

NEWSLETTER September 2011

ASEM SEMINARS

GERMANY HOSTS THE 2nd ASEM UNIVERSITY-BUSINESS FORUM

According to Chair's conclusions of the 3rd Asia-Europe Meeting of Ministers for Education (ASEMME3) in Denmark, the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research holds the 2nd ASEM University-Business Forum in Bonn. As already announced in the previous edition of our newsletter, representatives from the world of work and the higher education sector will come together from 10-11 November 2011. The forum is conceived as a follow-up of the 1st ASEM University-Business Forum which was hosted by Thailand in March 2010.

During the two-day forum, participants from the different regions have the possibility to exchange their experience and knowledge in the field of university-business cooperation in several sessions and workshops. Among others, different approaches should be presented to identify demanded jobs and skills needed in today's market. Furthermore, it should be discussed what skills and competences educational institutes should have instilled in students before they enter the workforce. In addition, the role of career education and career services at higher education institutions should be explored.

If you wish to participate, please contact Ms Bettina Onyango (Onyango@daad.de) or register under: <https://ssl.daad.de/anmeldung/index.en.html?id=567>

Registration will be open until 17 October 2011!

For further information please visit our website: http://www.asem-education-secretariat.org/imperia/md/content/asem2/events/2011asemubforum/draft_programme_asem_ub_forum.pdf

3rd ASIA-EUROPE EDUCATION WORKSHOP TO BE HELD IN BANGKOK, THAILAND

The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) is pleased to announce that the 3rd Asia-Europe Education Workshop tentatively titled "Fit for the future? (An Assessment of the Graduates' Employability and Entrepreneurship in ASEM)," will be co-organised with the Siam University (Bangkok, Thailand).

Planned to take place in the first half of 2012, the 2 ½-day Workshop will tackle university-business cooperation from the perspectives of young entrepreneurs and professionals by asking them about their experience on education and training and the transition to the labour market.

ASEF wishes to thank the universities and institutions who responded to the call. Please continue to visit www.asef.org for further updates about the Workshop.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

ASEAN-QA PROJECT: DIALOGUE MEETING FOR SOUTHEAST ASIAN VICE RECTORS AT POTSDAM UNIVERSITY

According to the recommendations worked out during the ASEM Expert Seminar on Regional Quality Assurance in Bonn (please refer to the previous edition of the Newsletter) participants agreed "to observe and widen sub-regional approaches in internal and external quality assurance procedures; progress in the ASEAN-QA project should be observed and could be presented in a follow-up seminar on quality assurance."

In late September more than 20 Vice Rectors and decision makers in charge of quality assurance from 10 Southeast Asian countries came together in Berlin/Potsdam to learn about the current reforms in the Southeast Asian and the European higher education sector and to exchange their views on quality assurance developments on the regional, national and institutional level.

SPONSORED BY THE



Federal Ministry
of Education
and Research

Furthermore, the participants agreed upon a road map for the ASEAN-QA project implementation which brings together a group of Quality Assurance Officers from the university sector as well as from quality assurance agencies throughout the ASEAN region. The first training sessions which will be hosted by AUN and ONESQA will start in Bangkok in October 2011. The ASEM Education Secretariat will keep you updated on further developments.

EQAF: 6th EUROPEAN QUALITY ASSURANCE FORUM TO BE HELD IN ANTWERP, BELGIUM

“Quality and Trust: at the heart of what we do” is the title of the sixth European Quality Assurance Forum held by the European University Association (EUA) that will take place in Antwerp on 17-19 November 2011.

The promoters see the forum as an opportunity to launch a discussion on quality assurance (QA) in Europe among key-stakeholders in order to develop a common understanding of QA and bridge national boundaries. It is also supposed to “monitor, shape and anticipate developments in the area”.

The event addresses rectors and vice rectors responsible for QA in higher education, QA officers, students, QA agency staff as well as researchers working in higher education or the QA field.

