

ABROAD PERSPECTIVE

From Source Countries To Destinations Of Choice

As traditional sources of international students, China and India are taking divergent paths when promoting their institutions as viable overseas study options. Beijing educational authorities have already set goals (10,000 international students in the capital's colleges and universities in 2004) and initiatives to attract even more students, such as an off-campus work program. Indian universities, on the other hand, need to market their institutions better if the country is to seriously become a study abroad destination. According to A.S. Narag of Delhi University, the lack of communications between institutions and Indian missions has led to a decline in international student numbers (from 11,888 in 1995 to 8,145 in 2003).

Even so, both countries recognized each other's appeal when the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) signed a Memorandum of Understanding on February 17. As part of the agreement, students, scholars and research materials will be exchanged, with an emphasis on social sciences and humanities. At the signing ceremony, ICSSR Director General Bhaskar Chatterjee said "Collaboration and cooperation between India and China have the potential to make the two countries a force to reckon with."

Source: "[India, China sign MoU for exchange of scholars.](#)" [Deepikaglobal.com](#), 18 February 2004; "[More foreign students rush to study in China.](#)" [CCTV.com](#), 22 February 2004; "[Foreign students diminishing in Indian universities.](#)" [Newkerala.com](#), 9 February 2004.

GLOBE TIPPING

Gift Giving Overseas

When meeting business associates overseas, giving gifts as tokens of appreciation can be an expected custom in some countries, such as in Japan or Egypt. Present gifts with both hands in China and Japan, although only use your right hand when in Malaysia. Another point to remember when selecting a gift is to consider the culture of the country you will be in: alcohol in a Muslim country would be inappropriate, while a pen, considered a symbol of knowledge in Japan, would be well-received.

For more information visit:

<http://www.netique.com/giftsearch/international.html>

THE PLAYING FIELD

Scotland Enters The Chinese Education Market

Chinese university students can now consider Scotland as a destination to finish their degrees, with the option to earn Higher National Diplomas (HNDs) issued by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA). Students who complete the HND will be eligible for both Scottish and UK tertiary education institutions. Diplomas in business, computing, hospitality, tourism and finance will be offered to the first group of 500 Chinese candidates. The SQA aims to increase both the number of students and the courses offered in the future.

A leaflet from the SQA calls the HND "Real Learning for Real Business," as the programs "focus on practical skills and their application in the workplace." According to the SQA Head of Communications, Mike Haggerty, "the combination of the rigour of quality assurance, the practical nature of our curriculum and the fact that we are a national body linked directly to government is attractive to the Chinese."

Source: "[Exams body opens office in China.](#)" [BBC.com](#), 15 February 2004.

Note: In last week's "The Playing Field," the author of "The Costs and Benefits of World-Class Universities" should have been Philip G. Altbach. Higher-Edge apologizes for the error.

OVER THE COUNTER

New Evaluation System In India

In *Not-So-Foreign 3.04*, we reported that the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) in India would be changing the structure of evaluation for Class X and XII. A 9-point grading system will be introduced in 2005, as well as a policy of continuous evaluation: 6 internal assessments will be given throughout the year. The Board examinations will now constitute of a 20-80 split between internal and external evaluation respectively. Marksheets will also provide other information, including personality and extra-curricular activities.

One of the reasons given for this change is to ease the stress that students experience during the examination periods. What remains to be seen is how the State Boards and private institutions react to the grading system.

Source: "[CBSE shifts to grades.](#)" [Business Standard](#), 3 February 2004.