

Abroad Perspective - ISG school closures in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

International Schools Group (ISG), with 10 schools throughout Saudi Arabia, has announced an early school year close due to recent security concerns. Report cards, as indicated on the ISG Dammam website, will be available to students on May 27-28. Grades for the 4th quarter and the final exam will not be available. As for the grading scheme, it is reported that the final grade will be comprised of the average marks for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd quarters. Students, who had thus far been passing, will receive a full year's credit.

W. Fred Bowen, ISG Superintendent, reported to Higher-Edge this week that there is no concern about ISG's graduating senior students. He stated, "our students had applied to and been accepted at (overseas) universities well in advance of this situation", and added, "students had completed nearly all of the high school curriculum and missed out only on finals". The academic year at ISG schools was to have ended between June 4 to June 18 (varying with each institution).

For further details and a list of ISG schools, visit the official website at: <http://www.isgdh.org/>

Source: <http://www.arabnews.com/Article.asp?ID=26486> •

Globe Tipping - Meeting interested students

When attending an education fair overseas, it is wise to make oneself available to meet students at alternate times. Renting a conference room as a venue for counselling sessions or presentations is a good way of representing a strong interest in prospective candidates from the outset.

As such, it is important to consider the impression one wants to make. When booking a conference room for presentations or counsellor sessions, make sure that the hotel is well-known, and in a central location. When researching the various conference room offerings, ask if any refreshments are included in the price. Some hotels may also offer a discounted rate for a joint hotel room/conference room booking. •

Over the Counter - Reading CBSE marksheets

Contrary to plans announced late last year, India's Central Board of Secondary Examination (CBSE) will continue using numbers instead of letters for its grading system until 2004. Part of the motivation for making this switch (something the Board has been planning to do for numerous years) has been to ease the pressure among Indian students who compete for limited spots in the top Indian tertiary education institutions (See "CBSE Contemplates Changing Current Grading System": http://www.higher-edge.com/docs/oov-2_37-20021204.pdf). Difficulties are stemming from variances within India's 34 school boards, and the reluctance by the nation's universities to accept the system.

Source: Times of India, May 12, 2003 •

The Playing Field - A surge of activity in Russia

The newly-formed Russia Education Export Network (REEN), with the backing of Trade New Zealand, is meeting early success in its efforts to recruit Russian students for study in New Zealand institutions. REEN, a group comprised of 13 New Zealand education providers, has recently been marketing in Siberia and eastern Russia. For instance, New Zealand institutions participated in six education fairs in Russia last year.

Following these initial steps, REEN is reporting an increase of visa applications in New Zealand's embassy in Moscow, from 70 a year, to 70 a month. There are indications that Russia has the potential to be one of New Zealand's top sources of international students. From 308 students in 2002, growth is projected to reach 1,500 students by 2007-2008.

Sources: <http://www.stuff.co.nz/stuff/0,2106,2473966a7694,00.html> and <http://www.marketnewzealand.com/home/index/0,1455,SectionID%253D4559%2526ContentID%253D3763,00.html> •

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