The sixth edition of the EQA Forum will specifically focus on the identification of purposes of internal and external QA and on the question of how future developments in QA can be made according to those purposes. The forum will consist of plenary and parallel sessions that will give insight in current policy development and will enable the participants to engage in practice-oriented discussions.

The closing date for early registration is set to 10th October. Persons interested in participating are invited to register as soon as possible.

Event-website:

<http://www.eua.be/eqaf-antwerp.aspx>

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN QUALITY ASSURANCE 2012

In 2012, the Graduate Certificate in Quality Assurance (GCQA) will be offered for the third time by the LH Martin Institute for Higher Education Leadership & Management of the University of

Melbourne. During the part-time online graduate programme (one year), participants acquire the skills and knowledge of a quality assurance professional.

The certificate is awarded by the University of Melbourne so that international recognition is ensured. The programme was established by LH Martin Institute in 2009 in cooperation with the International Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE).

GCQA consists of two compulsory modules which are followed by one out of two electives of the participants choice. Because of online-participation, GCQA offers full flexibility without suffering quality-loss in teaching: the staff consists of international experts in QA and higher education policy and management and is trained in current online teaching methodologies, i.e. - among others - moderated discussion boards, virtual teamwork, webinars and work-based assignments.

Since it's launch in 2009 the programme has continuously been improved on the basis of regular participant feedback.

To subscribe to the graduate programme online until 5th December 2011 and for further information visit:

<http://www.lhmartininstitute.edu.au/postgraduate-award-programs/51-graduate-certificate-in-quality-assurance-2012>

In addition the INQAAHE offers six supporting scholarships worth \$5000 each for participants from the least developed countries.

For further information concerning the scholarships visit:

<http://www.inqaahe.org/main/capacity-building-39/gigac-50/formulier/gap-graduate-programme-materials/166>

UNIVERSITY-BUSINESS COOPERATION GOOD PRACTICE EXAMPLE

MORE BUSINESS-EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS FOR EUROPE NEEDED

Europe's Youth is lacking the necessary entrepreneurial and financial skills that are

SPONSORED BY THE

needed in today's European business-sector. This is the tenor of a 2010 report from the European Commission and of a survey of 517 European business leaders conducted on behalf of Junior Achievement-Young Enterprise Europe. According to the survey 63 percent of the respondents are convinced that European education systems fail to prepare young people with the right skills for the workforce. 54 percent said that young people haven't acquired the "soft skills" such as confidence, presentation skills, networking and teamwork.

These deficiencies not only have an impact on the employability of Europe's academic youth but also affect the ability of Europe's businesses to compete globally.

Therefore Caroline Jenner, CEO at Junior Achievement-Young Enterprise Europe in a recent article for "New Europe" calls for an increased university-business cooperation that should start early: "while children are still in school." Considering already predictable trends in Europe (like further professionalization or growing employment opportunities) the need to fill the gap between education and businesses seems even more urgent, Jenner points out. In order to achieve this she suggests "establishing practical business-education-partnerships" which would include a higher engagement of business' staff in teaching young people the skills needed for their successful integration into the European job-market.

As an example for such a cooperation Jenner names the Sci-Tech-Challenge, a programme run by Junior Achievement- Young Enterprise Europe in cooperation with ExxonMobil that focuses on motivating young people to consider a career in the MST-area (Maths, Science and Technology).

Over the course of the programme up to 10.000 students and 180 teachers in 9 European countries will be reached. It is also planned to engage over 200 ExxonMobil- employees who will volunteer their time to teach the young participants.

Jenner is convinced that partnerships like the Sci-Tech-Challenge could play an important role as supplements to Europe's educational systems. They could contribute in a valuable way to skill-development and employability of young people as

well as to the future-orientation of the businesses. Last but not least they could be good sources for well-educated staff for the businesses. "It's time for all European businesses to step up and contribute", Jenner says .

