

# NOT-SO-FOREIGN

## Overseas Insight For American International Educators

Issue 1.7

November 20, 2002

### Abroad Perspective

Big news and big numbers from Australia's International Education Conference held last month in Tasmania. A report predicts the demand for Australian education to grow by nine-fold in the next two decades. An IDP report states "demand is forecast to increase from 1.8 million international students in 2000 to 7.2 million international students in 2025."

As Australia's leading recruitment company, IDP has its own vested interest in promoting such dynamic projections and it is calling for the Australian government to help the country capitalize on the boom by developing more user-friendly policies towards international education. According to Linda Hyam, IDP Chief Executive, "[this] will require a significant shift in government policy, which will need to recognise the holistic benefits of international education to the future economic, cultural and political development and prosperity within Australia." A newly released report on skills migration in Australia documenting the lifting of restrictions on immigration for Australian-educated overseas-born students, will certainly help drive the lobbying efforts. ♦

### The Playing Field

Japan wants many more international students and is addressing the language concerns regarding study in that country.

The Japanese Ministry of Education, Science and Technology has recently introduced a new examination to assess Japanese language ability. In order to make the exam more accessible, students can take the test in eight locations in Japan and 10 locations outside the country - mostly in Asia, where 90 per cent of Japan's foreign students come from.

Japan's target is to increase the number of international students studying in the country to 100,000 within the next 10 years. That goal appears attainable, as the number of foreign students studying at the post-secondary level in Japan in 2001 totalled 78,812, an increase of 23 percent from the previous year.

Source: [www.hothousemedia.com/etm/etmbackissues/apriletm02/apret02news.htm](http://www.hothousemedia.com/etm/etmbackissues/apriletm02/apret02news.htm) ♦

### Over the Counter

Malaysia is struggling with the marketplace it has created. It's perhaps the most commercially competitive of all education environments, and in the race to ringgits (Malaysian currency) it is no surprise that quality is suffering. Recently, two more prominent colleges, Brickfields College and Nirwana Institute were ordered shut for breaching regulations under the Private Higher Educational Institutions Act 1996. Specifically, they were running and advertising courses that had not been approved by the Private Education Department.

The total is now 26 private colleges closed by the government. Recent shutdowns include Institut Mestika Kulim (formerly known as Institute Teknologi Midas), Kedah; Institut Makanan Malaysia's Kelana Jaya branch, Petaling Jaya; Institut Teknologi Silicon, Penang; Province Teacher Training Centre, Malacca; and Institut Teknologi, Butterworth. Some American institutions will recognize these names as institutions from which students have been admitted and received transfer credit.

Education is big business in Malaysia. Every day newspapers are full of ads promoting study-abroad schemes. Many foreign universities offer their degrees off-shore in Malaysia. Malaysia has also become one of the leading exporters of education, as it attracts thousands of Chinese, Indonesians and South Asians to its private colleges. However, quality education does not necessarily go hand in hand with making a quick buck. Earlier this year "Overseas, Overwhelmed" reported on the lack of confidence that Malaysian employers and teachers had in their own graduates (February 6, 2002 [http://www.higher-edge.com/docs/OandO\\_Feb06'02.pdf](http://www.higher-edge.com/docs/OandO_Feb06'02.pdf)). ♦

### Travel Update

After cancelling its education fair in Malaysia, security concerns have led to Australia cancelling similar events this month in the Philippines and Thailand. "Our decisions are guided by a number of factors including advice from the Australian Government and Australian diplomatic posts, as well as the advice being given to British, American and Canadian nationals by their governments," said IDP Chief Lindy Hyam. "Where we believe it is necessary and appropriate we have also organised additional security at our events." ♦

*Globe Tipping* will return next week

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