

ABROAD PERSPECTIVE

Financial Crunch May Force Japanese Schools to Look Abroad: U.K. Scholar

Could another big global education player be in the making? Peter Mathias, a British economic historian with numerous ties to Japan, said recently that a declining pool of young people and shrinking government funding in that country will likely force it to recruit students much more aggressively overseas in coming years.

Mr. Mathias, who has served as research supervisor for Crown Prince Naruhito at Oxford University, is currently a member of Keio University's International Advisory Committee, charged with giving advice on internationalizing the school.

Already one fifth of Japan's colleges and universities are in debt, and the number is predicted to rise.

Sources: "[Japanese Universities Need Foreign Students: U.K. Scholar](#)," *Japan Times*, March 11, 2006
"[Japanese Universities Prepare Survival Strategies](#)," *Financial Times*, March 10, 2006

OVER THE COUNTER

Indians Warn Australia of Educational "Aggression"

Indian university officials see Australian schools as particularly aggressive marketers, and are concerned about them raiding the country for top students, the chairman of Australia's Group of Eight universities said recently.

Glyn Davis, who is also the vice-chancellor of Melbourne University, recently met with officials from a number of Indian universities. They told him, he said, that they were determined Australia not "exploit" them, and instead want Australian universities to start more educational joint ventures in India.

And indeed, he added, many Australian educational partnerships are likely to be set up in India over the next decade.

Source: "[Indian Unis Wary of Our 'Aggression'](#)," *The Age*, March 8, 2005

THE PLAYING FIELD

New Asian Giants Set to Challenge Europe: OECD Study

An ongoing, massive ramp-up of education spending in China and India is about to result in these countries producing "wave after wave of highly skilled graduates"—and for much less money than it costs to educate students in Britain, France, or Germany, warns a new report done for the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

The report comes as universities in Britain face an apparent end of rapid growth in demand from Chinese students, many of whom are apparently choosing to study at home rather than pay enormous sums for a U.K. degree.

In another sign that western universities may find soon find it harder to entice Asian students, the Confederation of British Industry reported last week that U.K. firms are increasingly looking to countries such as China and India as potential sources of employees, because these countries are now producing large numbers of highly-trained graduates of scientific and technical programs.

Sources: "[Old Europe 'Being Outpaced by Asian Higher Education'](#)," *The Telegraph*, March 14, 2006;
"[U.K. Looking Overseas for Science Graduates](#)," *The Guardian*, March 15, 2006

GLOBE TIPPING

Addressing Chinese Contacts

If you're planning to do business in China, you should be aware that the first name of a Chinese person is normally his or her family name. A man called Teng Peinian, therefore, should be addressed as Mr. Teng.

Business etiquette web sites abound, but a site particularly useful for China (and without the pop-up ads that plague some others) is the [China Wines Information Website](#), which includes tips, interviews, handy phrases and even essays on the origins of Chinese manners in Confucianism.