

## NEWSLETTER November 2011

### ASEM SEMINARS

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEM UNIVERSITY-BUSINESS FORUM HELD IN BONN

As announced in the previous edition of our Newsletter, the 2nd ASEM University-Business Forum took place in Bonn, Germany from 10<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> November 2011.

About 60 international participants attended this event upon invitation of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research and the ASEM Education Secretariat. It was a follow-up seminar of the 1st ASEM University-Business Forum which took place in March 2010 in Bangkok/Thailand.



The Forum offered European and Asian representatives from academia and industry a platform to discuss recent developments and different models of university-business cooperation in the two regions. Some speakers presented governmental initiatives to strengthen the cooperation between both sectors. Representatives from the world of work pointed out how employers may react to meet the challenges of increasing internationalisation and demographical change. Several workshops focused on practical issues and examples of good practice. Among other things, it was discussed how educational institutions should adjust their curricula and teaching methods to make their students and graduates fit for the labour market. Furthermore, speakers presented different approaches to better match qualifications and

competences delivered by universities and the demands of today's labour market.

The presentations from the different sessions can be downloaded from:

<http://www.asem-education-secretariat.org/en/18426/index.html>

A follow-up forum will be organised by Malaysia in late 2012.

#### POSTPONEMENT OF THE THAI CONFERENCE ON BALANCED MOBILITY

Due to the flood crisis in Thailand, the Office of Higher Education Committee has postponed the "International Asia-Europe Conference on Enhancing Balanced Mobility".

We would like to express our sincere condolences and heartfelt sympathy to the Thai people who are suffering from the flood and hope that the situation will soon be better. The OHEC announced March 5 – 6, 2013 as new date of the conference. For further information see:

<http://www.asem-education-secretariat.org/en/18835/>

### UNIVERSITY-BUSINESS COOPERATION

A recent report on higher education in East Asia by the World Bank shows that progress in university-business cooperation is urgently needed: The unemployment rates among young graduates of about 6 per cent in China, 8.5 per cent in Indonesia and 11 per cent in the Philippines are clear indicators for deficiencies concerning the preparation of students for the workforce. The report assumes that universities in East Asia simply do not provide students with sufficient technical and behavioural skills that are needed by companies to increase their productivity.

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/higher-education/east-asian-universities-fail-to-deliver-workplace-skills/story-e6frgcjx-1226169982606>

## **EFFORTS IN MAKING MALAYSIA A GLOBAL HIGHER EDUCATION HUB**

A recent article in Malaysia's "Borneo Post" reports that Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin has the vision to make the country a hub for higher education of global standard and has therefore called for a paradigm shift in the academic community.

He addressed all academics to step up and make innovation a pillar in instilling high-performance culture within Malaysian universities through high impact research.

With reference to the fact that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak declared 2012 as the "Year of National Innovation Movement", Muhyiddin called for commercially-viable research and development projects. Both higher learning institutions and the private sector should come together in strategic collaborations to "commercialise products from research carried out by academicians and to obtain patents and intellectual property rights on these products."

In order to support the collaboration-processes, the government has figured out strategic initiatives funded with RM 100 million that also include an implementation strategy for innovation among HEIs.

In addition to that, Muhyiddin took the opportunity to address academicians at the National Academic Awards and call for the facilitation of academic mobility by encouraging excellent scholars to appoint for advisory and consultancy positions in the public and private sector. He pointed out that, in doing so, academicians could carry their expertise into other fields and branch out into other than their academic circles.

## **QUALITY ASSURANCE**

### **ASEAN-QA STARTED WITH FIRST WORKSHOP IN BANGKOK**

Regional capacity development in quality assurance From 17th -21st October 2011 the "ASEAN-QA" project started with the first training course on quality assurance (QA) in Bangkok (we informed about the project in our September edition). Associate Professor Kamjorn Tatiyakavee, M. D.,

Deputy Secretary General, Office of the Higher Education Commission, Thailand, welcomed over 40 participants from 10 ASEAN countries to the course. The objectives of the first workshop of "ASEAN-QA" were to foster exchange of experiences between European and Southeast Asian higher education practitioners and to create a shared understanding of principles and procedures in internal (IQA) and external (EQA) quality assurance.

The European-Asian capacity development initiative is directed at QA coordinators in higher education institutions and at administrators from QA agencies in Southeast Asia. Until 2013, the two groups will receive hands-on training on IQA and EQA specific topics in parallel workshops that will take place in Germany and Vietnam, respectively. Based on self-assessment reports which will be developed as part of the three rounds of trainings, in total 24 study programmes will be evaluated by assessor teams of European and Asian peers. In doing so, the project also aims to path the way to creating a regional QA framework in the ASEAN region. ASEAN-QA is carried out within the frame of the DIES programme, which is coordinated jointly by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the German Rectors' Conference (HRK).

