

Abroad Perspective - Malaysia has designs on Mideast, China, Indonesia

In an unbridled attempt to attract 50,000 international students by 2010, the Malaysian Ministry of Education (MOE) aims to actively recruit students from Middle East countries, China, and Indonesia. A 23 person delegation from the Malaysia Multimedia University is set to tour various Iranian universities in June. The group is also arranging to meet the Iranian Minister of Higher Education, Research and Technology, to discuss overarching co-operation plans between the two nations.

The MOE has also recently announced plans to establish a "Malaysia Council", which would have functions somewhat akin to the British Council. Plans remain quite preliminary, with the Malaysia Council planning to send attachés to Saudi Arabia, China and Indonesia in the near future.

Sources: <http://www.irna.ir/en/head/030606151947.ehe.shtml> and <http://www.hothousemedia.com/etm/etmbackissues/janetm03/janetm03news.htm> •

Globe Tipping - On-site: locating institutions when on tour

When travelling to a meeting or presentation at an institution abroad, it can be extremely helpful to have a detailed map to show one's driver. Institutions in several countries where navigating travel can be difficult, for example, in urban and rural China, post maps in English for downloading of their websites. The following is a sampling of Malaysian institutions which provide maps and addresses on their websites:

INTI
<http://www.intimal.edu.my/inti/front-lib/INTIAdd.aspx?level1=INT-L1-012&level3=INT-L2-001>

KDU Penang
[http://www.kdu.edu.my/beta/html/about_kdu_\(pg\).html](http://www.kdu.edu.my/beta/html/about_kdu_(pg).html)

KDU Petaling Jaya
[http://www.kdu.edu.my/beta/html/about_kdu_\(pj\).html](http://www.kdu.edu.my/beta/html/about_kdu_(pj).html)

Monash University
<http://www.monash.edu.my/about/map.htm>

Taylor's College
<http://www.taylors.edu.my/profile/map.html> •

<http://www.higher-edge.com/publications.htm>

Please direct questions and comments to editor@higher-edge.com

Over the Counter - Degrees for sale

Authorities in Australia are currently aware of 40 organizations providing bogus degrees or selling qualifications, and aim to step up measures to protect the nation's legitimate education providers.

Such tactics include an information website, as well as a register listing legitimate institutions, to be made available to education providers and students. The Ministry of Education is also poised to produce "Is That Degree Genuine?", an information package providing instruction on identifying fake degrees, for distribution in Australia's education institutions. In addition, the fines for organizations generating fake degrees will be increased from \$550 AUD to a maximum of \$22,000 AUD. The Government also aims to enact stricter guidelines such as new approval and re-accreditation processes for the nation's unaccredited institutions.

Source: http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/common/story_page/0,5744,6539290%255E12333,00.html •

The Playing Field - UK4 set to break new ground

12 British universities are on-board with a new British Council initiative to attract increasing numbers of Saudi students for study in the UK. The "UK4" programme is an attempt to ease the Saudi student's entry into the British higher education system through a four year preparatory package leading to direct entry into the programme of their choice. The admission score of 85% is based on the Saudi Secondary School (*Thanawiyah Al-Amaa*) examinations. Applicants must also present adequate TOEFL or IELTS marks.

The Saudi Ministry of Education reportedly pursued this initiative following the recent restrictions on Saudi students attempting to enter the U.S. for studies. It is also thought that the UK4 programme would attract as many as 20% of Saudi undergraduates currently studying in the U.S.

Sources: <http://www.arabnews.com/?page=1§ion=0&article=26974&d=4&m=6&y=2003>, <http://www.islah.org/pressrev/EN23feb03.htm> and <http://www.sbtcd.co.uk/K2K/Spg2003/K2Kspg03%20page%2008.pdf> •

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