

ABROAD PERSPECTIVE

Chinese Expert Talks up Hong Kong as "Regional Education Hub"

China should move to make Hong Kong a bigger destination for both mainland Chinese and foreign university students, the chair of a Chinese government task force says.

Victor Fung, convener of one of four trade and business focus groups set up at an economic summit following a recent Chinese five-year plan, recently said the quota for non-local students in Hong Kong should be raised to 20 per cent. There is already considerable demand on the part of mainland Chinese and foreign students to study in Hong Kong, he said, and the presence of more such students in the city could benefit it in many ways. The fact that Hong Kong is the only Chinese city whose universities use English as the language of instruction is just one factor that could help it become a "regional educational hub," he said. The city's cosmopolitan character is also a draw, Dr. Fung added.

Source: "[Non-Local Students Help Train Future Leaders](#)," web site of Hong Kong government's Information Services Department, Jan. 19, 2007

OVER THE COUNTER

University for Expat Indians "Within Two Months": Minister

The Indian government is very close to establishing a special overseas university for people of Indian origin, the country's minister of Overseas Indian Affairs said recently.

Many of the estimated 25 million Indian or Indian-origin people living overseas have been calling for such a university for some time. Parents often want to send their children to India for higher education, but find the competition for acceptance extremely intense. The Indian government, the minister said, has now done all the groundwork needed and needs only to pass the appropriate legislation.

The government has not yet decided on a site, he said, although the campus will probably be in a special economic zone free of "flags and slogan-shouting."

Sources: "[Varsity for Overseas Indians in Two Months-Ravi](#)," [Indiaedunews.net](#), January 14, 2007
"[Exclusive University for Diaspora Soon—Manmohan Singh](#)," [Indiaedunews.net](#), January 8, 2007

THE PLAYING FIELD

Indian Business School Fudges Facts for Good Rankings

Scandal has struck a major Indian business school after revelations that university officials supplied false information about the school in order to attract good rankings.

According to an internal inquiry committee set up by Punjab University, a reader at the university's business school submitted the false data to bodies such as the All India Management Association as well as leading business magazines between 2003 and 2005. It is thought that the school, University Business School, made it into at least one "top ten" list of business schools in India—alongside such prestigious institutions as the Indian Institutes of Management at Ahmedabad, Bangalore and Calcutta—thanks at least partly to the fudged information.

Among the untruths passed onto ranking bodies was a claim that the business school has 23 research chairs sponsored by industry; in fact, it has none.

"Higher-Edge—India is often counted upon by its foreign clients to verify claims or contextualize institution calibre and reputation," comments Shraddha Aswal, manager of Higher-Edge's Delhi office. "Although this is a particularly egregious example, it is symptomatic of lack of integrity amongst some parties in the higher education system."

Source: "[Punjab B-School in Controversy](#)," *Times of India*, Jan. 20, 2007

GLOBE TIPPING

Taxis: In Beijing, it's "Buyer Beware"

Recently returned from a business trip to China, Higher-Edge's Lisa Roosen-Runge reports that, unfortunately, cheating seems to be on the rise among Beijing cab drivers. She advises travelers to be extra-vigilant and take a range of precautions, including making sure the meter is turned on.

This and other tips on dealing with cabs in China can be found in previous issues of *Not-so-Foreign*: [Nov. 12, 2003](#), [Nov. 19, 2003](#); [June 7, 2006](#); [June 14, 2006](#); and [June 21, 2006](#).