules to lure students

The government plans to ease the academic requirements for obtaining work visas, thereby making it easier for foreign graduates of Japanese vocational schools to work in this country, sources said Monday. The move is aimed at attracting more foreigners to study in Japan, the sources said. The Justice Ministry plans to revise the relevant ordinance shortly, with the new policy to be implemented in late June at the earliest. Currently, work visas are in principle issued only to foreign nationals who hold a bachelor degree or higher. Exceptions can be made for foreign students who stay in Japan and find jobs after graduating from Japanese vocational schools, but not if the students return to their home countries after graduation.

Online:

<http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/national/T110530004016.htm>

*International Focus, May 26, 2011 (p. 4ss)*

### The Higher Education sector in post-disaster Japan and the continued importance of collaboration between Japan and the UK

The earthquake and tsunami which struck eastern Japan on 11 March have changed the landscape of the Higher Education (HE) sector in Japan but its commitment to internationalisation remains unchanged. Indeed, the situation has if anything increased recognition of the importance of international collaboration. This article looks at the impact of the disaster on the HE sector and discusses the role that Japan-UK collaboration has to play in its aftermath.

The Japanese HE sector in the aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami

Japanese universities have been affected in some very obvious ways. Many foreign students left Japan, some of the labs containing pioneering international research were destroyed, and funding has been redirected.

For example, material damage to research facilities caused by the disaster has approached nearly 35 billion yen (approximately GBP 265 million) at Tohoku University alone. Online: <http://www.international.ac.uk/resources/InternationalFocus70.26.05.pdf>

## Malaysia

*Bernama.com, June 8, 2011*

### Government to offer Laotian students higher education opportunities

The Malaysian government is trying to come up with the best initiative to provide Laotian students more opportunities for higher education in Malaysia. Malaysian Ambassador to Laos Datuk Than Tai Hing said the embassy here was discussing with the Laos Education Ministry on the best move to achieve this objective. He said this was a follow up to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on higher education signed between that Malaysian and Laotian governments in June. "I see this (higher education) as having potentials, because not only is there quality in our higher education but it is also affordable," he told reporters when met during a visit by the Jejak Warisan Jawi II (JWJ2)

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expedition to the Malaysian embassy, here yesterday.

Online:

<http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v5/newsindex.php?id=592318>

## Poland

*Polskie Radio, May 30, 2011*

### **Poland: Polish universities vying for foreign students**

Estimates predict that the student population in Poland is to drop by one third by 2020, with Poland's demographic low proving a headache for universities. With many private as well as publicly run universities worrying about falling student numbers, and job losses as a result, academic institutions are beginning to promote themselves abroad. "[Polish] universities are trying to make themselves known at educational fairs in various countries," says Waldemar Siwinski, head of the Education Perspective Foundation, which along with the Conference of Academic Rectors of Polish Schools, has been promoting universities under the "Study in Poland" programme.

Online:

<http://www.thenews.pl/1/12/Artykul/25142,Polish-universities-vying-for-foreign-students>

Visit the Study in Poland website at <http://www.studyinpoland.pl/>

## Russia

*Russia & India Report, May 23, 2011*

### **Russia calling: Get a degree**

It is the summer of rediscovering Russian education in India as major cities host education fairs.

More Indian students are travelling to Russia for a degree. This month, major Indian cities like New Delhi, Chennai and Ahmedabad hosted Russian higher education exposition-fair where students could decide what course suits them best. The fair is due to be held in Kolkata, Mumbai, Hyderabad and several other cities. Exhibiting at the fair are famous Russian education brands: Moscow Institute of Aviation, Moscow Institute of Economics, Tver State Medical Academy, the

Volgograd, Rostov and Bashkiria medical universities, St. Petersburg Medical Academy and People's Friendship University in Moscow.

Online:

[http://indrus.in/articles/2011/05/20/russia\\_calling\\_get\\_a\\_degree\\_12544.html](http://indrus.in/articles/2011/05/20/russia_calling_get_a_degree_12544.html)

## UK

*The Telegraph, June 2, 2011*

### **UK: EU students get a better deal at British universities**

It emerged yesterday that a record number of EU nationals are applying for places at British universities. Almost 46,000 have already submitted applications for the new academic year, an increase of 5.8 per cent on last year. Domestic applications, in contrast, have risen by just 0.8 per cent. Given that the Government has imposed a cap on university places, it means that these EU applicants will be in increasingly intense competition for courses with students from this country. The cap means that a third of this year's expected 700,000 applicants will be unsuccessful, the great majority of them from this country. Their sense of disappointment is likely to be exacerbated by the spectacle of many thousands from the EU winning a place.

