

ABROAD PERSPECTIVE

Scottish Visa Program Draws 1,176 Students

The Scottish Executive and Home Office has approved 1,176 international students for its “Fresh Talent: Working in Scotland” program since it was launched last June.

The initiative, aimed at getting skilled young people to live and work in Scotland, allows students from outside the European Union to stay for two years without work permits. Applicants must have graduated with a Higher National Diploma from a Scottish college.

Scotland plans to continue promoting the program this year, focusing especially on Chinese students. A total of 333 students from China have been approved for “Fresh Talent.” Some 4,000 students from China study in Scottish colleges, and the number is rising.

Source: [“Scotland Encourages Talented Chinese Students To Stay,”](#) *China View*, February 20, 2006

OVER THE COUNTER

Sorbonne in the Desert

The Sorbonne is coming to Abu Dhabi, richest of the United Arab Emirates and UAE capital. An agreement between the prestigious Parisian school and the education ministries of France and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) was announced this month.

The Emirate of Dubai receives more international recognition and has built a strong brand in its Knowledge Village, but does not host an institution as globally renowned as the Sorbonne. The Abu Dhabi Sorbonne branch plans to open in October 2006 with a target of 200 students and offering transfer credits and degrees which are accredited in both France and the UAE.

Not all institutions in the Dubai Knowledge Village are accredited by the UAE Ministry of Education, as it operates as a free-trade zone outside of UAE education regulations.

Source: [“Oil-Rich Abu Dhabi to Get Own Sorbonne,”](#) *Middle East Times*, February 22, 2006

THE PLAYING FIELD

Brazil Aims for 10 New Universities by 2007

Brazil will have ten new universities and 42 new campuses by next year, the country’s secretary of Superior Education said last week. The new schools, to be run by the federal government or Brazilian states, will make places for 125,000 more students, and will be tuition-free.

The universities are being built under Expandir, a Brazilian federal government program aimed at “democratizing” university education in the country. The program has a budget of \$303 million (U.S.), which it intends to spend in 68 municipalities, many of them in the country’s poorer interior.

State-run universities have hired more than 9,000 professors since 2003, Brazilian president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said this week.

Sources: [“Government Intends to Create 10 Universities and 42 Campuses by 2007,”](#) Agencia Brasil, February 16, 2006: [“Lula to Visit Construction of New Universities,”](#) Agencia Brasil, February 20, 2006

GLOBE TIPPING

New Card Makes it Easier to Keep in Touch in UAE

Dubai, one of the world’s hottest travel spots, just got a bit easier and cheaper for cell-phone users. Roaming rates in the United Arab Emirates are very high, but there is now a solution. A new card, offered by telecommunications company Etisalat, sells for 90 dirhams (about \$26 U.S.) and allows the user 90 minutes of local calls and 9 text messages.

The option is spurred on by the recent opening of the UAE cell monopoly, previously held by Etisalat, to competition. The presence of a player in the market, Du, is likely to mean more services for customers. A front-page headline on the February 22, 2006 edition of *Emirates Today*, a prominent UAE daily newspaper, urges readers to [“Get Ready for the UAE’s Mobile Phone Revolution.”](#)