

## THE PLAYING FIELD

### *EU orders Austrian varsities to open up to foreign students*

The European Court of Justice has ordered Austria to rectify its university admissions system so that foreign students are given access to university admissions on the same conditions as domestic students. While there are no restrictions on foreign students applying to Austrian universities, the Austrian government requires foreign applicants to prove that they have been accepted into a university in their country of origin prior to gaining access to an Austrian university. The Court has ruled that this entry requirement is in breach of EU laws.

According to the *EUobserver*, "the ruling could now lead to restricted intake for all students – including Austrian ones – in seven faculty areas, including medicine and biology." Also, the website reports that German students are expected to benefit from the changes the most. "In the 2004-2005 - winter semester, a total of 5,421 German students were enrolled in Austrian universities (19.28% of foreign students), according to the Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, Science and Culture, of whom 814 (25.3%) studied at its famous music and art academies."

Source: "[EU orders Austria to open up to foreign students.](#)" *EUobserver*, July 8, 2005

## GLOBE TIPPING

### *Mumbai's downpour*

The Mumbai downpour has led to the cancellation of over 80 domestic flights of leading airlines. Corporate travel within India and also to overseas destinations has been suspended for the greater part of last week. Many travelers have been stranded with flight cancellations and unscheduled diversions and halts. Many international flights out of Mumbai have also been suspended due to the rains and a large part of the traffic has been diverted to Delhi. With Mumbai's Meteorological office predicting more rains in the days to come, it may be advisable to put off travel to Mumbai until the weather improves

**NOTICE: Our office will be moving into the "Summer Schedule" of publications, with the next issues coming out August 3rd and 17th and then returning to regular weekly service on September 7, 2005.**

## ABROAD PERSPECTIVE

### *Indian government launches strategy to revamp scientific research*

The Indian Government has launched a US \$ 138 million per annum strategy to revamp scientific research in the country. The Government will create 1,000 new research positions and set up 'networking centres' at Indian universities in order to promote collaborative research and, to provide training and access to advanced research facilities.

While the Government plans on establishing the new research positions over the next five years, it has not been decided whether they will be filled on a permanent or temporary basis. These recommendations have been put forward by a committee set up by the Government to suggest ways to improve scientific research in the country. The committee has also suggested that the number of science doctorates awarded be increased five-fold by year 2015. In the 2001-2002 academic year, just over 4,000 PhDs in science subjects were awarded, according to the latest figures from the University Grants Commission.

Source: "[India to revitalise science research in universities.](#)" *SciDev*, July 1, 2005

## OVER THE COUNTER

### *South Korea government against university entrance examination*

The Government of South Korea has decided to stop universities from conducting their own entrance examinations, angering prominent institutions such as the Seoul National University (SNU). The Government, which favours a standardized admissions procedure, is of the opinion that entrance examinations force students to focus more on individual tutoring (geared towards securing an university place) rather than lessons taught in school.

The Education and Human Resources Ministry revealed that the Scholastic Ability Test results will be given in nine grades instead of points and universities will have to recruit students on the basis of their grades in this test and their high school reports. Universities such as SNU see this move as a threat to their autonomy, and are defending their right to recruit students on the basis of entrance examinations.

Source: "[On a collision course.](#)" *The Korea Herald*, July 12, 2005