More information about the project under:  
<http://asean-qa.de>

### **MAPPING THE IMPLEMENTATION AND APPLICATION OF EUROPEAN STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE: DRAFT REPORT OPEN FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

The steering group of the EU supported MAP-ESG project has published a draft report for public consultation. The project was carried out by the E4 Group of higher education stakeholders (EUA, ENQA, ESU and EURASHE). According to the authors, the project aims to analyse whether the European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance (ESGs) are "up-to-date to fulfil their main task in contributing to the development of the EHEA" (European Higher Education Area).

The recently published draft report informs in detail on the background of the project and on how the mapping-process was carried out. It gives insight on its twofold character of desk research and workshops. Desk research was comprised of working with existing information such as EUA reports and of conducting a survey among national rectors' conferences. The workshops should enable universities to benchmark their QA processes against the ESGs.

For the draft report please follow the link:

<http://www.enqa.eu/files/Final%20report%20v%206%20111011%20for%20consultation.doc>

## MULTI- AND UNI-LATERAL ACTIVITIES

### Student Mobility

#### **SOUTH-KOREA TEAMS UP WITH CHINA AND JAPAN IN "CAMPUS ASIA"**

The Education Ministries of South-Korea, China and Japan have decided to establish joint degree programmes for their major universities in order to increase opportunities for academic exchange.

10 South Korean colleges and universities were chosen to team up with Chinese and Japanese universities under the Collective Action for the Mobility Program of University Students of Asia (CAMPUS Asia), with courses starting in 2012.

So far the Education Ministry of South-Korea has established 10 consortia of three partner universities from each country. It is expected that administrative processes will be finished until the end of the year. Students will then be accepted at the beginning of 2012.

CAMPUS Asia is intended to offer Asian students similar opportunities to those the European Erasmus Mundus programme does: joint degrees from at least three different higher education institutions. For example, SNU, Peking University and the University of Tokyo formed a consortium on the master's degree level in the field of public policy and international relations. Students who complete a one-year course at each school will be rewarded with dual or multiple degrees.

The South-Korean Ministry is expecting an overall number of 300 students including Chinese and Japanese to join the programme.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **EURYDICE LAUNCHES ONLINE ENCYCLOPEDIA ON NATIONAL EDUCATION SYSTEMS**

The European Network Eurydice presents a new online-service named "Eurypedia" which provides profound information in the form of 5000 articles on all European education systems. Thematic sections allow easy access to specific information, i.e. "Primary Education", "Quality Assurance", "Ongoing Reforms and Policy Developments", etc. "The site covers 38 European education systems within the 33 countries participating in the EU's Lifelong Learning Programme (all 27 EU Member States as well as Croatia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland and Turkey)."

The database can be accessed under:

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/eurydice/index.php?title=Home>

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**The next newsletter edition will be published in January 2012.**

## PRESS REVIEW

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## PRESS REVIEW

### Australia

*The Economic Times, October 27, 2011*

#### **Indian students continue to shun Australia**

Even while the number of international students coming to Australia continues to fall, Malaysia has replaced India as the second largest source of students in the field of Higher Education.

As a result, the losses suffered by the Australia international education sector have ballooned to \$2 billion in the last one year.

While China has maintained its top position as the source country (40 per cent), Malaysia is now on the number two position with a distant 7.5 per cent. Indian contribution, according to the September month figures made available by Australian Education International, has plummeted further in both Higher Education and Vocational Training segments.

Online:

[http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2011-10-27/news/30328492\\_1\\_indian-students-international-students-australian-education-international](http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2011-10-27/news/30328492_1_indian-students-international-students-australian-education-international)

### China

*mi2n.com, October 2011*

#### **CHINA-UK: Chinese university leaders meet UK students to encourage international exchange**

UK students will have the opportunity to put questions directly to Chinese university leaders as part of the British Council's 'China in the UK' week, in London and Manchester from 22-29 October. Chinese delegates will directly introduce study opportunities in China to UK students at a Study in China exhibition to be held for the first time in the UK on 28 October.

