

## Abroad Perspective - International Schools In India

While international schools have long been a natural choice for expatriate children, interest from Indian parents to enroll their children is growing, especially among non-resident Indians (NRI) who send their children back to India for education. An attraction for Indians is the education system offered at these schools, often the International Baccalaureate (IB) or the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE).

However, with the marketing appeal of international schools, many new schools however are using the word "international" to attract students and higher tuition fees. Even if local schools don't make the actual transition to becoming an international school, some educators, like Maruthi Ramprasad, Vice-Principal of Hyderabad Public School, still believe that an Indian education still has to compete with the international schools. Speaking to Higher-Edge in last month's *Insight, On-site: India*, Ramprasad said "We need to be on par with designer schools. They claim that they are the best. We have to show results and show development to compete with them." •

## The Playing Field - Cheating In India

Cheating students, leaked exam papers and a nationwide scandal that affects the highest level of post-secondary education was the focus this week in India, as authorities had to cancel the national Common Admission Test (CAT). Used for entrance into India's numerous business schools, including the Indian Institutes of Management (IIM), several students had purchased the exam papers from a gang that is suspected of providing copies of other exams, including pre-medical papers and a test for potential bank employees. While initial blame has been directed at the printing press that printed the exams, this incident raises a larger issue: that cheating exists in and is rampant at all levels of Indian education. There are suspicions that earlier tests were leaked as well, an indication that if the avenues for cheating are available, there will be students who will take advantage of them.

For IIMs, the CAT has been rescheduled to February 15, 2004.

Source: ["CAT paper leaked, exam cancelled," The Tribune, 23 November 2003](#), ["Past tests under CBI scanner," The Times of India, 24 November 2003](#). •

## Over the Counter - Verification Systems In China

Despite the efforts of the Chinese Ministry of Education and several universities in the country, document verification in the country remains an arduous task. The Ministry and some universities offer online verification systems, to authenticate Chinese degrees awarded to students. Criticism was raised over possible abuses to the system offered by the Ministry when it was discovered that individuals could pass the verification using another student's actual graduate information.

Dealers that produce fake degrees had collected legitimate information, and simply affixed a picture of their client to the document. An official from the Ministry said that efforts were in place to add pictures to their online databases, although for graduates before 2001, it would be "too hard do it now."

This issue is covered in more depth in "Document Assessment and Education Systems," one of ten reports in Higher-Edge's November, 2003 issue of *Insight, On-site: China*. For more information on student screening in China, visit [www.higher-edge.com/gsss.htm](http://www.higher-edge.com/gsss.htm).

Source: [CCTV news report, "What's more to prevent fake degrees"](#) (Transcript available online in Chinese only) •

## Globe Tipping - Turkish Business Etiquette

Our Asli Aktan offers readers these tips when in Turkey on business trips:

The polite way to greet people is shaking hands, although between friends Turkish people kiss from their cheeks.

Elegant business suits are the norm at most companies and banks, although Friday is generally the casual dress day.

Business cards will be exchanged specifically at the end of meetings.

Smoking indoors is prohibited by law. •

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