MULTI- AND UNI-LATERAL ACTIVITIES

CHINA-EUROPE TIES TO BE STRENGTHENED

The cultural, political and economic dialogue between China and Europe will be intensified in the future. China is "ready to work with Europe to strengthen dialogue and cooperation, increase mutual understanding and trust, and promote sustained, sound and steady growth of our relation", wrote Yang Jiechi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in a recent article for "New Europe". He also made sure that the "cooperation will benefit not only the development of our two sides but also stability and sustainable development of the world." Although Jiechi stated that Asia and Europe might not always share the same perspective due to cultural and social backgrounds, he asserted that the strategic partnership between them has never been this strong and will even be intensified in the future.

INFORMATION

ASEF has a new Executive Director

Ambassador Michel Filhol is the new Executive Director of the Asia Europe Foundation. He has been designated at the 26th ASEF Board of Governors Meeting in Vilnius, Lithuania in May 2011.

Filhol holds a B.A. degree in Economics and a Diploma in Political Studies. He graduated in Public Law from École Nationale d'Administration, France in 1977. As of lately he has been Ambassador of France to Australia from (2008 – 2011).

ASEF's Executive Office-website:

<http://www.asef.org/index.php/about/organization/589-executive-office>

SPONSORED BY THE

PRESS REVIEW

Australia

The Australian, August 31, 2011

Number's up on quality

Universities keen to preserve quality in a much tougher global market should think about recruiting fewer overseas students, higher education expert Daniel Guhr says.

Dr Guhr, who will talk about the outlook for Australia at next month's Copenhagen conference of the European Association for International Education, said the global education business pioneered by Australia had seen the rise of grade inflation and a new class of academically weak and manipulative students. "Shrinking [overseas enrolments] might be essential for the high-quality universities, unless they want to lower standards, implicitly or explicitly," he said. Dr Guhr said he knew this would be denounced as heresy.

Online: <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/higher-education/numbers-up-on-quality/story-e6frgcjx-1226125784572>

China

Reuters, September 14, 2011

Amid China boom, job search for many grads goes bust

Yan Minglong, one of millions of recent Chinese college graduates, is not impressed with the doors opened by higher education.

"Jobs? What jobs?" the 23-year-old said, whiling away his Saturday afternoon in a billiards hall in Shigezhuang, a gritty neighbourhood on Beijing's northern outskirts where cheap rent is the main draw for some of China's white-collar hopefuls.

Students from the country's largest-ever college graduating class, 6.6 million, have gone from hitting the books to hitting the streets in search of work this summer. But pouring that many graduates into an economy long known as the world's workshop has fuelled worries about the market's capacity to absorb them and the

potential for political unrest. In a country where 80 percent of the population has not finished secondary school, according to the Economist Intelligence Unit, Yan is arguably among China's highly educated.

Online:

<http://in.reuters.com/article/2011/09/14/id/INindia-59324620110914>

CIHE International Higher Education, Fall 2011

Student services in China

The profession of student affairs in Chinese higher education is expanding and taking on new forms in response to increased postsecondary participation and changing economic and social conditions. Universities throughout China are establishing new and reconfigured administrative positions and structures charged with non-academic student services such as career advising, mental health counseling, and financial aid advising. Government statements, new graduate degree programs, and research on college students point to an emergent student development movement in China whose contours are still forming.

Online:

https://htmlbprod.bc.edu/pls/htmlb/apex_util.get_blob?s=2630497330841178&a=2290&c=161763427718046728&p=4&k1=115590&k2=&ck=258D923FC89B5E56CDD779EB2CE2A7CB&rt=CR

Greece

ACA Newsletter August 2011

New higher education framework in Greece

In an attempt to improve the overall efficiency and accountability of the Greek higher education system and give it a new impetus for development, the Hellenic Parliament passed on 23 August 2011 **a new law on higher education**. **This legislation** addresses the 'structure, function, quality assurance and internationalisation of higher education institutions' in Greece. Presented as part of the government's education reform package rather than a response to the current economic crisis,

SPONSORED BY THE

the new law underpins introduces several measures that are novel for Greece particularly with regard to university governance.

