

## ABROAD PERSPECTIVE

### *Relief On The Horizon For IIMs?*

The announcement of Arjun Singh as the new Indian Minister of Human Resources Development was seen by the six prestigious Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) as an encouraging move. As Higher-Edge previously reported, the former Minister M.M. Joshi had ordered the IIMs to lower their fees, on the premise that reduced tuition would promote better access to quality education for Indians of every economic background. Opposition by the IIMs came primarily in two forms: over the issue of fees (as detailed in [Not-So-Foreign 3.13](#)) and over the fear of greater involvement by the central government in the affairs of the IIMs.

Singh (who held the same position in the early 1990s) has instead proposed a compromise: the IIMs were told to establish a set fee that would be applicable to all six schools. While not a complete reversal of Joshi's order - fees could still be lowered from their current Rs. 1.5 lakh (\$3,300) - allowing the Institutes to set their own fees has allayed their fear of the central government encroaching upon their autonomy. The IIMs have until June 8 to deliver their proposals.

Source: ["It's in your hands: Govt to IIMs," The Times of India, 31 May 2004.](#)

## OVER THE COUNTER

### *Risk Management & Student Visa Fraud*

At last week's 56th NAFSA Conference in Baltimore, Higher-Edge COO Mel Broitman chaired a session that dealt with academic and student visa fraud. "Fighting Back Fraud: Insuring Integrity and Internationalization" examined the reasons for such misrepresentation, using Pakistan as a case study. Universities that unwittingly admit fraudulent students can become known as "easy marks," as more students seeking visas will apply to them. The University of Windsor was used as an example of a higher education institution that, through vigilance in its recruitment of international students, successfully discourages applications from those using false pretenses.

The session also examined the need for constant communication between institutions and embassies/consulates, to reduce the risk that fraudulent students are granted study visas. Co-presenter Robert Romano, Immigration Consul of the Canadian Consulate in New York, indicated that if an institution is known to be an easy mark, it can adversely affect visa processing for students heading to that institution.

A Powerpoint copy of the presentation is available for download at [www.higher-edge.com/presentations.htm](http://www.higher-edge.com/presentations.htm).

## THE PLAYING FIELD

### *Attracting International Students Through Employment*

As Higher-Edge previously reported in [Not-So-Foreign 3.16](#), international students studying in select Canadian provinces were given the opportunity to work off-campus, as an added incentive to study in Canada. Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) has taken these pilot projects one step further, with the announcement of two provinces allowing international students to seek employment after graduation.

Foreign students in Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan currently can work after graduation for one year in their field of study. These new pilot projects will allow them to extend their work permits for an additional year. With potentially two-years of Canadian work experience, CIC Minister Judy Sgro said in a press release that the experience "will serve them [the students] well when they return to their country of origin or choose to remain in Canada as immigrants."

Even so, some in the Canadian international education community have raised questions about these projects. Allison Broadbent, International Student Advisor from Mount Allison University says, "I am very discouraged by the provincial authorities' lack of communication with the universities during the development of the Pilot Projects, particularly the absence of consultation with those who work closest with international students such as International Student Advisors."

Source: ["Canada and Saskatchewan announce a pilot project for foreign students," CIC Press Release, 6 May 2004;](#) ["Governments of Canada and Nova Scotia announce joint pilot program on postgraduate employment for international students," CIC Press Release, 6 May 2004.](#)

## GLOBE TIPPING

### *Cheaper Airfare Out Of India*

If you plan on traveling between India, the Gulf Region and Southeast Asia in April 2005, a new budget airline from Air India might be your option for affordable airfare. The new airline is expected to fly from Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kochi, and plans are in store for 127 flights a week. Proposed routes include Chennai-Singapore and Chennai-Kuala Lumpur. Fares are expected to be 25 percent lower than current prices.

Source: ["No-frills Air-India subsidiary," The Telegraph, 31 May 2004.](#)