The unique question and answer sessions between UK students and presidents of universities such as Renmin University of China, Harbin Institute of Technology and Beijing Normal University are part of a series of events for the bi-lateral conference. Leaders from the UK and Chinese higher education sector will meet with executives from multinational corporations such as Microsoft and

Deloitte for policy dialogues, workshops and exhibitions intended to strengthen educational partnerships and academic exchanges between the UK and China

Online:

[http://www.mi2n.com/press.php3?press\\_nb=147582](http://www.mi2n.com/press.php3?press_nb=147582)

### Germany

*Spiegel online, October 20, 2011*

#### **Is the new university system harming students?**

German universities are more crowded than ever, and controversial changes to how quickly students must finish their studies have dramatically altered their academic lives. But many worry that these changes are also taking a serious toll on their private lives and personal well-being.

Lea Blume, 20, is already getting off to a bad start. Though the first lecture of the semester is still a week away, she has already missed her first event. Blume is standing in front of a lecture hall at Berlin's Humboldt University, looking exhausted. She's surrounded by other young people who are also there for orientation event scheduled for all the new students who couldn't make it on the previous day. Yesterday's orientation was the main one, Blume explains, "but at that point I didn't even know whether I'd been accepted yet."

In fact, she doesn't know today either, even though lectures will begin soon. All she can do is hope.

Online:

<http://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/0%2C1518%2C792830%2C00.html>

### Hungary

*Politics.hu, October 13, 2011*

#### **Over 1,000 protest against higher education bill in Eastern Hungary**

More than a thousand students protested against the government's new higher education concept in front of Debrecen University in eastern Hungary on Wednesday.

The students gathered in protest against cuts in funding and an expected curtailment of student rights and autonomy.

"Small colleges that form the basis of academic training outside Budapest and large research universities will equally lose out on a general withdrawal of funds," Gergo Torok, a second-year student at Debrecen University, said. Whole intellectual centres may be wiped out if tuition fees are introduced for certain departments that will suffer as scapegoats, he added.

At the end of the event, students released 500 balloons that were supposed to symbolise the draft bill.

Online: <http://www.politics.hu/20111013/over-1000-protest-against-higher-education-bill-in-eastern-hungary/>

## India

*India Education Review, October 21, 2011*

### Teaching quality is poor in higher education institutions: Prof. Balagurusamy

The students cannot be blamed for lack of employability because quality of teaching is poor in most of the higher education institutions said E. Balagurusamy, Member (Education), State Planning Commission, Tamil Nadu. He was addressing a one-day interface programme, ICTACT Bridge, organised by the ICT Academy of Tamil Nadu in association with NASSCOM to "focus on employability skills".

"Our findings show that majority of teachers in many engineering colleges are in mediocre category. When the teachers themselves are lacking employability skills, how can we expect their students to be employable? So, the correction has to start from the level of teachers. It is time to have a serious look at the quality of teachers employed in various engineering colleges and arts and science colleges as well," he said.

Online:

<http://www.indiaeducationreview.com/news/teaching-quality-poor-higher-education-institutions-prof-balagurusamy>

*Hindustan Times, October 20, 2011*

### Sibal meets MPs to push educational reforms

Hoping that Anna Hazare's campaign for a Lokpal Bill will not stall the winter session of Parliament, HRD minister Kapil Sibal on Thursday started an exercise to garner political support for getting Parliament's approval to the ministry's bills. Over a dozen bills of the HRD ministry covering different aspects of higher education are pending in Parliament and the ministers intend to introduce two new bills in the winter session expected to start from November end.

Not just the opposition, even the ruling party members had opposed some of these bills and Sibal had failed to convince them in the house. Congress MP JD Seelam objected to absence of a quota policy for faculty in institutes of national importance while discussion on Indian Institute of Information Technology Kanchipuram Bill 2011. Seelam got the support of opposition parties on the issue.

Online: <http://www.hindustantimes.com/India-news/NewDelhi/Sibal-meets-MPs-to-push-education-bills/Article1-759650.aspx>

## Korea

*The Korea Herald, October 31, 2011*

### Korea region to launch 'Asian Erasmus'

300 students including Chinese and Japanese expected to join program every year  
Major universities in South Korea, China and Japan will launch a joint degree program next year as part of efforts to expand academic exchanges, the Education Ministry said Sunday. The Education Ministry and the Korean Council for University Education announced 10 South Korean colleges and universities chosen to partner with Chinese and Japanese universities under the Campus Asia program. The program is an Asian version of the Erasmus Mundus, which enables students to earn joint degrees from at least three different higher education institutions in EU member countries. The 10 Korean universities include Seoul

National University, Korea University, Sungkyunkwan University, POSTECH, KAIST, Dongseo University and Pusan National University.