Online:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/telegraph-view/8553427/EU-students-get-a-better-deal-at-British-universities.html>

*The Guardian, May 24, 2011*

### **UK: Universities step up overseas recruiting**

Universities are recruiting overseas students in greater numbers – and not just to boost funds, they say, but to ensure a diverse student body. Access to university should be based on ability to learn, not ability to pay, the prime minister, David Cameron, insisted earlier this month. Denying reports that the government would allow universities to recruit above their student number limit so long as the extra students paid higher fees, he was adamant. "There is no question of people being able to buy their way into university," he said.

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Federal Ministry  
of Education  
and Research

Online:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2011/may/24/universities-recruit-overseas-students>

## OECD

*OECD educationtoday, May 24, 2011*

### **OECD: Towards a Skills Strategy**

The OECD releases “Towards a Skills Strategy”, reveals how countries actually train electricians, plumbers, chefs, hotel staff or hairstylists. It turns out that they do it in different ways. Some countries provide vocational programmes in schools while others offer apprenticeships. Some encourage students to choose vocational options earlier and some later. But the core purpose of vocational education is to give young people practical skills that can be applied in the workplace.

The OECD’s work on *Learning for Jobs* took an in-depth look at how countries organise their vocational education systems so as to respond to the needs of the labour market. Here are just a few points that the OECD brought to light:

- Austria has well-structured apprenticeships that integrate learning in schools and workplace training.
- China has a strong and simple model for upper secondary vocational education that maintains general academic skills and a commitment to workplace training and close relationships with employers.
- The Czech Republic has a very impressive database on labour market outcomes of education.
- Germany’s vocational education and training (VET) system is well-resourced, combining public and private funding and its well-developed VET research capacity supports continuous innovation and improvement in the VET system.
- The Hungarian VET system can rely on a strong national qualifications framework.
- The Korean government has recently created sector councils and Meister schools to strengthen employer involvement in VET.

Online:

<https://community.oecd.org/community/educationtoday/blog/2011/05/24/learning-for-jobs->

[developing-practical-skills-through-vocational-education](#)

Download the paper at

<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/58/27/47769000.pdf>

## Bilateral and regional

*Australia Network News, May 24, 2011*

### **AUSTRALIA – CHINA: Australia to fund China, Australia university scholarship program**

Australian and Chinese Universities will be strengthening their ties through an Australian government funded scholarship program. The Australian government says it is the first federally funded university scholarship program with China. Each year for the next two years, 100 university students from Australia will be given scholarships to study in China. An equal number of Chinese students will receive funding to study in Australia. The Minister for Tertiary Education, Senator Chris Evans, has told Radio Australia’s Connect Asia it is hoped the program will broaden Australia’s understanding of China.

Online:

<http://australiannetworknews.com/stories/201105/3225848.htm?desktop>

*International News and Views Corporation, June 1, 2011*

### **INDIA – GERMANY: Kapil Sibal offered India could host an Indo-German Higher Education Summit**

The Union Minister for Human Resource Development, Shri Kapil Sibal today discussed with his German counterpart, a consortia approach of twinning between universities of the two countries where two to three Indian Universities could partner with two to three German Universities for conducting degree level courses. The Minister was speaking on the occasion of his meeting with the German Federal Minister of Education and Research, Dr. Annette Schavan in New Delhi today.

The Minister said that setting up of such Meta – universities will be a welcome step to

collaborate further in the higher education sector between the two countries. Speaking on the occasion of his meeting with the German Federal Minister of Education and Research, Dr. Annette Schavan and delegates of Germany, Shri Sibal stressed that opportunities in the field of higher education and skill development in both the countries, are enormous

Online:

<http://www.internationalnewsandviews.com/2011/06/01/kapil-sibal-offered-india-could-host-an-indo-german-higher-education-summit/?lang=en>

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