Online: [http://www.aca-secretariat.be/index.php?id=29&tx_smfacanewsletter_pi1\[nl_uid\]=79&tx_smfacanewsletter_pi1\[uid\]=2601&tx_smfacanewsletter_pi1\[backPid\]=272&Hash=d127d210d17ace510c34410bc0169d2a](http://www.aca-secretariat.be/index.php?id=29&tx_smfacanewsletter_pi1[nl_uid]=79&tx_smfacanewsletter_pi1[uid]=2601&tx_smfacanewsletter_pi1[backPid]=272&Hash=d127d210d17ace510c34410bc0169d2a)

Hungary

The Budapest Times, August 31, 2011

The maths look bad for state-funded spots

The government will reduce state-funded university places because the number of students benefitting from assistance is unrealistically high, education state secretary Rózsa Hoffmann said. According to state news agency MTI, Hoffman recently said: "College and university are not for the lazy and mediocre but for diligent and gifted students." The cabinet will gradually increase the number of places for technical and scientific studies because these are thought to be more in demand on the job market than liberal arts degrees, she said.

Online:

http://www.budapesttimes.hu/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=20334&Itemid=223

India

Deccan Chronicle, September 12, 2011

Education agenda suffers a setback

The UPA-2's educational reforms agenda has suffered a major setback as Union human resources development minister Kapil Sibal was unable to push any major bill concerning his ministry through Parliament during the recently concluded Monsoon Session. Several important bills like the Educational Tribunals Bill, Foreign Education Institutions (Regulation of Entry and Operations) Bill 2010 and the high-profile National Academic Depository (Amendment) Bill, 2011, are still pending before Parliament. With only one legislation proposing

amendment to the National Council for Teachers Education was approved in the last session. This, despite the fact that Mr Sibal had worked overtime to placate Congress MPs and Opposition members to ensure that their queries regarding various pending bills were resolved and his education reform agenda gets through during the recently concluded session.

Online:

<http://www.deccanchronicle.com/channels/nation/north/education-agenda-suffers-setback-127>

India PRwire, September 2, 2011

India to emerge favourite destination for Mongolian students: Voroshilov Enkhbold, the Mongolian Ambassador to India

India is likely to emerge as one of the most favourite higher and technical education destinations for Mongolian students as the level of education here is fairly high and costs are affordable, said Mr. Voroshilov Enkhbold, the Mongolian Ambassador to India at Shobhit University here. The ambassador was visiting the university following its initiatives taken last month. He hoped that soon the influx of Mongolian students in India shall see high growth-rate.

Addressing the gathering in the university auditorium Mr. Voroshilov said, the Mongolian economy is expanding and it needs a large number of trained manpower. Since higher education options in the country are limited, people willing to acquire higher and technical knowledge need to be sent to other countries. In Soviet era, Mongolian students used to go to USSR, Hungary and East Germany but since the fall of socialist set up in USSR and emergence of democratic system in Mongolia students started to go to European and American universities

Online:

<http://www.indiaprwire.com/pressrelease/education/2011090296621.htm>

Indonesia

The Jakarta Post, August 13, 2011

Shortage of scientists, engineers hampers RI's development

Indonesia is still facing a shortage of researchers in applied science and technology, a problem that is affecting the nation's competitiveness on the global stage, an official says. The director general of higher education at the National Education Ministry (NEM), Djoko Santoso, said, on the sidelines of a seminar marking the 16th anniversary of the Awakening Day for National Technology in Serpong, Tangerang, that the country had only about 4,000 researchers focusing on the development of technology with doctoral degrees from national and foreign universities. The number of researchers with doctoral degrees in the country is about 15,000, he said. "This number is too small, and they are not spread equally between private and state universities in the country," Djoko said. Online:

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2011/08/13/shortage-scientists-engineers-hampers-ri%E2%80%99s-development.html>

