

## ABROAD PERSPECTIVE

### *Reforms In British Education Proposed*

British universities may be able to separate the best students from the very good ones during their admissions process, with the release of a report that the BBC calls the "biggest shake-up of secondary schooling in England for decades." The report calls for a series of reforms that cover various areas, with universities most interested in the introduction of "A+" and "A++" grades in the A-Levels.

This year 20 percent of candidates received an "A" grade, currently the highest mark obtainable, and British universities have found it difficult to differentiate between these students. Mike Tomlinson, the author of the report, hopes that the new grades would challenge the best - the "A++" grade would only be awarded to 5 percent of students. Other proposals that aim to give universities a better picture of applicants include detailed transcripts and additional project work.

These reforms, if approved, are expected to take up to 10 years to implement.

Source: "[Universities welcome diploma plans](#)," BBC.com, 18 October 2004; "[Landmark school reforms proposed](#)," BBC.com, 17 October 2004.

## OVER THE COUNTER

### *Schools Selling Fake Certificates*

It's not just slick conmen looking to make a quick buck by selling fake certificates to desperate students, but school administrators are getting into the fraudulent document industry as well. A principal from a private school in New Delhi was arrested for selling fake Central Board of Secondary Examination marksheets to her students; for Rs. 50,000 (\$1,100 USD), students in Class X and XII can show "evidence" that they passed. Passing the CBSE exams are of extreme importance for Indian students; failure means being unable to move to Class XI or graduate.

This is not relegated to secondary schools either. In November 2003, *The Tribune* reported that primary schools in Haryana were found to have issued fake certificates.

Higher-Edge's *Studentscreen* verification service can assist institutions in authenticating transcripts and documents. For more information, email: [screening@higher-edge.com](mailto:screening@higher-edge.com).

Source: "[Principal selling fake CBSE mark sheet arrested](#)," Indo-Asian News Service, 19 October 2004; "[Rampant racket in school certificates](#)," *The Tribune*, 26 November 2003.

## THE PLAYING FIELD

### *Australian Success In International Education*

According to Australia's Dr. Wendy Jarvie, the combination of entrepreneurial institutions, umbrella organizations and government support is a key element in Australia's success as a premier study destination. As the country's Deputy Secretary of the Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST), Dr. Jarvie sees the government as playing a complementary role in promoting education. Its work in qualifications recognition, as well as the general promotion of Australian education as a brand, augments the efforts of active universities and groups like IDP Education Australia. She also acknowledges that some of Australia's success has been fortuitous.

Dr. Jarvie also told Higher-Edge that establishing an overseas presence is critical, and areas where Australia is looking to expand their efforts include Latin America, the Middle East and the United States. Whether it is opening a new Australian Education International office overseas (part of DEST) or an institution with an off-shore campus in Singapore, "engaging the world" is an important aspect of the export of education.

Dr. Jarvie will be the keynote speaker at the Canadian Education Industry Summit 2004, being held in Toronto on October 28. Her presentation, "The Australian Success Story," will look at the various steps Australia has taken in the international education arena.

For more information about this event, visit: <http://www.ceis.ca>

## GLOBE TIPPING

### *Online Maps For Asia-Pacific*

Visiting a foreign city for the first time can be overwhelming, and getting lost can cause anxiety for even the seasoned traveler. For trips to Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, Jakarta, or Taipei, *Street Directory* offers free detailed and up-to-date maps available online. The maps provided are extremely informative; hotels, embassies and points of attraction are clearly labeled. Just knowing the address of your country's embassy may not be enough – knowing its location relative to your hotel could save you time and effort. *Street Directory* allows users to search for specific streets, areas, and even buildings. The website is also currently developing its maps for access by PDAs.

Visit: <http://www.streetdirectory.com>  
(Links to the individual cities can be found at the bottom of the page.)