

ABROAD PERSPECTIVE

Joint U.S.-Vietnam Program Graduates First MBAs

Three decades after the hard-won victory of communist forces in Vietnam, a joint US-Vietnamese program has graduated its first class of budding capitalists. The Hanoi University of Technology and the Northcentral University, a private, for-profit university based in Arizona, together presented U.S. MBA degrees to 25 graduates of their cooperative program in Hanoi January 16, the Vietnam News Agency, a government-run news service, reported recently. The program, begun in 2003, “combines modern theories of business administration with practical application in Viet Nam,” the news agency said. It involves 20-24 months of courses, taught in Vietnam in English by professors from Northcentral University and Vietnamese assistants.

Source: “[Vietnamese, US Universities Cooperate in MBA Training](#),” Vietnam News Agency, January 16, 2006

OVER THE COUNTER

Pressure Builds in Australia to Stem Immigration of IT Grads

Australia could soon become a less attractive country for some international students to study information technology.

The Australian Computer Society scheduled talks with the federal government in January, reportedly to ask the government for measures allowing fewer work visas to foreign IT workers. The group’s lobbying follows a report in an Australian university magazine claiming that the unemployment rate among IT workers in the country is twice that for other professions because of competition from foreign workers. Meanwhile, a report by Australia’s Productivity Commission, also released in January, says current immigration policy gives schools an incentive to design courses tailor-made for international students to obtain work visas, and creates “unintended distortions and outcomes” in the Australian economy.

Source: “[ACS Pushes Skilled Visa Cut](#),” *Australian IT*, January 17, 2006

THE PLAYING FIELD

When in India, Follow Indian Law: New Bill

A law now being finalized by the Indian government will require foreign universities to follow the same rules as Indian universities if they want to set up shop in India. That means they will have to be not-for-profit and also follow the government’s quota system for setting aside a certain number of places for people from disadvantaged castes and tribes.

The law is intended to ensure the quality of foreign-based schools operating in India, and to prevent profiteering, according to reports. It is also seen by some as likely to mark the end of an era of easy entry into the Indian market, with its high demand for degrees from Western countries.

Sources: “[Foreign Universities Should ‘Indianize’: Says Govt.](#),” *SiliconIndia.com*, January 23, 2006; “[Foreign Varsities May Hit an Entry Wall Here](#),” *Times of India News Network*, January 24, 2006

GLOBE TIPPING

Strike Threatens to Disrupt Services at Indian Airports

People planning travel in India might want to follow developments in a labour dispute affecting the country’s airports. The Airports of India Employees Union said more than 2,500 of its members would go on strike after the government’s announcement on January 31, 2006 of companies who won bids to modernize the Delhi and Mumbai (Bombay) airports. The union’s members includes air-traffic controllers, and the union warned air traffic from the Mumbai airport would be disrupted because of the strike. As of January 31, hundreds of strikers were reportedly protesting outside key airports including those in Delhi, Mumbai and Calcutta. Under the deal, the two airports will be leased to private companies while they do the upgrading. The union fears this will result in job cuts.

Sources: “[AAI strike will disrupt air traffic in Mumbai](#),” Press Trust of India, January 31, 2006; “[India Airport Contracts Announced](#),” BBC News, January 31, 2006