Malaysia

The Sun Daily, September 6, 2011

Study on total universities required

The government is conducting a study to find out the total number of universities – public and private – needed by the country in order to produce the desired number of graduates. Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Khaled Nordin said the purpose of the study is to maintain the quality of Malaysian universities and strengthen the position of the higher education sector. At the same time, any decision to build new universities or foreign university branch campuses here should benefit the country in producing human capital and contributing towards economic growth. "The ministry is now studying how many universities we actually require. To be an international hub for

higher education, how many foreign branch campuses (are) required? "We do not want every Tom, Dick and Harry branch university campus to be set up in this country, offering programmes which may not be relevant to our country," he told reporters at the ministry after presenting the offer letter to HELP University College to be upgraded to university status. Online:

<http://www.thesundaily.my/news/134536>

The Star, August 18, 2011

M'sia is 11th most sought after by international students

Malaysia is the 11th most sought after country for tertiary education among international students, said Private Higher Education Institutions deputy director-general Datin Dr Siti Hamisah Tapsir.

She said Malaysia now accounts for two per cent of the international student population around the world.

"Until June 2011, the number of international students in Malaysia has exceeded 90,000 people and the Higher Education Ministry targets 200,000 international students by 2020," she said at a function with northern region private universities.

Online:

<http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2011/8/18/nation/20110818140925&sec=nation>

Netherlands

NewsBlog nature.com, September 7, 2011

Dutch universities ponder merger

What do you do when science budgets stagnate? Three large Dutch universities think the answer is to intensify collaboration. They may even go as far as to merge with each other.

Speaking at the opening of the Dutch academic year on 5 September, officials of the University of Leiden, Delft University of Technology and Erasmus University Rotterdam — all located within some 40 kilometres of each other — said

SPONSORED BY THE

that creating a 'Triumvirate of Science' in the province of South Holland will be essential for maintaining their respective strengths. The three institutions are ranked among the world's top 200 universities – and among Europe's top 60 – by the 2010 Times Higher Education World University Rankings. But previously generous support of science in the Netherlands is showing signs of erosion. Earlier this year, the Dutch government said that, owing to financial constraints, next year's university budgets will be frozen at 2011 levels.

Online:

http://blogs.nature.com/news/2011/09/dutch_universities_ponder_to_m.html

Russia

RIA Novosti, August 24, 2011

Putin urges modernization of Russian higher education

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin said on Wednesday Russia should urgently modernize its higher education system so that it conforms to today's demands.

Russia allocated nine billion rubles (over \$300 million) to create an innovative educational infrastructure in Russian universities in 2010-2012. Higher education budget expenditures more than doubled since 2005 and stood at 390 billion rubles (almost \$14.5 billion) in 2011.

"Now that we've laid the foundation, our next steps should be aimed at modernizing the entire network of higher education institutions in Russia, to make it so that the honorable title of university, academy or institute indeed mean in practice modern quality and ample education, contemporary education," Putin said at a meeting with the heads of Russian universities.

Online:

<http://en.rian.ru/russia/20110824/166118624.html>

Singapore

Prime Minister's Office Singapore, August 15, 2011

2,000 more uni places for local students

Singapore's universities will add 2,000 more places over the next four years - all of which will go to Singaporeans, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong announced last night. Foreign student enrolments will also be capped at the current levels. The gradual increase in number of places for Singaporeans by the year 2015 is equivalent to having more than an extra Singapore Management University, which now has 1,700 students. Mr Lee reiterated the Government's 'Singaporeans First' approach to tertiary education and also promised more scholarships and bursaries for local students. In making the announcements at the National Day Rally, he sought to assuage concerns on an issue which he acknowledged was a sore point with students and their parents - getting a place at a university here and the intake of foreign students at these institutions.