Online:

<http://www.koreaherald.com/national/Detail.jsp?newsMLId=20111030000213>

## Malaysia

*The Borneo Post, October 11, 2011*

### **Paradigm shift urged to make Malaysia global higher education hub**

Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin has called for a paradigm shift in the academic world to fulfil the vision to make Malaysia a hub for higher education of global standard. He called on academicians to be at the forefront in coming up with high-impact research and make innovation a pillar in instilling high-performance culture in universities. He said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak's announcement when tabling the 2012 Budget, declaring 2012 the Year of National Innovation Movement, should be taken up by academicians through the implementation of commercially-viable research and development projects.

"In this context, academicians should be at the frontline in coming up with new commercially-viable ideas. "I hope academicians who are experts in various fields will grab this golden opportunity and spearhead the National Innovation Movement announced by the prime minister," he said in his speech at the 2009/2010 National Academic Awards at Putra World Trade Centre, here.

Online:

<http://www.theborneopost.com/2011/10/11/paradigm-shift-urged-to-make-malaysia-global-higher-education-hub/#ixzz1cMSMe5M6>

## Poland

*Inside Higher Ed, October 18, 2011*

### **Enrolments decreasing by one million students? System contraction in Poland and the implications**

The fall in enrolment levels in Poland expected for 2025 is the highest in Europe, and comparable in

the OECD area only to Korea and Japan (OECD volume on Higher Education to 2030). In one scenario that Stéphan Vincent-Lancrin presents, enrolments in 2025 are expected to fall to 55% of the 2005 levels or dwindle by almost one million students. In Europe only Spain and Germany can expect decreases of significant magnitude by 2025 (Spain by 342.000 and Germany by 209.000). In another scenario, based on trends, enrolments in Poland in 2025 would fall to 65% of the 2005 levels, or dwindle by almost eight hundred thousand students.

Online:

<http://www.insidehighered.com/blogs/the-world-view/enrolments-decreasing-by-one-million-students-system-contraction-in-poland-and-the-implications#ixzz1cMXifY1b>

## Russia

*RT, October 10, 2011*

### **Russia to accept foreign university degrees**

The country may soon grant greater recognition to foreign university degrees and professional qualifications. A new draft law making life easier for expat teachers has just passed its first reading in the State Duma. Once the new law is adopted, Russian universities will have to automatically recognize degrees from the approved list of foreign universities. The list will be compiled by the government. Now, in order to prove their qualifications, expats need to go to a special institution to be certified. Only after the degree is accepted and confirmed by the authorities, can it become legitimate in Russia. Usually this red tape takes quite a lot of time and effort.

The law will also make life easier for Russians who have studied abroad but face difficulties proving their qualifications on returning to their motherland.

Online: <http://rt.com/news/prime-time/foreign-university-degrees-russia-491/>

## Singapore

Today online, October 24, 2011

### University study trip to Finland and France

After a week of debate in Parliament, a number of Singapore's leaders are now making visits overseas. This includes Minister of State (Education) Lawrence Wong's study trip to Finland and France from today to Saturday, as part of the work of the Committee on University Education Pathways Beyond 2015. He is leading a delegation to study the higher education systems in the two countries and will meet senior officials from Finland's Ministry of Education and Culture and France's Ministry of Higher Education and Research. Mr Wong will also visit several tertiary education institutions, including the University of Helsinki and the Metropolia University of Applied Sciences in Finland as well as Paris Sorbonne University and Sciences Po in France.

Online:

<http://www.todayonline.com/Singapore/EDC111024-0000136/University-study-trip-to-Finland-and-France>

## Sweden

University World News, October 28, 2011

### Minister says universities may merge

Sweden's coalition government is to tackle a sharp drop in student numbers by allocating more funding to universities where there is a strong demand for places, forcing less popular institutions to seek mergers to survive, Education Minister Jan Björklund (pictured) has warned. In an article in the leading newspaper *Dagens Nyheter*, Björklund said that "demography is now on our side for promoting university mergers", given an expected 25% drop in the 20-year-old age cohort over the next six years. "We intend to make student choices of universities an important factor in the channelling of resources, so that those universities with a high demand for study places will receive more funding compared to those institutions that experience less such demand," he said.

Online:

<http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20111027165359115>

## UK

The Guardian, October 27, 2011

### The future of graduate employability: looking forward to 2012

The recent higher education white paper reinforces governmental concern for employability. How will this affect the provision of undergraduate degrees? Will some disciplines where employment rates are low become extinct? I think the sector is going through a phase where it is asking itself big questions like, "what is higher education for?", and often answers to these are shaped by instrumentalist concerns, such as all university courses should contribute to the economy. In some ways, this is fairly recent idea, but it has now become so mainstream as to be almost ubiquitous.

Online: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/higher-education-network/2011/oct/24/graduate-employability-2012?CMP=>