

## ABROAD PERSPECTIVE

### *New Zealand Expecting Korean Bumper Year*

The number of new arrivals from South Korea at New Zealand secondary and tertiary schools is expected to increase by between 10 and 20 per cent this year, an official with New Zealand Trade and Enterprise, a federal agency, said recently. The projected jump is thanks in part to a favorable exchange rate; the New Zealand dollar has been low lately, but the South Korean won has been soaring, reaching an eight-year high last week.

The busy year is likely to be warmly welcomed in New Zealand schools, which have been suffering a slump in foreign enrollments. The downturn has driven many Kiwi ESL schools out of business.

South Korea is New Zealand's second-largest source of foreign students, after China; about 15,500 South Koreans are now studying at New Zealand secondary and tertiary schools—some seven per cent of the total South Korean foreign-student market.

Sources: "[Bumper Year Ahead for NZ-Korean Education](#)," NZPA, April 22, 2006; "[NZ Schools Await New South Korean Students](#)," *The Press*, April 24,

## THE PLAYING FIELD

### *Poland Drawing More Foreign Students*

The two years since Poland's accession to the European Union have seen a considerable increase in its exports of university education, an official with Warsaw University said recently. The country has been drawing more exchange students, many of them from other European countries, but also more students from poorer countries, attracted largely by the prospect of relatively low-priced professional degrees. There are now 8,000 foreign students in Poland, and the number is said to be climbing steadily.

Source: "[Foreign Students Flock to Polish Universities](#)," Radio Polonia, April 4, 2006

## OVER THE COUNTER

### *U.K. Launches Bid to Draw 100,000 Students in 5 Years*

British Prime Minister Tony Blair announced last week the second phase of his Initiative for International Education—a project aimed at attracting 100,000 extra students from overseas by 2011. The initiative's first phase, launched in 1999, wildly exceeded expectations. It had a goal of bringing in 50,000 more higher education students over the next six years; by 2005, 93,000 more had come to study in Britain.

Mr. Blair also officially launched another five-year program last week—the U.K.-India Education Research Initiative, aimed at improving research collaboration between the two countries. Total funding for the two programs—to be contributed by the British government, the British Council, schools and private businesses—is projected to total more than £27 million over the next two years, of which £7.5 million will go toward the U.K.-India initiative.

Sources: "[Build Partnerships Overseas, Blair Tells Universities](#)," *Guardian*, April 18, 2006; "[Overseas Students Plans Unveiled](#)," BBC News, April 18, 2006

## GLOBE TIPPING

### *Flying From the U.S.? Prepare to Be "Puffed"*

The U.S. Transportation Security Administration is adding another layer of security to American airports. It has installed a set of new devices—Explosive Detection Trace Portals, nicknamed "puffers"—at 25 airports nationwide, and is planning to equip most of the America's major airports by the end of 2006.

Passengers walk into the closet-like devices and are subjected to 13 puffs of air issuing from jets built into the device. The puffs are intended to stir up traces of hazardous materials—chemicals that could be used to make bombs, for example—from the passenger's body or clothing. The device analyzes the air produced by the puffs and gives the passenger a green or red light.

Source: "[New Airport Security Screening Device Gives Passengers a "Puff"](#)," ABC News, April 25, 2006