Online:

http://www.pmo.gov.sg/content/pmosite/media_centre/inthenews/primeminister/2011/August/2000_more_uni_places_for_local_students.html

Thailand

The Bangkok Post, August 22, 2011

Student loan scheme to be revamped

Applicants with good job prospects get priority

Education Minister Woravat Au-apinyakul has proposed changing the student loan fund to make loans contingent on an applicant's employment prospects. The government wants to reduce the number of borrowers defaulting, he said. The change would make repayments easier for university students, as repayments would be contingent on income, he said. Mr Woravat said he had asked the Office of the Higher Education Commission (Ohec) to draft a

regulation, which he hopes to enforce before the start of the 2012 academic year, to change the fund. About 160,000 students have defaulted on loans, with 500,000 more out of contact. The total loan defaults are valued at 7 billion baht. The new criteria would focus on the borrowers' employment prospects and repayments would start once graduates start working in jobs that pay a monthly salary of 16,000 baht and would not incur any interest charge or inflation cost, said Mr Woravat.

Online:

<http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/local/252827/student-loan-scheme-to-be-revamped>

UK

The Guardian, September 13, 2011

Universities follow 'pathways' to international students

An increasing number of universities are linking with private education companies to offer study and language preparation programmes, but pressures to enrol are raising concerns

From this month a new faculty will open on the campus of Brighton University on England's south coast. The university's International College, a joint venture with US private education provider Kaplan, will provide a staging post for students from outside the UK who need to raise their English language proficiency and hone their study skills before embarking on degree-level studies. Students who successfully complete their International College programme will be guaranteed entry to the course of their choice.

Brighton is one of a growing number of higher education institutions linking up with private providers to establish "academic pathway" programmes that aim to not just improve the skills of international students but create new opportunities to promote their courses in an increasingly competitive global student market.

Online:

http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2011/sep/13/internationaleducationnews?CMP=twg_gu

The Telegraph, September 8, 2011

Cut fees to recruit more students, universities told

Universities are being told to impose a last minute cut in tuition fees to qualify for a Coalition scheme to recruit more students.

The Government's Office for Fair Access has submitted fresh guidance to vice-chancellors telling them to impose fees of £7,500 or less to claim a share of 20,000 free places for 2012. More than a third of universities currently intend to charge £9,000 a year for a degree – the maximum allowed under a radical shake-up of higher education in England. The estimated average fee will be around £8,393, it was revealed. But ministers are desperate to drive fees down to reduce the student loans bill amid fears that billions of pounds handed out to undergraduates will never be paid back.

Online:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/universityeducation/8749973/Cut-fees-to-recruit-more-students-universities-told.html>

Vietnam

SciDev.net, August 19, 2011

Vietnam's new science university 'marks start of reforms'

A science and technology university under construction in Vietnam will promote a new model of higher education in the country, according to the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The 5,000-student University of Science and Technology of Hanoi – to be completed within five or six years at a cost of US\$213 million – will encourage stronger links between teaching and research, and promote collaborations with the private sector, said Norman LaRocque, senior education specialist at the ADB, which has lent US\$190 million for construction. ... Although smaller than other public universities in Asia, the university represents "a new model in the sense of having a much more autonomous and rigorous governance structure than virtually all

SPONSORED BY THE

of the other universities in Vietnam," LaRocque told *SciDev.Net*. The curricula of Vietnamese universities are heavily influenced by central government planning, he said.

Online: http://www.scidev.net/en/news/vietnam-s-new-science-university-marks-start-of-reforms-.html?utm_source=link&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=en_news

Publisher: ASEM Education Secretariat
c/o German Academic Exchange Service
Phone: +49 228 882 467
Fax : +49 228 882 555
Mail : asem-secretariat@daad.de
<http://www.asem-education-secretariat.org>

Represented Board of Directors:

President: NN

Registergericht Bonn

Registernummer VR 2107

Editor

Dr. Siegbert Wuttig, DAAD

Nina Scholle-Pollmann, DAAD

Bettina Onyango, DAAD

Dimitri Nikolaou, DAAD

Despite careful control we assume no liability for the content of external links. For the content of linked pages their operators are responsible