

## ABROAD PERSPECTIVE

### *Indonesia Expecting 150,000 Foreign Students in Coming Years*

Indonesia is expecting so many foreign students in coming years—150,000 by 2012, according to the [Indonesian government web site](#)—that it has encouraged the formation of a professional body regulating education agents for its schools. Formed in 2004, the Association of Consultants for International Students (Singapore) was finally officially launched this month.

There are now between 70,000 and 100,000 foreign students in Singapore, many of them studying in the country's private schools. The most common source countries are China, Vietnam, Myanmar and South Korea.

Source: "[Looking Out for Foreign Students](#)," Channel NewsAsia, Dec. 2, 2006; "Can Singapore Become the Boston of Asia?" *Singapore Business Review*, Oct. 2004, available [here](#)

## OVER THE COUNTER

### *Beware Indian Loan Scam*

You might get an e-mail from a "student" stating she is from a "middle class family having limited Finance but big ambitions." Beware. The request to approve The Paras Education Foundation for a loan should be ignored, says Erich S. McElroy, Student Loan Consultant for the International Education Finance Corporation (IEFC). IEFC is a US-based loans program providing funds for thousands of students around the world.

"Paras created a fake application where they capture the student's data for a fee (around \$150), input the information into our free web site, and then charge the student additional fees (up to around \$600-\$700) if the loan is approved," McElroy writes to Higher-Edge. "Paras has no affiliation with us and we have repeatedly closed off their access to our site but they find ways back in as it is open to all to apply." The spin to the scam is the Paras "pretend" student's claim that "only those Universities which are approved and qualified under their list," qualify to have a student get the Paras loan. Hence, some unsuspecting institutions even promote Paras on their web sites.

## THE PLAYING FIELD

### *Financial Pressures to Drive Demand in China for More Foreign Students*

An editorial last month in a state-controlled Chinese daily newspaper calls for a crackdown on Chinese universities risking funds in financial markets. Tianjin University recently lost \$4.5 million in a failed investment. It's an example of the pressure on Chinese tertiary education to keep up with needed resources to compete globally. China's Academy of Social Sciences reports China's universities and colleges borrowed \$19 billion in loans last year. The editorial calls for more scrutiny of how Chinese universities are raising money to counter the debt, such as selling fake degree certificates and diluting the quality of education.

The fall-out from all this will be felt globally, as Chinese universities work harder to keep students in China, and attract more foreigners to Chinese universities, all in the hopes of raising needed cash.

Source: "[University Crackdown](#)," *China Daily*, Nov. 27, 2006

## GLOBE TIPPING

### *Chai in India*

To many Westerners, "chai" means a spicy tea laden with milk and, often, sugar or other sweeteners, and tends to be marketed as an Indian beverage. However, this is really what Indians call "masala chai," masala meaning spice. Chai in India is just tea—although the Indians like to take it with lots of milk and sugar.

By the way, if you're addicted to coffee in the myriad forms it has assumed in Western countries, you needn't despair if your travels take you to India. The country has seen in recent years the growth of a number of outlets serving espressos, cappuccinos, lattes and more, often in air-conditioned comfort, such as the Barista chain.

**Correction:** The University of British Columbia has no intention to establish a branch campus in India. Incorrect information appeared in the Nov. 29, 2006 edition of *Not-So-Foreign*. We sincerely regret the error.