

THE PLAYING FIELD

Asian-Australian Student Exchange Scholarship

Student exchange between Australia and Asia received a boost in June with the announcement of \$4.5 million (\$3.3 million USD) in scholarships over the next three years. Over 400 students will be benefiting from the funds provided by the Australian government and Cheung Kong (Holdings) Limited, a Hong Kong based company. Each year, 100 undergraduate students (50 from Australia and 50 from Asian countries) will receive scholarships for exchanges, while 40 post-graduate students will also receive the same opportunities. Students coming from and going to China and Hong Kong are at an advantage, as two-thirds of the money is reserved for such exchanges.

These scholarships are part of the Australian Department of Education, Science and Training's Endeavour Programme, a recent initiative meant to promote the quality of the country's education. According to a press release, the scholarships "enable Australian and Asian high achievers to become first-class scholars and build personal links throughout the region."

Source: "[\\$4.5M Boost for Asia/Australia Student Exchange.](#)" [Department of Education, Science and Training Press Release, 24 June 2004.](#)

OVER THE COUNTER

OACAC Report

The 11th annual Overseas Association for College Admission Counseling (OACAC) Conference was recently held at the University of Toronto. The Conference, held for the first time outside of the United States, is an excellent opportunity for universities to expand their international student recruitment efforts, as the conference attracts high school guidance counselors from a wide range of countries; this year saw 370 participants from over 45 countries.

One of the more innovating aspects of the Conference is the Reverse College Fair; high school counselors represent their schools to the participating universities (the majority of them admissions officers), providing information and the chance to make contacts. According to OACAC President Dale Ford, the Reverse College Fair has been a proven success right from the Conference's inception, a convenient method for university admissions officers to meet the people who guide international students to universities and colleges.

OACAC is a chartered affiliate of the National Association for College Admission Counseling. To attend future conferences (next year's will be held in St. Louis), you must be a member of the OACAC (there are currently around 600 members). For more details, visit: www.oacac.com.

ABROAD PERSPECTIVE

Reversing Policies In India

Not-So-Foreign has been following the dispute between the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) and the Ministry of Human Resource Development over the amount of tuition fees to be charged (most recently in issue [3.20](#)). Minister Arjun Singh officially announced on 29 June 2004 what many in India had already suspected: the IIMs will maintain their previous fees of Rs. 1.5 lakh (\$3,300 USD). The Minister also addressed the question over equal access to quality education (a reason cited for the fee reduction), as a complete tuition fee waiver would be instituted for those students whose family annual income was less than 2 lakh (\$4,400).

Not only did Singh repeal his predecessor's decision on the IIM fees, the Minister also allowed Indian business schools to determine what entrance examination to use. The former Minister M.M. Joshi in 2003 had wanted to establish a single national test to determine admission into business and management schools. Schools that wish to recruit Indian students from across the country may now select from five examinations: Joint Management Entrance Test (JMET), Common Admission Test (CAT), Management Aptitude Test (MAT), Xavier Admissions Test (XAT) and AIMS Test of Management Admission (ATMA).

AIMS is the Association of Indian Management Schools.

Source: "[Just 5 MBA tests for all B-Schools.](#)" [The Economic Times, 19 June 2004](#); "[All IIMs retain old fee structure.](#)" [The Economic Times, 29 June 2004.](#)

GLOBE TIPPING

Vaccinations

The World Health Organization recently warned travelers to Nigeria to ensure that they are immunized against polio, as the country reportedly has 77 percent of all polio cases in the world. When traveling overseas, it is important to ensure that proper vaccinations are taken before your trip. Vaccinations for malaria, yellow fever and hepatitis (Types A and B) are also recommended by government organizations.

Visit the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's travel website for a full list of vaccinations, where diseases occur and recent travel advisories: <http://www.cdc.gov/travel/>

Source: "W.H.O. Advises Full Polio Immunization for Travelers to Nigeria," *The New York Times*, 1 July 2004.